Christmas Eve 2017, 7:00 PM

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

205 South Garner Street; State College, PA 16801
Phone: (814) 238-2478; e-mail: churchoffice@glcpa.org

Christmas Eve Worship -- December 24, 2017—7:00 p.m.

Tonight's Hymns
ELW #283
ELW #279
ELW #281
ELW #267

Grace Lutheran Church is energized by the Holy Spirit and nurtured through God's Word and Sacrament to gather, feed, and send people in the name of Jesus Christ."
Gather - Feed - Send

PRELUDE *Christmas Music*
Anne Sullivan, harp

WELCOME TO GRACE

To all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are weary and need rest; to all who are friendless and desire friendship; to all genders, races and orientations; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; and to whomever will come—Grace Lutheran Church opens its doors in the name of Jesus Christ—and in His Name and for His Sake bids you WELCOME!

CALL TO WORSHIP *Of the Father's Love Begotten..*plainchant/arr. Paul Wohlgemuth
Sung by the Adult Choir; Anna Carol Buffington, handbells

GREETING

Pastor: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
Congregation: O come let us adore Him.
P: May the light and peace of Christ be with you all.
C: And also with you.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *O, Come, All Ye Faithful* ELW #283

1. **Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!**
   Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
   Come and behold him Born the king of angels:

   Refrain: **Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,**
   Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2. **The Highest, most holy, light of light eternal;**
   born of a virgin, a mortal he comes
   Son of the Father now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

3. **Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,**
   Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
   Glory to God In the highest: *Refrain*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and then after we die, wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

↓ ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly……..... traditional/arr. Neil Matthews
Ding Dong! Merrily on High……....traditional/arr. Alan Smith

FIRST LESSON ……..Isaiah 9:2-7

SPECIAL MUSIC *O Holy Night*…….....Adolphe Adam
Graham Sanders, tenor

SECOND LESSON……...Titus 2:11-14

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW 142a)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have
the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL……Luke 2:1-20

P: Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord. *(spoken)*

The Holy Gospel is read

C: Praise to you, O Christ. *(spoken)*

↓ SERMON……..Pastor P. Stevens Lynn

↑ HYMN OF THE DAY *O Little Town of Bethelehem* ELW #279

[1] O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

↑ NICENE CREED

C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

↑ THE PRAYERS

P: Beholding the Word made flesh among us, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world and all those in need.
A brief silence.

P: For all young men and women in military service, and for rulers of every land, that they may work to promote peace on earth. Lord in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: For the church, that it may faithfully announce the good news of great joy that Christ is born in our midst. Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: For all who are homeless, poor, lonely, feeling not wanted, or despised in this world, that the humble birth of Christ may give them hope. Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: For those who are hospitalized, homebound, or sick, especially that God's grace would enfold them with light and healing. Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: For guests who join us for worship, and for family and friends not present with us, that the joy and gladness of this night stir our hearts to gratitude for the gifts of love and companionship. Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: For our congregation, that partaking of the Word made flesh among us, we may be signs of his presence in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: We give thanks for all the faithfully departed who rejoiced at the Savior's coming. Keep us in union with them, until we join the angelic host in the never-ending song of adoration and praise. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers, gracious God, as we proclaim the wonders of your love to all the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

↓ OFFERTORY *Still, Still, Still*……traditional/arr. Anne Sullivan
Anne Sullivan, harp

↑ OFFERTORY VERSE *(Sung to the tune of "What Child is This")*

C: So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Blessed are you,

C: God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Receive our offerings, and nourish us at your table, that your Word may take flesh in our lives; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (sung)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise .... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: *(sung to the tune of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")*
Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of heav'n and earth adored,
O how blest is He who comes In the holy name of God.
Joyful, all you nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

P: Holy God, the beginning and the end, You are the giver of life and hope. We bless you for the birth of creation, for all your promises to your people, and for Mary's openness to your will. We give you thanks for your Son, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: Come among us, Holy Spirit, and bless this food with your presence. Bring us the gift of peace on earth, as we look in hope for our Savior's coming again. All praise and glory are yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, the meal is ready.

C: Thanks be to God.

↓ COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION BY INTINCTION

All are invited to join the congregation in receiving the Savior's Body and Blood in the sacrament. Anyone not yet receiving Holy Communion are invited forward for a blessing. Rice wafers and grape juice are available for those who have sensitivities to wheat or alcohol. The acolyte has a special tray with these alternative communion elements. ***Instructions:*** *Upon receiving the bread, move to the chalice and dip the bread in the consecrated wine.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

Away in a Manger.....ELW #278

1. **Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,**
   the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
   the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;
   the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. **The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,**
   but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
   I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
   and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay**
   close by me forever and love me, I pray.
   Bless all the dear children in your tender care
   and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Angels We Have Heard on High……..ELW #289

1. **Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,**
   And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
   Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo; Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.
2. **Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?**
   What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
   Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo; Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.
3. **Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn king.Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo; Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear…….ELW #282

1. **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 heav'n's all-gracious king."
   The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
2. **Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,**
   And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world.
   Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing,
   And ever o'er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.
3. **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;
   Oh, rest beside the weary road And hear the angels sing!

4. **For lo! The days are hast'ning 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 all the world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing……..ELW #270

1. **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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: **Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

2. **Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,**
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb,
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with use to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

3. **Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Son of righteousness!**
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

↑ POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

P: Hear the words of our Savior: "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life," *John 8:12*

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Receive the light of Christ. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

C: Thanks be to God.

Instructions:

Ushers now come forward. The pastor, taking a large candle, lights it from the Paschal candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held up-right when giving light to another.

HYMN *Silent Night, Holy Night*……ELW #281

1. **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.
2. **Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;**
   Glories stream from heaven afar,
   Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
   Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. **Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light**
   Radiant beams from your holy face,
   With the dawn of redeeming grace,
   Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

PRAYER

P: Gracious God, in the incarnation of your Son you have united the earth and heaven. May we who have tasted heavenly things share the gift of your presence with all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

RECESSIONAL HYMN *Joy to the World*……....ELW #267

1. **Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;**
   Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing,
   And heav'n and nature sing …
2. **Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,**
   While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy
   Repeat the sounding joy …
3. **No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the ground;**
   He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
   Far as the curse is found ...
4. **He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love ...**

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: Peace to God's people on earth!

P: As heralds of God's peace, go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Carillon de Westminster*……L. Vierne

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- - - WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS - - -

Acolytes: Sophia Bills, Mirabella Bills, Abby Fozard

Greeters: Gina Leon, The Forster Family

Ushers: Nancy Doyle, Michael Cartwright, Ken & Beth Shafranko

Deacons: Carl Bankert and Sally Keiser-Bankert, Rich Rivell

Altar Flowers: Sponsored by Weyandt Family to the Glory of God

Bulletin Covers & Radio: Sponsored by Betta Kriner in memory of John & John-John

Our heartfelt appreciation is extended to all who contributed to this Christmas celebration: those who provided poinsettias for the chancel, those who helped with the Christmas trees and decorations, to our pastors, and the following musicians:

Organist: June Miller
Harpist: Anne Sullivan
Director of Music Ministries: Laurel Sanders
Adult Choir
Adult Choir Director: Laurel Sanders
Soloist: Graham Sanders

- - - ANNOUNCEMENTS - - -

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to you from Pastor Lynn, Pastor Schul and Vicar Ariel and all of our church staff!

Altar Poinsettias may be picked up after the 11:00 p.m. service this evening or following the Christmas Day Service, Monday, December 25.

Please return to worship with us tomorrow, December 25th at 10:00 a.m.
The church office will re-open on Wednesday, December 27th.
NO Sunday School for 3-yrs - Grade 12 on Sunday, December 31st or January 7th.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

2 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.
3 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.
4 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.
5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and
all the garments rolled in blood shall be
burned as fuel for the fire. 6 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. 7 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.

TITUS 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing
salvation to all, 12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present
age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13 while we wait for the
blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.
14 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.

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-14 [15-20]

In those days a decree went out from Emperor
Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was
taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
3 All went to their own towns to be registered.
4 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. 5 He went to be
registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While
they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 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.
8 In that region there were shepherds living in
the fields, keeping watch over their flock by
night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before
them, and the glory of the Lord shone around
them, and they were terrified. 10 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: 11 to you is born this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a
child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a
manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the
angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he
favors!"
[15 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." 16 So they went with haste
and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they
made known what had been told them about
this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed
at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary
treasured all these words and pondered them
in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard
and seen, as it had been told them.]