



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide
Anglican Communion.

December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve

*All are welcome to this service of communion;
All are wanted at the table of the Lord.*

CHURCH is for the CHILD...

The Child in your own heart, or your arms, or sitting somewhere near you!

To help children learn to love Church:

Bring them to sit in the front so they can see what is happening.
Guide them through the service, pointing things out along the way.
Let them color or draw or read – there are activity bags at both entrances.

All children, of any age, are welcome to communion.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are AVAILABLE

Sound Amplifiers, too!

Celebrant: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik
Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan
Ms. Amy Saari, Minister of Music
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*We stand,
kneel,
or sit—
however best
we praise -*

*as the
liturgical
ministers
process to
the front,
representing
all of us as
we bring all
that we are
and all that
we have to
worship
today.*

THE GATHERING

The Opening Song: O come, all ye faithful

1) O, come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!

O, come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him,

Born the King of angels.

2) Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

Glory to God,

Glory in the highest.

(Chorus)

O, come, let us adore him;

O, come, let us adore him;

O, come, let us adore him,

Christ, the Lord.

3) Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.

Son of the Father,

Now in flesh appearing.

Opening Acclamation:

Let us pray:

We have been watching and waiting during the long winter days of Advent and Christmas is finally here! We know that this season of celebration can sometimes also be shadowed with sadness, but this day reminds us once again that God breaks into the world in unexpected ways and again, we can rejoice in Emmanuel, God With Us. Gracious God, you have given us the gift of your son and the gift of each other. Thank you for all those who are here and for the countless others who live in our hearts. Touch us, O God, as we celebrate the birth of your Son this night and make us mindful of others. Help us not be afraid to know and share each other's pain, and embolden us with hope, peace, joy and faith this night and forever more. **AMEN**

Candle Lighting Prayer

We have been watching and waiting and Christmas is finally here! So tonight we now light the white candles which represent the light of Christ coming into the world. Let us remember that what was hidden in darkness is now bathed in light and go forth to share God's illumination with the entire world.

ALL: Dear God, thank you for being our Light in the darkness. Help us walk in that Light forever and ever. Thank you for sharing Jesus with us on this most holy of nights! Amen.

Song of praise: Angels we have heard on high

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

We observe a brief silence to center ourselves, and to prepare to listen deeply to scripture and the Spirit.

May God be with you.

And also with you.

The Collect of the day:

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

We listen to readings from the bible or other writings.

Please stand, kneel or sit, however you are best able to praise, pray, and listen!

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

*We respond to
what we've
heard with
psalms,
songs,
a sermon,
a creed,
and our
prayers of
request and
thanks to God.*

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

A Reading from Titus

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Gospel Song: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1. Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger.
2. An - gels sang a - bout his birth; Wise men sought and found him.
3. Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger.



There he lay, the un - de - filed, To the world a stran - ger.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round him.
He is still the un - de - filed, But no more a stran - ger.



Such a babe in such a place, "Can he be the Sav - ior?"
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing.
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glo - ry!

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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.

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

We observe a brief silence for reflection.

The Affirmation of our Faith

Below is the Apostles' Creed, an ancient baptismal creed, but using the words, "I give my heart," a truer translation of the Latin word, "credo", than "I believe".

**I give my heart to God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I give my heart to Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried,**

And descended to the dead.

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I give my heart to the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic and apostolic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *The People stand or kneel.*

Sisters and brothers, rejoicing in the love of God that has taken flesh among us in Christ Jesus, let us confidently bring to the Lord the petitions of our heart this Christmas night, saying:

In the name of the newborn savior, hear our prayer.

For the believing community throughout the world, especially for those in positions of leadership, that they might always work to give glory to God and to bring peace to our earth.

In the name of the newborn savior, hear our prayer.

For all the people gathered this night to worship and praise God around the world, that we might always bear the good news of Christ our light in the world.

In the name of the newborn savior, hear our prayer.

For those lost in the darkness of prejudice, hostility and fear; for those burdened by the yoke of injustice, terrorism, hunger and war; and for all our brothers and sisters in any type of need, that the love of Jesus might touch their hearts bringing them peace, hope and healing.

In the name of the newborn savior, hear our prayer.

For the homeless, and for the children born in the midst of poverty and pain, that there may be room at the inn for all God's people.

In the name of the newborn savior, hear our prayer.

For the sick and the dying among us, especially those who are impacted by Covid-19, that the love of our Savior may bless and comfort them this night and always.

In the name of the newborn savior, hear our prayer.

For all those who are sick or infirmed and for those suffering because of COVID – 19, And for all who have asked for our prayers: **Ena, Michelle, Jeff, Cindy, Samantha, Thor, Rosy, Liz, Janice, Jennifer, Nina, Frank, Barbara, Helen, Matthew, Jennie, Katherine, Reggie, Pam, Karen, Ollie, Jasmine, Allen, Donna, Tom, Darrell, Frankie, Sue, Dominique, Lianne, Lori, Michael, Eric, Leslie, Elliott, Neville, Bud, Sue, Mike, Deanna, Connie, Jenny, John, Helen, Charlotte, Adele, Joan, Jackie, James, Elizabeth, Yvonne, Jeff Lamb Family, Teresa.** Are there others?

Bless, comfort and protect all those for whom we pray

In the name of the newborn savior, hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

All loving and knowing God, we thank you for gracing us with the gift of your Son this night. Confident of your continuing love for us, we have placed our needs before you. Hear and answer our prayers, through that same newborn Jesus whom we welcome and celebrate forever and ever. **AMEN.**

*We offer
each other
handshakes,
hugs, and
other signs
of God's
peace.*

THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Other Holy Moments

*We bring
to Jesus'
table all
that we are
and have:
bread, wine,
our
treasure,
our food
for the poor,
our sadness
and our joy.
Jesus
blesses
it all and
then feeds
us with his
love,
so we may
return to
the world
to serve it.*

The Offering Song: Rise Up, Shepard, and Follow

1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn. Rise up, shep-herd, and
 2 If you take good heed to the an - gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and

fol - low. It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
 fol - low. You'll for - get your flocks; you'll for - get your herds.

Refrain

Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low. Fol - low, fol - low;
 rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low. Fol - low the star of
 Beth - le - hem. Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.

Presenting our Offerings to God

Presentation: What Child is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

The Great Thanksgiving Christmas Eve

Celebrant: May God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to our God.

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

Celebrant: Almighty God, we gather around this table like those who thronged your Son's manger. We long for you to bring all of us in our diversity to the place where our humanity and your divinity meet. 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. 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.

Celebrant and People sing:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow - er and might.



Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est!



Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est!

Celebrant continues.

God of new birth, as you laid your Son in Mary's arms, 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 down your Spirit, so that this bread and wine may become for us the Body and Blood of Christ. And 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."

Great is the mystery of our faith.

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

God who exalts the humble and humbles the exalted, as you drew the shepherds to the manger, call us to yourself so that we too may witness Jesus in our day. In this banquet we will share, restore us in your image, surround us with the saints and angels and prepare us for life in Christ.

For it is through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, from the ends of the earth to the heights of heaven, that we praise you with the joy of the redeemed.

People: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus, come.

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.

BREAKING OF BREAD

Celebrant: He whom the universe could not contain is present to us in this bread and this wine.

People: ***In them God comes to us, so that we may come to God.***

As the bread is broken, we sing:



Priest: Al - le - lu - ia! _____ Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us.



All: There - fore let us keep the feast! Al - le - lu - ia!

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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.

Music for Communion: The First Nowell

*Communion
is open
to all.*

*Gluten-free
wafers are
there, too.*



1. The first No - well, the an - gel did say,
2. They look - ed up and saw ___ a star
3. And by the light of that ___ same star
4. This star drew nigh to the ___ north - west,
5. Then en - tered in those wise ___ men three,
6. Then let us all with one ___ ac - cord



1. Was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2. Shin - ing in ___ the east, ___ be - yond ___ them far;
3. Three ___ wise ___ men came ___ from coun - try far;
4. O'er ___ Beth - le - hem ___ it took ___ its rest,
5. Full ___ rev - 'rent - ly ___ up - on ___ the knee,
6. Sing ___ prais - es to ___ our heav - 'nly Lord;



1. In fields where _ they lay keep - ing their sheep,
2. And to the ___ earth it gave ___ great light,
3. To seek for a king was their ___ in - tent,
4. And there it ___ did both stop ___ and stay,
5. And of - fered ___ there, in his ___ pres - ence,
6. Who with the ___ Fa - ther we ___ a - dore



1. On a cold win - ter's night ___ that was ___ so deep.
2. And ___ so it con - tin - ued both day ___ and night.
3. And to fol - low the star ___ wher - ev - er it went.
4. Right ___ o - ver the place ___ where Je - sus lay.
5. Their ___ gold ___ and myrrh ___ and frank - in - cense.
6. And ___ Spir - it blest ___ for ev - er - more.

*If you cannot
come forward
for communion,
please
let us bring it
to you!
Tell an usher.*



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



Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Choir Anthem: Precious Child

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER: *said by all, standing or kneeling*

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

The Blessing

May Almighty God, the Creator, the Savior and the Holy Spirit, who sent the angels to proclaim the good news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, peace and love this night and forever more. **AMEN.**

PREPARATION FOR CLOSING HYMN

The ushers will come down the aisle to light the candles of those sitting near the aisle. Please light the candles of those sitting next to you.

The Closing Song: Silent Night

*We stand
to sing
and are then
sent
out to
serve
God's
beloved
world.*

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Let us go forth into this holy night rejoicing in the newborn savior and proclaiming this good news to all we meet! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Christmas Decorations made possible through these generous donations:

In memory of loved ones by

Maureen Gray

In memory of Donald Fitzgibbon by Ann Farrel.

In memory of Llyod Racine by Jennifer Holland.

In memory of Parents by Anonymous Donors.

Ushers:

Chris & Angela Murphy, Tom & Beckie Murphy 10pm

Liturgical Minister:

Gary Stevens 10pm

Today's Music:

*O come all ye faithful, Angels we have heard on high, Gentle Mary Laid Her Child,
Rise Up Shepherd and Follow , The First Nowell , Precious Child, Silent night
are printed with permission from RiteSeries. .
Amy Saari's music is printed with her permission..*

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 26, join us for one service at 10:00 am.

WARMING CENTER

January 16-23

Warming Center is not rotating among churches this year, but our help is still needed to provide food for their guests. \$5 gift cards donations to local fast food restaurants are being requested and there is a wish list that can be found on the bulletin board in the hallway.

DECEMBER BOOK CLUB

Please join us for our final discussion of “The Souls of Black Folks” on December 30, 2021 at 7pm.

ANNUAL PARRISH MEETING

Sunday, January 30

List of eligible voters is posted in the hallway.

PLEASE NOTE: The office will be closed Dec. 27 and Dec. 30 & 31.

HEART FOR HOMES

**Hearts for Homes is collecting items and money for two families that are in need of a good Christmas!
Please contact Christa Carpenter for details. (586)-663-6246**

The Prayers of this Congregation

For all refugees, especially those at our southern border; for the farmers across our country who are struggling; for Bonnie Perry, our Bishop, for Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., our retired bishop; 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 Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod; Stewart Wood, our retired bishop; and our whole diocesan household, including Canterbury MSU in East Lansing, Church of the Great Commission in Dona Lila DR, St. George's in Milford; for Gretchen, our Governor; Joseph, our President; Kamala, our Vice President; and all members of Congress.

For Ena Pederson, Michelle, Jeff, Samantha, Cindy, Thor, Rosy, Liz Moorehouse, Janice Kibler, Jennifer Holland, Nina DiGaetano, Frank & Barbara Davenport, Donna Hanes, Helen Stein, Matthew Bishop, Jennie Berube, Katherine Domienik, Reggie Chrzanowski, Pam Sherry, Karen Blackburn, Ollie Denham, Jasmine Gardner, Allen David Clay, Tom Krell, Darrell Banks, Frankie Dion, Sue Schlanbusch, Dominique Czupski, Lianne Neumann, Lori Dodge, Michael Thomas, Eric & Leslie Mix, Elliott, Neville Thompson, Bud Denham, Sue Treend, Mike Zubas, Deanna Mejia, Connie Harvey, Jenny Kirby, John Schober, Charlotte Kalligeros, Adele Akasheh, Joan Walsh, Jackie Falconer, James Sikes, Elizabeth Gage, Yvonne Hawkins, Jeff Lamb Family, Teresa Davidson.

***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 fill out a new prayer card
(from the back of the pews) and place it in the offering tray.***

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: Tuesdays at 7 pm (zoom) & Sundays in Advent 9:30 am at Grace

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Community Suppers:

Wednesdays at 4:00

Sunday Supper Sundays at 4:30, November-March

Food Pantry:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 am -12 noon, curbside pickup

Serving from 250 - 350 people every month

Blessings in a Backpack:

Wednesdays at 3:30 at ML King Academy

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

Call the office to learn about helping or giving:

586-465-4573



