

Welcome to
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
A congregation of the ELCA



Christmas Eve 2019, 7:00 pm

205 S. Garner St., State College, PA 16801
phone: 814-238-2478
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Our Mission Statement: "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."

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

205 South Garner Street; State College, PA 16801
Phone: (814) 238-2478; e-mail: churchoffice@glcpa.org
Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor
Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, Pastor
Christmas Eve Worship -- December 24, 2019—7:00 p.m.

↑= Please stand as you are able

↓=Please be seated

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Gather - Feed - Send*

PRELUDE.....Christmas Selections

Bobby Bendik, piano

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*
Kimi Waite, soprano

↑ 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.

P: Let us pray.

C: 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 in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

↓ SPECIAL MUSIC *Rocking Carol*.....arr, Michael Burkhardt
 Adult Choir

FIRST LESSONIsaiah 9:2-7

SPECIAL MUSIC *Lo, How a Rose*.....arr. Teresa Jennings
 Adult Choir

SECOND LESSONTitus 2:11-14

↑ GOSPEL PROCESSION: *Procession from Ceremony of Carols*.....*Benjamin Britten*
 Adult Choir

[Translation: Today Christ is born; Today the Savior appeared; Today on Earth the Angels sing; Archangels rejoice, saying, "Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia."]

HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 2:1-20

P: The 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)

GOSPEL PROCESSION: *Procession from Ceremony of Carols*.....*Benjamin Britten*
 Adult Choir

↓ SERMONPastor Schul

↑ HYMN OF THE DAY *The First Noel* ELW #300

1. **The first Noel the angel did say
 was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
 in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
 on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*
3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*
4. This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

NICENE CREED

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, 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: 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 O, *Holy Night*.....Adolphe Adam; arr. Stephen DeCesare
Adult Choir

↑ 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: Holy God,

C: your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. 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:

THE SANCTUS (sung)

ELW p. 153

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord. Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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 is 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

O Little Town of Bethlehem 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!

Away in a Manger.....ELW #277

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 baby awakes,
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.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

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.



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 lights a candle 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 upright 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.

RECESSATIONAL 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 *Sing We Now of Christmas (Noel Nouvelet)*arr. Michael Burkhardt



--- WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS ---

Acolytes: Ben Seaton, Nicholas Kewitt, Caitlin Knowles & Fiona Knowles

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

Lector: Jeff Ulmer

Ushers: John & Brenda Palmgren, Ellen Campbell, Helen Brenneman
& Ken Kalbach

Altar Flowers: Sponsored by Greg & Kathy Weimer
dedicated in honor of their children & grandchildren

Bulletin Covers: Sponsored by Helen & Dick Brenneman
dedicated to the Glory of God

Radio: Sponsored by Carl Bankert, Sally Keiser-Bankert,
Polly Dee Keiser & John McWilliams
in memory of Pete & Lois Keiser

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to you from Pastor Schul, Pastor Hetrick and all of our church staff! Our heartfelt appreciation is extended to all who contributed to this Christmas celebration: those who provided poinsettias for the chancel and who helped with the Christmas trees and decorations; to our pastors; and our musicians:

Organist: June Miller; **Music/Arts Ministry Coordinator:** Laurel Sanders
Adult Choir Director: Nathan Glocke

--- ANNOUNCEMENTS ---

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

Please return to worship with us for Christmas Day Worship tomorrow, December 25th at 10:00 a.m.

The church office will re-open on Friday, December 27.
NO Sunday School for 3-yrs - Grade 12 on December 29th or January 5th.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered.

⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.