



WELCOME

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

CHIMING THE HOUR/TIME OF CENTERING

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The prophet proclaims: "The One who is coming shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the **mountains and all the nations shall stream to it to learn to walk in God's paths."**

We light this third candle and name it joy, for our God turns mourning into dancing, comforting God's children in the midst of our distress and walking with us through the valley of the shadow of death, promising to be with us no matter what may come.

*O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Hilda Gutierrez

God of peace, stir up your power within us that in this time we may await with abundant expectation the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation, for you live and reign among us, Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

People, Look East | No. 105

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able; Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.*

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

People, Look East
TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928
MUSIC: French folk melody; Martin Shaw, 1928
ONE License No. A-740435

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of night and day, there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from you and no secret that you will not bring to light. For our licentiousness, quarreling, and jealousy, forgive us, O God. Forgive our sin, renew us in love, and teach us to live in a way that brings honor and glory to your name. Amen. *(A time for silent confession)*

POURING OF THE WATER—*Because of the grace we receive in baptism, we have nothing to fear.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In our baptism we are clothed with grace and raised to new life. Believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

CHRISTMAS:
THE STORY THAT NEVER GROWS OLD
O Come, Emmanuel

You said that a star would come from Jacob,
a ruler from Bethlehem some day;
we've looked for the Promised One for ages,
God, hear your people as we pray.
Come, O Come, Emmanuel, God with us,
will you come and dwell with your people, Israel?
Come, O come, Emmanuel. Come, O come, Emmanuel.
We long for the Healer of our people,
we wait for the crowning of our King;
let this be the year of your Messiah,
God, let your glory fall again.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Christmas: The Story that Never Grows Old
CREATED BY: DAVE CLARK
ARRANGED BY: Mike Speck, Cliff Duren,
Nick Robertson, Phil Nitz
ONE License No. A-740435

The Story That Never Grows Old

*"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)*

Year after year as we celebrate the season,
sometimes we lose the joy or forget the reason why.
But holding the foundation of our earthly celebration
is the story of a King who came to die.
It still warms the heart to know that he would leave his glory
to become the greatest story ever told.
And the angels still sing of the joy salvation brings;
it's the story that never grows old.
When we look back on the memories of Christmas,
so many of our loved ones have made their journey home.
But the story of the Savior is as real today as ever
and throughout eternity it shall live on.

The Good, Good News

*"The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion shall feed together, and a little
child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6)*

It was a dark night out on a hillside,
when the shepherds in the field saw a great light.
They started to tremble 'til they heard the angel
bringing good, good, good, good news!
It's the good, good news of the Gospel;
a Savior has come to his people.
Jesus Messiah, born unto you;
it's the good, good, good, good news!
All of a sudden up in the heavens
the midnight sky was filled with angels singin'.
Well, can you imagine the shepherds' reaction
at the good, good, good, good news!
Good, good news! Come on and shout the news!
Good, good news! Somebody shout the news!

Cherish That Name

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth one who is to rule Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days... and that One shall be the one of peace." (Micah 5:2, 5)

An angel from long ago bent down to earth below;
and to Mary whispered low, "Call his name Jesus.
Fear not the words I say. God has favored you today.
You shall bring forth a son and call his name Jesus."
Cherish that beautiful name, cherish that wonderful name,
cherish that matchless name, that name is Jesus.
No other name can save or heal, no other name can cleanse and fill
the emptiness inside your heart, no other name but Jesus.
When all have come and gone, that name will still live on,
so magnify it loud and strong, the precious name of Jesus.
And the angel called him Jesus, born of a virgin;
Mary called him Jesus.

Carol Medley

"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom... then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongues of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert." (Isaiah 35:1, 6)

Sing, sing, sing! This is a time for rejoicing!
Come, lift your voices and sing, sing, sing!
Join in the song of the season! Christ is the reason we sing!
Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth.
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship. Come and worship.
Worship Christ, the newborn King.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild - God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies.
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *The Confession of Belhar*

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints from the entire human family.

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.

We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

We believe this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity, and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

We believe that this unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint and that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation of Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the visible people of God.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen

In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)
TEXT: Christina Rossetti
MUSIC: Gustav Holst
ONE License No. A-740435

CALL TO GIVE, OFFERING & OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4) | No. 144

*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man I would do my part. Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things. Turn our offerings to your good will, and turn us always to you in service of our neighbors in gratitude. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear | No. 123

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
TEXT: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849;
MUSIC: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850
ONE License No. A-740435

*Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
And we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!*

***And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,**
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Remember you are a child of God:
And God loves God's children.

DEC 14 - 21

Events & Celebrations

SUN 14	MON 15	TUE 16	WED 17
ADVENT 3 Christmas Cantata, 10:00AM Angel Tree Luncheon, 11:30AM NA of EP, 3:00PM	Yoga, 2:00PM	GraceB4Work, 7:00AM Winter Epiphany Crew, 6:30PM (Zoom)	Scouts, 6:30PM Blue Christmas Worship, 7:00PM
THU 18	FRI 19	SAT 20	SUN 21
	BIRTHDAY Pete McMillan	Quilters, 8:30AM	ADVENT 4 Children's Nativity Worship, 10:00AM Christmas Caroling, 11:30AM NA of EP, 3:00PM BIRTHDAY—Nancy Collins

Prayers & Concerns

Mary & Mark Dunn	Zoomer Roberts	Pat Bryant	Bob Hedicke
Corey Elson	Mary Province	Pete McMillan	Mildred Helm

Offerings can be made online with no fee using Zelle®
Find us using our phone number **(915) 755-8206** or email address
office@epgrace.com. For all offerings given in any form, thank you!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor — Rev. Janie McElwee-Smith
Music Director—Brittney Williams
Additional Accompaniment—Bill Rose

Liturgist—Hilda Gutierrez
Accompanist/Pianist—Patricia Ann Provencio
Technology—Angel Martinez, Bob Jones & Jim Collins

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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