



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide
Anglican Communion.

Lessons and Carols

December 28, 2025

Before the Service — Speak quietly to God
During the Service — Let God speak to you
After the Service — Speak to one another

LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

For the church, Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We celebrate this birth not because Jesus was simply a “good man,” but because we believe Jesus was and is both the human son of Mary and the divine Son of God. That makes Christmas a time to reflect on a mystery that the church calls the doctrine of the Incarnation. This important theological term comes from the Latin word *carne*, which means “flesh,” and has to do with the divine taking on human flesh and coming among us in human form. The Incarnation is absolutely central to the Christian faith, and yet it remains an unexplainable mystery in our Church and in our lives. The official liturgical term for our celebration of the birth of Jesus on December 25 is “The Feast of the Nativity,” but we typically use the word “Christmas”; this season runs for 12 days up to the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. White, the color assigned to the Christmas season, has a variety of symbolic meanings including purity, innocence, being washed clean, light, brightness, hope, and new life.

TO JOIN SERVICES ONLINE OR BY PHONE

To join the 8:30 service online, visit our website at gracechurchmtclemens.org and follow the links.

To join the 8:30 service by phone, call 312-626-6799

8:30 AM Service: Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300 Password: 246040

Follow the link on our website to watch the 10:30 service on YouTube.

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www.gracechurchmtclemens.org



CANTICLE A Song of True Motherhood (Julian of Norwich)

*Read alternately by the reader and people, breaking at the **

God chose to be our mother in all things*

**and so made the foundation of his work,
most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.**

God, the perfect wisdom of all,*

arrayed himself in this humble place.

Christ came in our poor flesh*

to share a mother's care.

Our mothers bear us for pain and for death;*

our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.

Christ carried us within him in love and travail,*

until the full time of his passion.

And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy,*

still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.

All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God,*

for the love of Christ works in us; Christ is the one whom we love.

OPENING HYMN: Once In Royal David's City



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
3. And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -



1. cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by
2. Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble
3. deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle



1. in a man - ger for his bed. Ma - ry was that
2. and his cra - dle was a stall. With the poor and
3. is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; and he leads his



1. moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle Child.
2. meek and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
3. chil - dren on to the place where he has gone.

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3: 8-15; 17-19

Reader A reading from the book of Genesis.

The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



CAROL: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Verses



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis - may;
2. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
3. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this place,



1. Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior Was born on Christ - mas Day
2. This day is born a Sav - ior Of Vir - gin pure and bright,
3. And with true love and char - i - ty Each oth - er now em - brace;



1. To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r When we were gone a - stray.
2. To free all those who trust in him From Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
3. This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas Is filled with heav'n - ly grace.

Refrain



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, Com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.



SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18

Reader A reading from the book of Genesis.

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Good King Wenceslas



1. Good King Wen - ces - las looked out on the Feast of Ste - phen,
 2. "Hi - ther, page, and stand by me, if you know it, tell - ing,
 3. "Bring me food and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hi - ther,
 4. "Sire, the night is dark - er now, and the wind blows strong - er,
 5. In his mas - ter's steps he trod, where the snow lay dint - ed;

When the snow lay round a - bout, deep and crisp and e - ven.
 Yon - der pea - sant, who is he? Where and what his dwell - ing?"
 You and I will see him dine, when we bear them thi - ther."
 Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no long - er."
 Heat was in the ver - y sod which the saint had print - ed.

Bright - ly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cru - el,
 "Sire, he lives a good league hence, un - der - neath the mount - ain,
 Page and mon - arch, forth they went, forth they went to - ge - ther,
 "Mark my foot - steps, my good page, tread now in them bold - ly,
 There - fore, Christ - ian men, be sure, wealth or rank pos - sess - ing,

When a poor man came in sight, ga - thering win - ter fu - el.
 Right a - gainst the for - est fence, by Saint Ag - nes' fount - ain."
 Through the cold wind's wild la - ment and the bit - ter wea - ther.
 You shall find the wint - er's rage freeze your blood less cold - ly."
 You who now will bless the poor shall your - selves find bless - ing.

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.

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.

His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Verses



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing: "Glo - ry to the
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



1. new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild,
 2. last - ing Lord; Late in time, be - hold him come,
 3. Right - teous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



1. God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye
 2. Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
 3. Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



1. na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies; With an -
 2. God - head see! Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty! Pleased as
 3. glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die, Born to



1. gel - ic hosts pro - claim: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 2. man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 3. raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1–3a; 4a; 6–9

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

With righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



CAROL: Silent Night

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm,
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep - herds quake
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright Round yon Vir - gin Moth - er and Child,
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1: 26-35; 38

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL: The Holly And The Ivy



1. The hol-ly and the i - vy, when they are both full grown, of
2. The hol-ly bears a blos-som as white as an - y flower, and
3. The hol-ly bears a ber - ry as red as an - y blood, and
4. The hol-ly bears a branch__ as sharp as an - y thorn, and



1. all the trees that are in the wood, the hol - ly bears the__ crown.
2. Ma-ry bore sweet__ Je-sus Christ to be our sweet Sav - ior.
3. Ma-ry bore sweet__ Je-sus Christ to do poor sin - ners__ good.
4. Ma-ry bore sweet__ Je-sus Christ on Christ-mas day in the morn.



- 1-4. The ris-ing of the sun and the run-ning of the deer, the



- 1-4. play-ing of the mer-ry or - gan, sweet sing-ing in the choir.



SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1; 3-7

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL: O Little Town Of Bethlehem



1. O lit - tle town of Beth-le-hem, How still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath-ered all a - bove,
3. How si-lent-ly, how si-lent-ly, The won-drous gift is giv'n!
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth-le-hem! De-scend to us, we pray;



1. A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
2. While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
3. So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless-ings of his heav'n.
4. Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



1. Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last-ing Light:
2. O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro-claim the ho - ly birth!
3. No ear may hear his com - ing, But in this world of sin,
4. We hear the Christ-mas an - gels The great glad tid-ings tell;



1. The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
2. And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.
3. Where meek souls will re-ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
4. O come to us, a - bid with us, Our Lord Em-man - u - el!

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"


When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

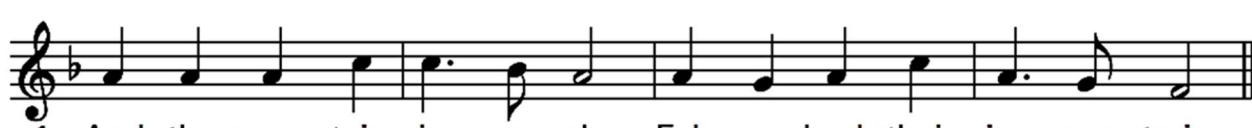
People Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Angels We Have Heard On High

Verses




1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See him in a man-ger laid Whom the an - gels praise a - bove;




1. And the moun-tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
2. Say what may the tid - ings be Which in-spire your heav'n-ly song.
3. Come, a - dore on bend-ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.
4. Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De-o!



Glo - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt


down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader The Word of the Lord.


People Thanks be to God.

CAROL: We Three Kings

Verses




1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a




1. tra - verse a - far Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain,
2. crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er
3. De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing Glad - ly rais - ing,

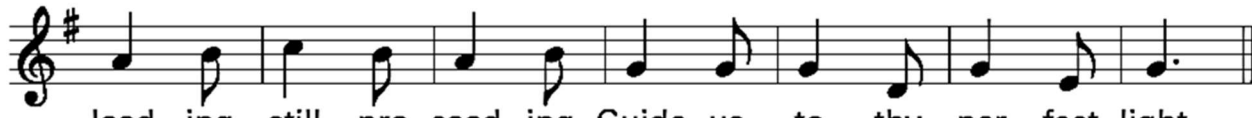
Refrain



1. Fol - low - ing yon - der star. O star of won - der,
2. O - ver us all to reign.
3. Wor - ship him, God on high.



star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward



lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

Reader A reading from the Gospel of John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he

came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL: The First Nowell

Verses



1. The first No - well, the an - gel did say,
2. This star drew nigh to the north - west,
3. Then let us all with one ac - cord



1. Was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2. O'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
3. Sing prais - es to our heav - 'nly Lord;



1. In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep,
2. And there it did both stop and stay,
3. Who with the Fa - ther we a - dore



1. On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
2. Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
3. And Spir - it blest for ev - er - more.

Refrain



No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,



Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The People stand or kneel

Leader Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus. Gracious God, as a star rose and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child: Draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you—that we might be the Church and the People who you call us to be. Lord, in your mercy,

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Leader As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence: Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. Lord, in your mercy,

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Leader As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' Light and kings to the brightness of his rising: Draw our nation, our leaders, and all in authority to his brightness. Lord, in your mercy,

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Leader As angels sang "glorias" to you, proclaiming peace on earth and goodwill among all peoples: Bring us your peace, and bring an end to all terror and strife, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti, and Sudan. Lord, in your mercy,

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Leader As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night: Draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you. Lord, in your mercy,

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Leader As Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn: Be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry. Lord, in your mercy,

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Leader As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem and traveled together to far-off lands: Bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel. Lord, in your mercy,

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others: For all those who are sick or infirmed or who have asked for our prayers, including those on our prayer list. Are there others?

May they receive your healing touch. Lord, in your mercy,

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Leader For those whose lives are approaching death, and for those who have died: May they and their loved ones receive the comfort of your loving embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Leader O Lord our God, may the Light and Hope of this season, and of your Son's Incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, we pray.

***People* Amen.**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Rejoicing in the company of Mary, mother of Jesus, and of all the witnesses of the incarnation, we commend these prayers and all our life to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People* And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated

OFFERTORY HYMN: Instrumental Selection

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Year A

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant May God be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

***People* We lift them up to our God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to our God.

***People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues:

Almighty God, we gather around this table like those who thronged your Son's manger, longing for you to bring women and men, kings and queens, working people, homeless people, gay, lesbian, queer, and straight people, black, white, and brown people, to the place where our humanity and your divinity meet.

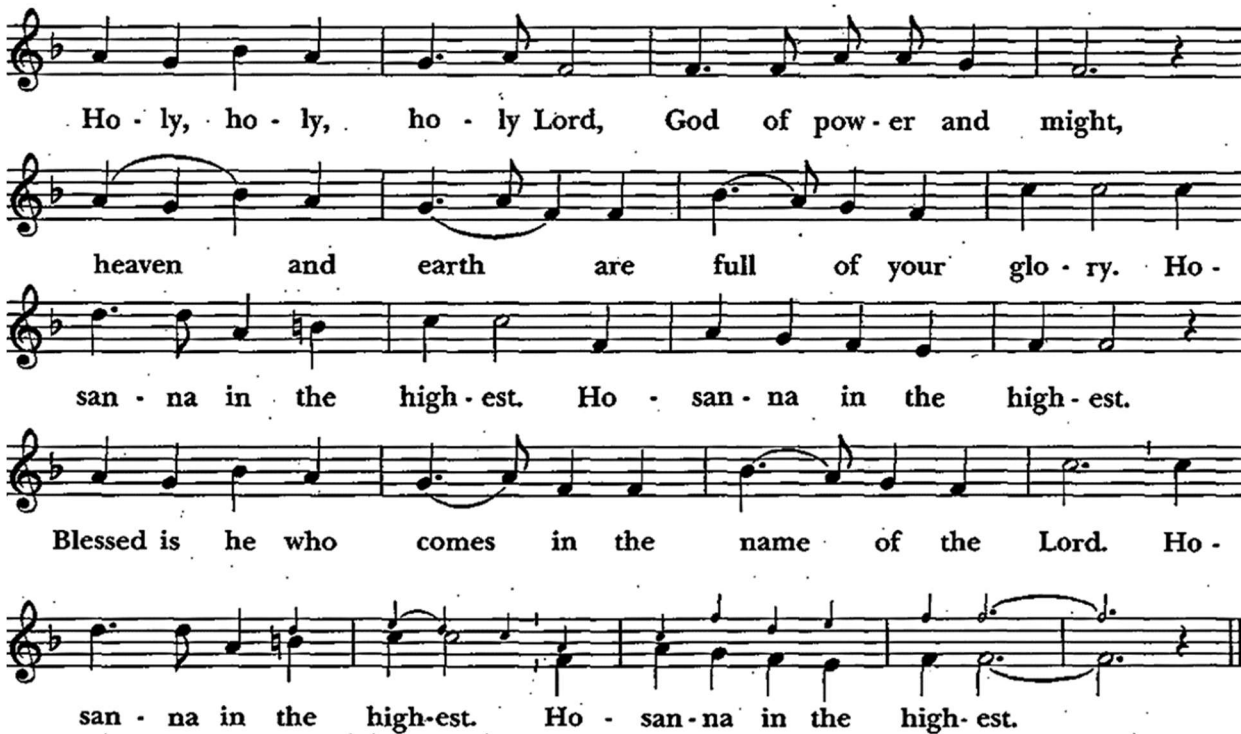
We are your people, and the work of your hand.

You had too much love to keep it to yourself; and though we took up arms against you and one another, you disarmed us in coming into our midst as a defenseless baby. As his arms were tied in swaddling clothes, so later his hands were nailed to the cross; yet you made his birth the foretaste of our redemption and his death the gateway to resurrected life.

We are your people, and the work of your hand.

You give us such joy and peace in your company that our hearts join the angels in the Christmas sky over Bethlehem, singing the hymn of your eternal praise:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant continues:

God of new birth, as you laid your Son in Mary's arms, you place these gifts of bread and wine in our hands. Sanctify your church to be as fragile and tender and true as the infant Savior.

We ask you, Lord God, to send your Spirit upon these gifts: Let this bread and wine become for us the Body and Blood of Christ. Send your Spirit upon us also, that our lives may reflect your light in the darkness, and show the world whose people we are.

And so many years later, on the night before He died for us, Jesus was at supper with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

We are your people, and the work of your hand.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, from the ends of the earth to the heights of heaven, we praise you with the joy of the redeemed.

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant says:

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Father in heaven, holy is your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN.

FRACTION: Where Two Or Three Are Gathered



Here in the bread that is bro - ken, here in the cup that is
poured, here in the word that is spo - ken: Je - sus Christ is
Lord! Here where the poor find their treas - ure,
here where the great - est are least, come find a love be - yond
meas - ure in this heav'n - ly feast.

Celebrant The Gifts of God, for all of us, the holy people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION

Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.



COMMUNION HYMN: As With Gladness Men Of Old



- | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| 1. As | with | glad-ness | men of old | Did the | guid-ing |
| 2. As | with | joy-ful | steps they sped | To that | low-ly |
| 3. As | they | of-fered | gifts most rare | At that | man-ger |
| 4. Ho-ly | Je-sus, | ev-'ry | day | Keep us | in the |
| 5. In | the | heav'n-ly | coun-try bright | Need they | no cre- |



- | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|--------|
| 1. star | be-hold, | As with | joy they | hailed its | light, |
| 2. man-ger | -bed, | There to | bend the | knee be- | fore |
| 3. rude | and bare; | So may | we with | ho-ly | joy, |
| 4. nar-row | way; | And, when | earth-ly | things are | past, |
| 5. at-ed | light; | Thou, its | light, its | joy, its | crown, |



- | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|------------|
| 1. Lead-ing | on-ward, | beam-ing | bright, | So, most | gra-cious |
| 2. Him whom | heav'n and | earth a- | dore; | So may | we with |
| 3. Pure and | free from | sin's al- | loy, | All our | cost-liest |
| 4. Bring our | ran-somed | souls at | last | Where they | need no |
| 5. Thou its | sun which | goes not | down; | There for | ev-er |



- | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. Lord, | may we | Ev-er-more | be led | to thee. |
| 2. will-ing | feet | Ev-er seek | the mer- | cy-seat. |
| 3. trea-sures | bring, | Christ! to | thee, our | heav'n-ly |
| 4. star | to guide, | Where no | clouds thy | glo-ry |
| 5. may | we sing | Al-le-lu-ias | to our | King. |

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People say together:


We praise and thank you, God our Creator, for you have not left us alone. Each year you come to us as Emmanuel, God with us, in a manger; each time you come to us in the broken bread and cup we share. Give us courage to see your Christ in all who suffer; and to offer our hands to the helpless, food to the hungry, and rescue for the oppressed. In his holy Name we pray. AMEN.

BLESSING

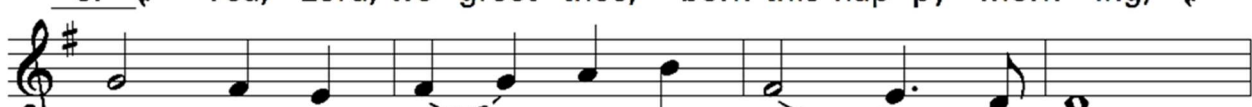
May the newborn Jesus fill your hearts and minds with light, love, and peace; and may the blessing of our God, Creator, Emmanuel, and Sanctifier be with you this day and forever. **AMEN.**

CLOSING HYMN: O Come, All Ye Faithful

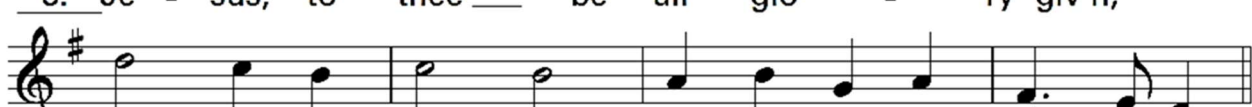
Verses



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, $\frac{1}{2}$
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, $\frac{1}{2}$




1. come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
2. Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
3. Je - sus, to thee — be all glo - ry giv'n;




1. Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2. Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
3. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O

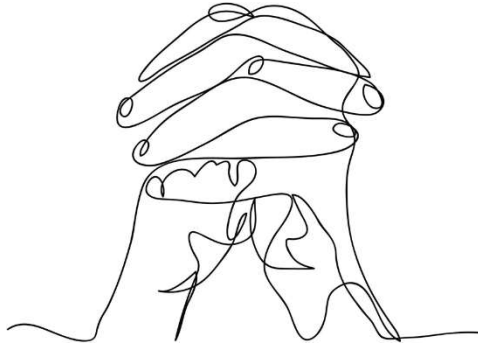


come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

DISMISSAL

Celebrant My sisters and brothers, our worship has ended; let our rejoicing continue. Go in peace to love and praise our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**



The Prayers of this Congregation

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger-Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For Donna Hanes; Katherine Domienik; Jasmine Gardner; Tom & Sandy Krell; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Tom Stotz; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Pat Greenwood; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Jason Zadorski; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary Anne Jackson; Beth Smith; Martha Wehba; Holly Quintero; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; John Kelvin; Rick Gheresi; Rory Heinz; Louise Lambert; Carole Schwertman; the St. Peter family; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Nicoletta Palazzolo; Lucy Smith & family; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Leo Bradley, Jr.; Betty Brogan; the Biehl family; the family of Dolora Paull; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Sue Miller; Vickie Rose; Kristi Frangedakis; the family of Carolyn Siewert; Beverly Wolff; Ellen Laudicina; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Randy; Bill Atkinson.

Please note: Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.

In order to add someone or keep someone on the prayer list, please call the office.

Do you know someone who is ill? Please contact the office and we will add them to the prayer list.

The MINISTRIES of GRACE CHURCH
Currently

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays, in person & online 8:30 & 10:30 AM. Visit our website for more information.
Bible Study: Sundays at 9:30 AM in the Guild Room

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Community Suppers:

Wednesdays at 4:00

Sunday Suppers: Sundays at 4:00, November-March

Food Pantry:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 AM -12 noon, curbside pickup
Serving from 250 - 350 people every month

Fueling Kids' Futures:

Tuesdays at 2:00 PM at Oakley Industries, Inc. Plant 4
35088 Automation Drive Clinton Township, MI 48035
No packing this Tuesday, December 30

**All outreach ministries welcome volunteers,
financial donations, or food and clothing donations.**

***Call the office to learn about helping or giving:
586-465-4573***

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Please send all bulletin submissions to
bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org***

ALTAR FLOWERS

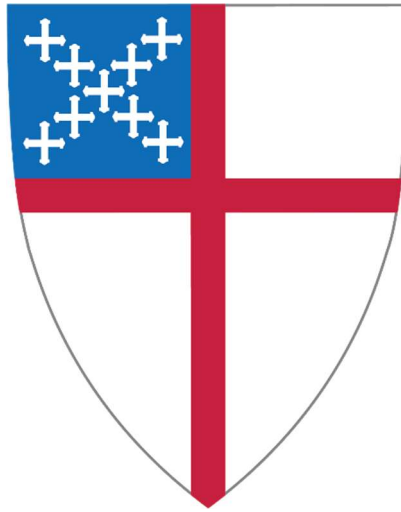
Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUR

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!



CHOIR

Please join us for choir rehearsal on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. No experience required; just bring your spirited heart and a friend! Thank you!

MACOMB COUNTY WINTER SHELTER 2025-26

The Macomb County Winter Shelter opens on December 21 and runs through March 21, 2026. It's located in the former Trinity Lutheran Church/School at 8150 Chapp Ave. in Warren, east of Van Dyke and just south of Stephens.

Our church volunteers will share a week with First United Methodist Church, January 4-10. First United volunteers will cook and serve from January 4-7, and we'll finish the week, working **January 8-10**.

Kirsten Blackburn is our kitchen manager and will plan the menu and cook. She'll need help with cooking and transporting food to the shelter.

There are a variety of other jobs for volunteers such as: line manager, registration, bag check-in, kitchen helpers, and light cleaning helpers. They need 2-6 people per job, and the hours are from **6 to 9 PM**.

Volunteers are asked to carpool to the shelter each night if possible. We can meet in our church parking lot and drive to the shelter together.

There are sign-up lists and job descriptions on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please see me or Kirsten if you have any questions.

I hope you will consider taking part in this important ministry. Thank you!

—Ann Farrell

BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet **January 8, 2026** at **6 PM** at Grace Church. The book we will discuss is *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie. This is a book focused on Patsy Jefferson and how she shaped the legacy of a new nation with her father, Thomas Jefferson. Please join us in January for a lively and interesting discussion. Call Ann Strevel if you need any further information.

For Weary Peace Advocates

God of justice, you gave your prophets **bold voices** and strength when they **spoke truth** in lands that rejected them. We turn to you with heavy hearts as the **news bears** constant **witness to cruelty**, violence, and fear, and your peace **advocates are weary**. Make your prophets and public witnesses steadfast, **not** conforming to the ways of this world **in complacency**, but always shaped by the **hope of your kingdom**. Renew their strength in the face of insult and injury. **Elevate** their hearts, rooted in your peace, so that their **voices** may **echo** your **justice**. In the name of Christ. Amen.