

***No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.***



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

128 East Baltimore Street

Greencastle, PA 17225

(717) 597-2983

website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka

Choir Director: Patty Stepler

Organist: Susan Alsip-Lawson

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer, Lu Miller, Cathy Keefer

Scripture Reader: Tim Bryan

Advent Readers & Wreath Lighter: Lu & Steve Miller, Cathy Keefer

Communion Servers: Tony & Deb Homer

Ministers: All Those Present

Order of Worship for Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

Scripture Lessons

*Isaiah 9:2-7 * Titus 2:11-14 * Luke 2:1-20*

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

VIDEO "The First Noel" by The Skit Guys

MISSION STATEMENT

Leader: Welcome to Grace Church where we are God's people.

**All: United through Jesus Christ on a journey to grow, to share our faith and
serve others in the Greencastle area and the world.**

PRELUDE MUSIC

Manger Carols -Kirkpatrick and Murray/Larson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

All: on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Leader: Jesus Christ is our life and light.

All: In his name and in his power, let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG**

Angels We Have Heard on High #113

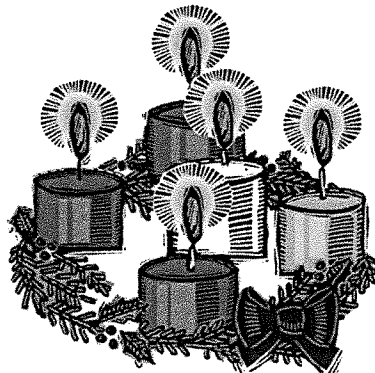


***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**All: Holy God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
we stand in awe of Your greatest mystery once again:
that You would come to us as one of us,
full of smiles and tears, strengths and weaknesses, growing pains and griefs.**

**A child is given indeed!
A child is given that we might know that heaven and earth are forever joined.
And that no matter what we do,
no matter who we are,
no matter what we feel,
we are never alone.**

**Praise be to You, Holy God.
Amen.**



**CHRIST CANDLE
READING AND LIGHTING**

“Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.”

What gifts does Jesus bring to the new world?

Jesus brings hope for the future,
peace like a river,
joy everlasting, and
love for all.

Christmas is the beginning of this new world, a better world,
that we are boldly invited to create together
as followers of the Christ child.

May it be so.

We now light the Christ Candle.

Amen.

***PRAISE SONG** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #123



WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS

WE ASK GOD TO OPEN THE BIBLE TO US

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 9:2-7 Please open to Old Testament, pages 780-781

Titus 2:11-14 Please open to New Testament, page 262

CHOIR ANTHEM What Child is This -Hopson



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God!

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS & CELEBRATIONS

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (Please Read Together)

**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.**

WE GIVE BACK TO GOD

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Leader: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

God brings peace, good news, and great joy with the baby Jesus!

What do we have to offer back?

(Please sign the attendance pads found in the pews,
and pass the top sheet to be collected during offering.)

OFFERTORY MUSIC

What Child Is This?
-English melody/Varner

***WE SING A SONG OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD (Please Sing Together)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All: God of peace and joy, You bind us together, as if in swaddling bands of cloth.
We are meant to be active participants in Your great redemption.
Truly, as Dr. King said, "We are all tied up in a single garment of destiny."
We dedicate ourselves to live that way. Amen.**

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Leader: This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ
and seek to follow Christ's way.

Leader: The Lord be with you
All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere
to give thanks to You: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
We praise You, Holy God, for creation, for the gift of life
and for Your abiding love which brings us close to You, the source of all blessing.

We thank You for revealing Your will for us in the giving of the law
and the preaching of the prophets.

We thank You especially that in the fullness of time You sent Jesus,
born of Mary,
to live in our midst,
to share in our suffering and
to accept the pain of death--at the hands of those whom Jesus loved.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather Your church...by which Your work may be done in the world...and through which we share the gift of eternal life.

With Your people on earth and all the angels of heaven,
we praise Your name and join in their unending hymn, singing:

Seraphic Hymn (Please Sing Together)

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth
Heaven and earth are full,
are full of the majesty of thy glory,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

Leader: Through this child, we have seen Your salvation.
Through this child, You invite us to walk in Your light.

We remember...when Jesus was gathered with his disciples, observing a Passover meal:

He took the bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: ‘This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’”

When Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to You, and gave it to the disciples saying: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

And so, we offer and dedicate ourselves in praise and thanksgiving...
as Your children.

We praise with joy the birth of Jesus and the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here,
that we who have walked in darkness...might now walk in the pure light of Christ.

Shine your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and juice...that they may be for us the real and spiritual presence of Christ and that His grace and love might flow through us.

As we receive these gifts...and in our everyday lives, may we shine forth Your Light and Love.

Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ.
Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life that Christ gives.

Sharing the Elements

Leader: Come, for all things are now ready.

(All are welcome to commune. We partake together at the cue of the pastor.)

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR COMMUNION**

Leader: Please pray with me:

**All: We thank You, loving God,
for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence
of Christ and have received all of Christ's gifts.**

**Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another, and
let us show forth your praise in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

A Prayer to Bless the Candles

*The Light is distributed from the Christ Candle and then pew by pew.
Please tip the unlit candles to receive the flame from your neighbor.*

***PRAISE SONG**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

#122



***Christmas Prayer**

Leader: Holy God, in this moment of heavenly peace,
we stand bathed in the light of Christ.

We trust that the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.
Help us to live always and everywhere in the warm glow of Your love.

Give us the faith to believe that we live in a world visited by Your Son...
a world forever touched by Your Goodness.

We pray in Christ's name.

All: Amen.

You may extinguish your candles.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the Magi,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you always.
All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Joy to the World
#134



POSTLUDE MUSIC

Christmas Bells
-French melody/Thygerson

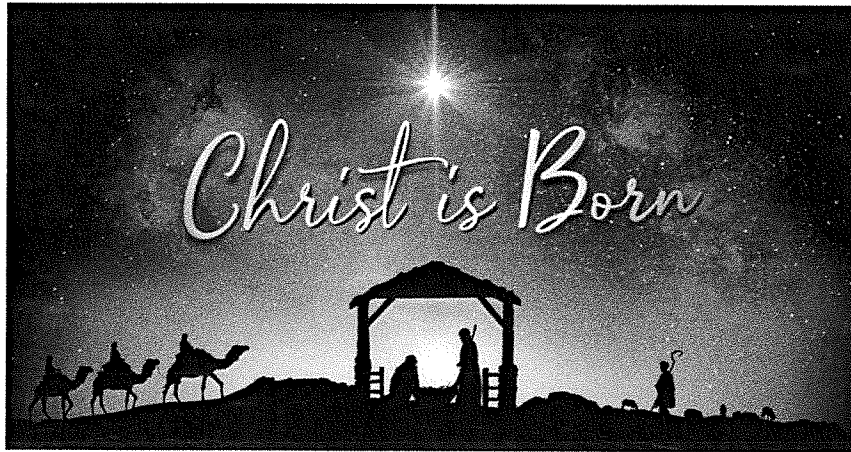


Prayers from *The Worship Sourcebook*. Copyright, 2004. Faith Alive Christian Resources.
Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

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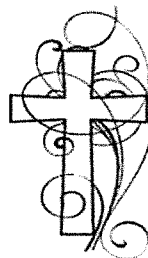
MAY EVERYONE HAVE A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Worship Volunteers for Sunday, December 29 , 9:30am service:

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Nancy Myers

Reader: Steve Miller



The Reverend Ralph S. Geiman, Pastor, 1967-1995

Grace United Church of Christ

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

-December 24, 2024-

Poinsettia Dedications



Each Poinsettia displayed in the sanctuary holds a special place
in our hearts. They are dedicated in Loving Memory and
in Honor of your loved ones. Please take a moment to say
a special prayer for each of the dedications listed below.

In memory of Mrs. & Mrs. Charles Zimmerman and Bob & Steven Zimmerman
from Pat Zimmerman & Family

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. B.J. Roberts, Sr. from Sydnae Vanner

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Chip Thomas from Jim Thomas

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Goetz from Carolle Patrick

In memory of our Parents, Dr. Donald & Treva Luck, from Jeff & Marg Stouffer

In memory of our Parents, Tom & Josephine Stouffer, from Jeff & Marg Stouffer

In memory of Shirley Stenger from Glenda Stenger & Family

In memory of our precious son "Jason" from Tom & Betsy Green

In memory of Robert & Claire Schweitzer from Stacy Schweitzer

In memory of Karyn Miller-Long & Larry Long from Stacy Schweitzer

In memory of Jack & Thelma King and Chip & Grace Thomas from Roy & Lorna Thomas

In memory of C.P. (Jim) & Martha Barnhart and James & Almeda Barnhart
from Tony Homer & Family

In memory of Robert & Olive Homer and Diane Homer Norris from Tony Homer & Family

In memory of my Parents, Ida B. & Lawrence N. Alsip, Sr., and my brother, Lawrence N. Alsip, Jr.,
from Susan Alsip-Lawson

In memory of Julie M. Bodes and Mr. & Mrs. Earl Bodes, Sr. from Earl Bodes, Jr.

In honor of Pam Musselman and John Musselman from Earl Bodes, Jr.

In memory of James P. Oliver from W. Jean Oliver

In memory of Nellie G. Oliver from W. Jean Oliver

In memory of J. Howard Binkley from W. Jean Oliver

In memory of Geneva L. Binkley from W. Jean Oliver

In memory of Jean Reymer from W. Jean Oliver

In memory of Robert Reymer from W. Jean Oliver

In memory of Barbara Farnsworth from W. Jean Oliver

In memory of Kevin Binkley from W. Jean Oliver

In memory of Douglas Reymer from W. Jean Oliver

In memory of Jan Shafer from W. Jean Oliver

In honor of Pamela Bodes Musselman from W. Jean Oliver

In honor of John Musselman from W. Jean Oliver

In honor of Stephen Oliver from W. Jean Oliver

In honor of Jennifer Oliver from W. Jean Oliver

In honor of Ethel Fisher from W. Jean Oliver

In honor of John Oliver from W. Jean Oliver

In memory of Harry Foley from Erma, Dawn & Tim Foley

In memory of our Parents and Grandparents from Larry & Patty Stepler

In memory of my daughter, Shelby Hahn, from Tammy Hockenberry & Family

In memory of Dick Minnich and Billy Minnich from Mildred Minnich

In memory of Steven Nye and Glenn Nye from Chet Nye

In memory of Robert Rice and rest of family members from Jean Rice

In memory of our Parents from Ed & Gladys Doyle

In memory of Aunt Thelma from Ed & Gladys Doyle

In memory of my father, Bob Rice, from Cathy Keefer

In memory of my Grandmother, Beulah Lindsay, from Cathy Keefer

In memory of our daughter, Brenda Wilhide, from Robert & Grace Gearhart

In memory of my Mother, Brenda Wilhide, from Christopher Wilhide & Family

In memory of Richard (Dick) Fisher and family from Ethel Fisher

In memory of my father, Edward Jars, and my brother-in law, Bill Scheffer,
from Elaine & John Scheffer

In memory of my loving wife, Jan Shafer, from Ron Shafer

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Francis McIntire from Ron Shafer

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Tresler from Ron Shafer

In memory of Jim & Almeda Barnhart, Joe Shoemaker, and in honor of Dolly Shoemaker
and Bing Fleagle from Jack Shoemaker

In memory of Jim & Martha Barnhart, and C. Jack Barnhart
from Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker

