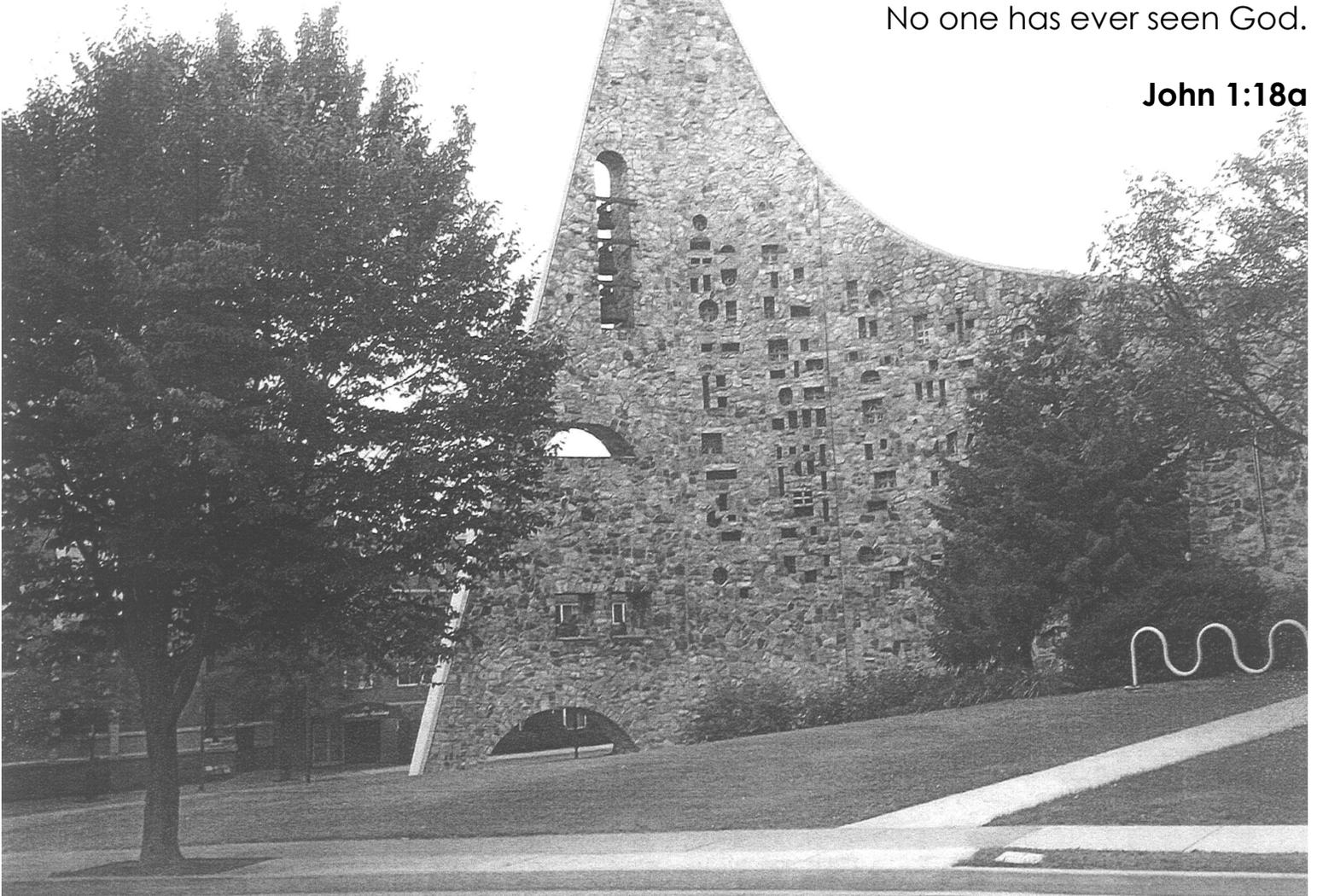


Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

No one has ever seen God.

John 1:18a



SUNDAY, January 3, 2021
Second Sunday of Christmas

10:30 a.m. radio worship service
WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM

A Video Edition will also be available by
7 am each Sunday at Grace's website,
Facebook page and YouTube channel.

205 S. Garner St., State College, PA 16801

phone: 814-238-2478

email: churchoffice@glcpa.org

web address: www.glcpa.org



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."*

ABOUT TODAY'S THEME... Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

A WORD ON THE READINGS...The First Lesson: The figure of Wisdom played a major role in early discussions of Christology. Wisdom is the divine word, coming from the mouth of God, and ruling over all of creation. Wisdom, created at the beginning of time, made her dwelling place in Jerusalem among God's people. **The Second Lesson:** In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation. **The Gospel Lesson:** John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

Forgot your checks? Not carrying cash? No worries! You can still make an offering. Go to www.glcpc.org and click the word "GIVE" on the far right to make an online credit card donation. Thank you!

MILESTONE MINISTRY AT GRACE

At Grace we celebrate milestones. Milestones are designed to connect significant occasions in people's lives with their ongoing journey of faith. A Milestone Moment brings family, friends, and congregations together to mark a special time in their lives and acknowledge and affirm God's presence in their midst. It is a tool to connect home and church in the child's and family's faith life. In addition to naming (the occasion), blessing (the person) and gifting (the gift), we send along an "At Home" sheet to reinforce the milestone with caring conversation.

↑ = Please stand as you are able

↓ = Please be seated

Follow Grace on Social Media

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/glcstatecollege

Twitter:
[@GraceLCPA](https://twitter.com/GraceLCPA)

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church - State College, Pennsylvania

PRELUDE Pastoral on “*Angels We Have Heard On High*”arr. Michael Helman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work but through + Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C: Amen

GATHER

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *The First Noel*ELW #300

The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

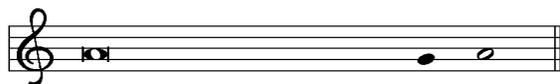
Text: English traditional
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840–1901

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

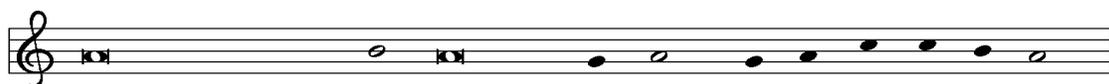
(ELW p. 147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



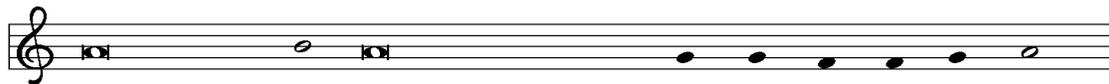
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

(ELW p. 149)

Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: Let us pray.

C: O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FEED

*God speaks to us in scripture reading,
and feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON.....Sirach 24:1-12

¹Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. ²In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: ³“I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. ⁴I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. ⁵Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. ⁶Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. ⁷Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose territory should I abide?

⁸“Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, ‘Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.’ ⁹Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. ¹⁰In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. ¹¹Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. ¹²I took root in an honored people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.”

SOLOMON 10:15-21—*Please sing responsively from the selected verses.*



P: A holy people and | blameless race;
wisdom delivered from a nation | of oppressors.

**C: She entered the soul of a servant | of the Lord,
and withstood dread kings with won- | ders and signs.**

P: She gave to holy people the reward | of their labors;
she guided them along a | marvelous way,

**C: and became a shelter to | them by day,
and a starry flame | through the night.**

P: She brought them over | the Red Sea,
and led them | through deep waters;

**C: but she | drowned their enemies,
and cast them up from the depth | of the sea.**

P: Therefore the righteous plundered | the ungodly;
they sang hymns, O Lord, to your holy name, and praised with
one accord your de- | fending hand;

**C: for wisdom opened the mouths of those | who were mute,
and made the tongues of in- | fants speak clearly.**

SECOND LESSON..... Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for

the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

DISCUSSION OF THE LESSONS

HOLY GOSPEL.....John 1:10-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter.

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

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON.....Pastor Schul

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*.....John Mason Neale
Sung by Adult Choir; Nathan Glocke, Director

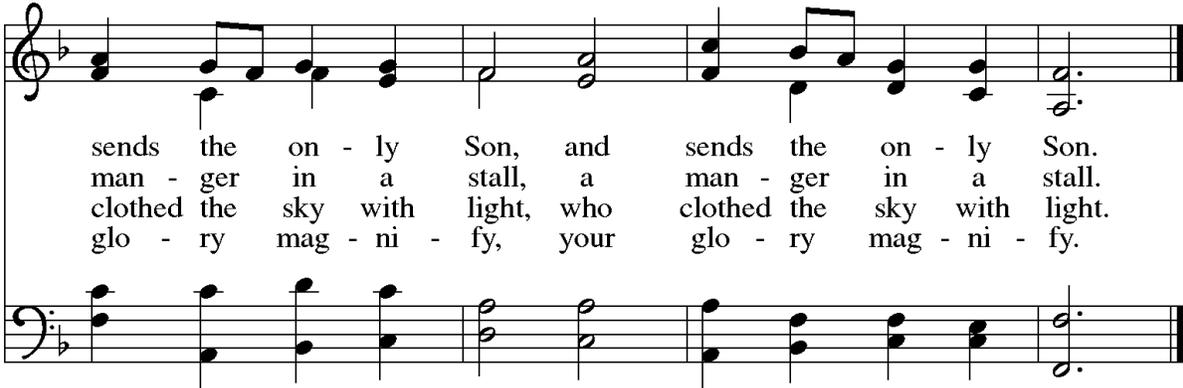
Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
 2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
 3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor
 4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
 in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
 of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who
 lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
 man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
 clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
 glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:
 you take our flesh and blood,
 and in return give us to share
 the shining realm of God,
 the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today
 that leads to paradise;
 the angel bars the way no more.
 To God let praises rise,
 to God let praises rise!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561; tr. hymnal version
 Music: LOBT GOTTE, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman
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APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in 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; he
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 believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection
of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Response after each petition:

P: Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

WE SHARE THE LORD'S PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Prelude on the Sussex Carol.....arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar

*During the offertory, take a moment to thank God for all that
God has provided to you. Ask God to reveal how God is
calling you to share your time, treasures, and talents.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Generous God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Gesu Bambino*.....Pietro Yon
I Wonder as I Wander.....arr. Anne Sullivan

SEND

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

P: P: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day + through the Word made flesh.

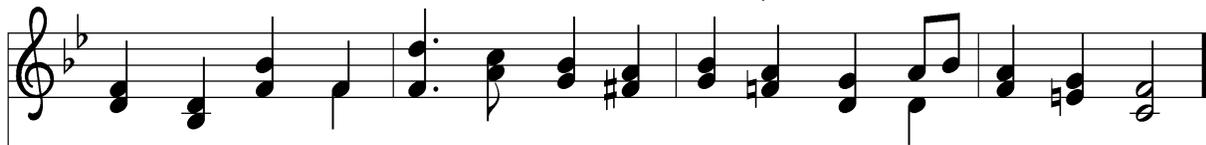
C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*.....ELW #275

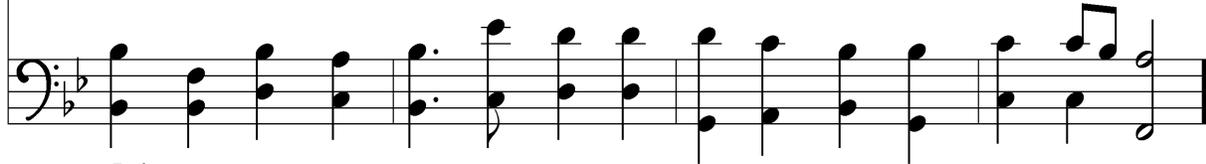
Angels, from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



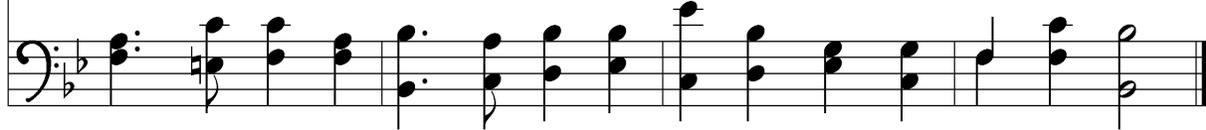
once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

P: Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithfularr. David Cherwien



Today's bulletin is sponsored by John & Brenda Palmgren
Dedicated in honor of their children

Today's radio broadcast on WRSC—1390 AM & 93.3 FM is sponsored
by David & Nadine Wolfe
Dedicated to the Glory of God

The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor.....pastorschul@glcpa.org
The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, Associate Pastor...pastorhetrick@glcpa.org
Cindy Fritz, Peter Horn, Faith Formation.....faithformation@glcpa.org
Laurel Sanders, Music & Arts Ministry Coordinator....lsanders@glcpa.org
Nathan Glocke.....Adult Choir Directo
Cynthia Mills.....Organist
Pat Lloyd & June Miller.....Pianists
Joan Kovalchik.....Flute
Anna Carol Buffington.....The Bells of Grace Director

The Rev. P. Stevens Lynn.....Pastor Emeritus

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PRAYER CONCERNS for January 3, 2021

All Military & Nat'l Guard and all serving in war-torn countries
 Alicia Anderson and family upon the death of her mother, Dorothy
 Madalyn Anderson, godmother of Pastor Schul
 Theresa Alves, friend of Brenda Kim
 Deb Baysinger's cousin
 Sylvia Belanger, mother of Joe Belanger
 The family and friends of Greg Boros upon his death
 Debbie Bolthouse
 Barbara Braun's niece
 Mary & Phil Bucher
 Andrew Campell, friend of Pastor Schul
 Sandy Cassady
 Denise Centini
 Nancy Chapa
 Scott Cocolin
 Carol Confer
 Cathy Cutter
 William Davies
 Marie Dallery mother of Sharon Shurgalla
 Eti Dvir, mother-in-law of Rachel Wolkenhauer
 Patrick Dugan, grandson of Paul & Kathryn Mackes
 Steve Ellis
 Craig Evanego

Jane Gamble, sister-in-law of Holly Stoltzfus
 Vicki Garvin
 Alice Griffin
 Mary Ann Hanelly and family, friends of Betsy Will
 Shawn Hintosh
 Dick Houtz
 Bob Igoe
 Kate Kempf, daughter of Pete And Angie Kempf & granddaughter of Merle & Kathy McCalips
 June Krumrine
 Paul & Sandy Larson
 Linda Leslie mother of Brianne Slane
 Paul Lloyd, son of Pat Lloyd
 Shirley Lucas
 Tom Lucas
 Paul Mackes
 Carol Major, friend of Brenda Palmgren
 Dennis McClure
 Danielle McHenry
 Kim Marsh
 Bob Miller, father of Julie Miller
 Amy Nevling
 Dottie Niklos, mother of Bob Igoe

Allison Peretin, friend of Elaine Ebeling
 Zach Pfeil, brother of Megan Widener
 Margie Prothro, sister of Ed Jenkins
 Sophia Reutzel
 Dottie Roberts
 Becky Rogers
 Margaret Schrock, mother of Kathy Weimer
 Nancy Schuchert, mother of Joe Schuchert
 Ken Shultz
 William D. Snape Sr., brother of Phyllis Favorite
 Emily & Charlotte Spearly
 Jack Sylves and family and grandparents Tom and Marj Eakin
 Tom & Claudette, friends of Helen and Dick Brenneman
 Karen Tupman, cousin of Phyllis Favorite
 Brenda & Ken Walsh
 Greg Weimer
 Lisa Wiedemer and family upon the death of her father, Darrell Engelhardt
 Janet Zerbe

Members in the hospital



Prayer is a powerful gift and tool God gives to us. *Please pray for the request each day of the week during your daily prayer time. Just think how powerful it would be if all our members prayed for the same thing each day.*

The love of God was revealed in a Bethlehem manger and on a cross in Jerusalem. Pray this week that God's love might be specially and unmistakably revealed to you as well.

Pre-recorded music provided by:

Adult Choir

Kathleen Arrington
Susan Buda
Ann Burke
Deana Coine
Rod Egan
Josh Evert

Ethan Fasnacht
Kevin Honz
Matthew Kidd
Emily Kiver
Natalie Ondrey
Marissa Perri

Phyllis Verderame
Thomas Verderame
Barb Vogler

Choral Ensembles

Susan Buda
Ryan Ditmer
Nathan Glocke
Angie Hardyk
Drew Hardyk
Ethan Hardyk

Spencer Hardyk
Kevin Honz
Jennifer Royse
Graham Sanders
Laurel Sanders
Barb Schroeder

Ken Shafranko
Charlie Vasey
Phyllis Verderame
Megan Widener
Chris Wilhelm

Crossfire Youth Choir

Mara Anderson-Skelly
Mirabella Bills
Sophia Bills
Maeve Flanagan
Sammy Hallacher
Ethan Hardyk

Spencer Hardyk
Lincoln Hockenberry
Ella McDyre
Ireland McDyre
Allie Peters
Joe Peters

Bella Poehner
Emma Proctor
Logan Proctor
Emily Whitney

Instrumentalists

Tony Buda, percussion
Ryan Ditmer, organ
Adam Hallacher, trumpet
Spencer Hardyk, euphonium

June Miller, organ
Graham Sanders, synthesized bells
Laurel Sanders, flutes
Anne Sullivan, harp

Soloists

Mara Anderson-Skelly
Maeve Flanagan
Nate Glocke
Sammy Hallacher
Ethan Hardyk

Other Musicians

Jon Brockopp
Susan Buda (cello)
Paula Droege
Ken Shafranko (dobro)

Worship Opportunities at Grace

In January, Grace Lutheran will offer our regular live radio broadcast each Sunday morning at 10:30 am on WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM and on smart devices, as well as our prerecorded video worship services, which are available by 7:00 am every Sunday morning on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel.

In "Pocketful Of Grace" podcast each Wednesday Pastor Schul and Pastor Hetrick discuss the upcoming Sunday lessons. It is available on our website or through Spotify, Tune In/Alexa, and iTunes. Wherever you go, take along a Pocketful of Grace.



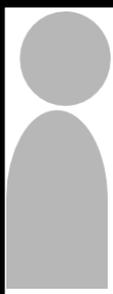
We would like to thank Ellena Blazina for the Chrismon's, Deb Stewart for the greens on the railings, Roy Evert, John Palmgren, Cindy Fritz and Peter Horn for setting up the Chrismon tree, John Horn for the use of his truck for the tree, Sally Keiser-Bankert and Carl Bankert for decorating the Chrismon tree, Deb Stewart and Sally Keiser-Bankert for making the Advent Wreath and Anna Burke for adding the poinsettias to our main entrance.



2021 Offering Envelopes are here



The 2021 offering envelopes are located in the Narthex in the coat rack area at the top of the stairs from the main entrance. They are available for pick up week days from 8 am till 2 pm. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. Please check that the envelope number on the top of the box matches the number located in the little window on the front of the box. If they do not match please contact the church office immediately. If you have signed up for ACH or are using Tithley and on longer using offering envelopes please let the church office know so we can re-assign the envelope number as needed.



Adult Forum Sundays 9:30-10:30 am via Zoom

Join Us
as your schedule allows and
topics are of interest!

Any adult is welcome to join us anytime—no preparation needed. Contact Dotty Delafield (readoooodles@me.com) for a zoom link to the class.



Support Grace’s Ministry: Grace’s church building may be closed, but Christ’s Church remains vibrantly open! Grace needs your continued financial support in order to fund all of our ministries. You may continue to mail your offerings to Grace. Tithe.ly also provides a secure way to provide your offering via any major credit card. Visit www.glcpa.org and click on the GIVE button at the top of the page. If you set up an account with [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) using your Visa, MasterCard, American Express, JCB, Discover, or Diners Club card, you can support our ministries even when you cannot be present. Finally, a form for Direct Debit giving (via your bank) is available on our website at <https://tinyurl.com/yx8andkj>; just mail it to **Grace Lutheran Church at 205 South Garner Street, State College, 16801**. That is the absolute best way to provide for the regular funding of all that we do here at Grace to the glory of God and the service of our neighbors. Thank you for your commitment to our ministries during this challenging time.

Garden of Readin’ January 19 - The January meeting of Garden of Readin’ (women's book club) will be Tuesday, January 19 at 10:30 am remotely via Zoom. The next book is *The Home for Unwanted Girls* by Joanna Goodman. The discussion will be facilitated by Susan DeMetrick. Contact Laura Pauley (llp1@psu.edu) or Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net) for more info.



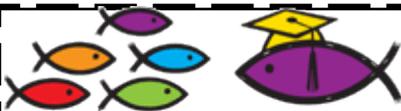
2021 sponsorships needed for bulletins and radio broadcasts – Help Grace bring live radio worship (Sundays at 10:30 am on WRSC) by sponsoring a radio broadcast in honor of memory of someone special or to the Glory of God. Starting in January 2021 the cost of a weekly broadcast will be \$200 per week, reflecting a modest increase in the station’s prices. Bulletins can also be sponsored for a cost of \$25 per week. Currently we have Feb. 7 & 28 and March 7, 21 & 28 available for for the start of 2021 radio sponsorships, and many dates for bulletin sponsorships are also available. For details, or to sign up, contact Sheri Rider, our Office Manager, at srider@glcpa.org or call the church office at 238-2478.



State College Food Bank

Thank you! Your donations for the food bank keep on coming. Isn't that wonderful? If you haven't donated via Grace yet, please consider it. There is tremendous need now. We've donated \$4756.14 in the first six months of the pandemic. *A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor. Proverbs 22:9*

Word in Season devotional booklets available – If you would like to receive a copy of the Word in Season devotional booklets for January, February and March, you can pick up a copy in a basket on the waiting area bench inside the main entrance at Grace. Alternatively, Sally Keiser-Bankert will be happy to mail you a copy upon request. Please contact her via email at sal-lykb@verizon.net.



Substitute Teacher Positions for 2020-2021

**SUBSTITUTES
NEEDED**

Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten (GLPK) is searching for substitute teacher's aides and teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. No experience is necessary for the substitute teacher's aides positions. Substitute teachers with a bachelor's degree in elementary education or early childhood education is beneficial, but not required. Send cover letter and resume to Cathy Smarkusky, GLPK Director, at csmarkusky@glcpa.org or call her at 238-8110 for more information.



Faith 5th



SHARE

a "high" and a "low" – what's been the best part of your day, and what's been the hardest part of your day.



READ

from God's Word. A Scripture verse or story will be provided and read by the glow of the fire.



TALK

about the meaning of God's living Word and how it speaks to your life – maybe even your highs and lows – at this time.



PRAY

with and for one another and the world, lifting one another in prayer and praising the God of life and love.



BLESS

with simple words and a cross traced upon each others' foreheads, we remind one another that we belong to the living God.

JANUARY 3, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS



Jesus enters our world full of grace and truth.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh
Monday	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Israel will return to its own land
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Wednesday	Matthew 2:1-12	The visit of the wise men
Thursday	Colossians 1:15-23	The person and work of Christ
Friday	Genesis 1:1-4	God creates light
Saturday	Psalms 147:12-20	Sing and praise the Lord
Sunday	Mark 1:4-11	The baptism of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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.

John 1:14 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and merciful God, we thank you for blessing us in Christ with every spiritual blessing. Amen. (Ephesians 1:3)

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who give us food to eat and Jesus to meet, thank you for your abundant love that comes to us from above. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God shine the light of Christ, full of grace and truth, on you now and always.



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JANUARY 3, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Angels from the
Realms of Glory*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are some of your memories of the Christmas season this past year?
- In what ways can you focus on Jesus' birth during the 12 days of Christmas?
- Is it important to you that Jesus, God the Son, became human? Why or why not?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 1:1-18.

The Gospel of John does not have a birth story like Matthew or Luke. In a sense, this is John's birth story, but instead of talking about Mary, Joseph, and Bethlehem, John speaks about what Jesus' birth means for us: light for the world; the Word of God becomes human in Jesus Christ; through the Word that is Jesus, we are given grace and truth; we are given grace upon grace; all that God intends for us is shown to us through God's only Son, Jesus. John places all of this in the context of the creation story. In the Genesis creation story, God speaks and light, sky, dry land, and all of creation happens. In John 1 this speaking God is portrayed as the Word that has now taken on human form in Jesus. Through Jesus the Word now reveals something, God's grace and truth intended for all that God has made. It is a promise of abundance that lavishes God's goodness on earth through Jesus. This Jesus, the Word become flesh, will turn water into wine (John 2:1-11) and later in his ministry state that he brings the abundant life (John 10:10), all of which flows out of John's opening statement about the Word that becomes flesh and is full of grace and truth. How do you experience God's grace and truth in daily life?

Pray: God of grace and truth, we thank you for giving us your Son, Jesus Christ, the Word that became human and speaks to us and gives us your abundant love and mercy. Amen.

SERVICE



All the Scripture readings this week speak of God's abundant love showered on God's people. We live in a world where not all people have enough to eat or have adequate shelter. How can you take action steps to be the hands, feet, and voice of God's love to others this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During Advent and the Christmas season, we light candles to symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus. Place a candle as a centerpiece on your dinner table this week. Before each meal, as you light the candle:

Say: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org