

***HYMN OF INVITATION TO A LIFE WITH CHRIST**
"Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)"

*The altar of this church is open to you. Come.
Come to witness, come to repent. Come to pray.*

Hymn 583

***THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT**

*The Living Flame on the altar reminds us that we must carry the message
of God's grace and love out from this sanctuary into the world.*

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE CHORAL RESPONSE**
"What Can I Give Him"

Altar Choir
Don Cason

THE POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Truro"

Charles Callahan



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP

December 16, 2007
9:25 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Color: Blue

Right from the beginning God's love has reached, and from the beginning man has refused to understand. But love went on reaching, offering itself.

Love offered the eternal...we wanted the immediate.

Love offered deep joy...we wanted thrills.

Love offered freedom...we wanted license.

Love offered communion with God...we wanted to worship at the shrine of our own minds.

Love offered peace...we wanted approval for our wars.

Even yet, love went on reaching. And still today, after two thousand years, patiently, lovingly, Christ is reaching out to us today. God is reaching...longing to share with us...the very being of God. His love still is longing, His love still is reaching to us. And the Word of the Father became Mary's little Son. And His love reached all the way to where you are. God needs people... God needs you.

Grace United Methodist Church

Ministers

The Congregation of Grace United Methodist Church

Pastors

Stephen A. Beutler Chris Roberts Larry Newberg

Our Missionaries

Rev. Jeff Newton, Kokomo Urban Outreach Ministries
Dr. Dennis Marke, Medical Missionary, Kissy, Sierra Leone
Rev. Ken Vance, Missionary, Ndola, Town Center, Kafakumba Pastor's School, Africa

Specialized Ministries

Randy Manning, Director of Music Barbara Hobbs, Pianist/Organist
Jacque Hunt, Chamber Ensemble Director Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager
TJ Knowland, Youth Director Phill Montgomery, Counselor
Carisa Durham, Childcare Provider Chuck Hefley, Church Administrator

Our Greeters today are Dick & Judie Emy and Darleen Donaghy.
Lighting the Advent Candles today are Pastor Chris, Renee, Bethany, Kennedy and Wesley Roberts.
The Acolyte is Zachary Rodgers.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by the Emy Family in memory of Dale Emy.

The asterisk () designates when the congregation will please stand.
Worshippers who find standing difficult are invited to remain seated.*

Worshippers are encouraged to turn off their cell phones while they are in the sanctuary.

Bold print is read or sung by the congregation.

WE GATHER TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pads.

When it reaches the end of the pew, please pass it back so that all may note those worshipping today.

*Cards are available in the pew for those desiring to request prayer or praise
for specific needs, concerns and joys. Please place the card in the offering plate during the offering.*

THE PRELUDE

"Silent Night" presented by GUMBY Ensemble

"Celebrate the Child" presented by Chamber Ensemble

arr. J M Hunt
arr. Stan Pethel

WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

All: **Who is this King of glory?**

Leader: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT

The congregation stands with the first note of the chimes.

The lighted candles on the altar symbolize the presence of God's Holy Spirit.

The Holy Bible is facing the congregation as a reminder that God's Word is open and available to all.

WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

*THE HYMN OF PROCESSIONAL AND WORSHIP

"Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates"

Musical Interlude

Hymn 213

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: This candle reminds us that God's people hoped for a Savior.

Light the first blue candle in the Advent wreath.

All: **God delivered to us a Savior in Jesus Christ.**

Leader: This candle reminds us that Jesus came to bring peace and good will.

Light a second blue candle in the Advent wreath.

All: **Peace is what God offers us in Jesus Christ.**

Leader: On this third Sunday of Advent, Jesus offers to us and to all people the Good

News. God tells us in Luke 2:9-11 "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.'" Today we light the candle representing the message of joy that Jesus needs us to share.

Light the pink candle in the Advent wreath.

All: **O God, the angel's good news of great joy told to the shepherds is also a message to us. Your message changes our world because Jesus is our joy. How glad we are to tell the world of Jesus. Teach us how to welcome others, sharing joy that changes lives.**

Moments of Silent Prayer

Those desiring to come to the altar for a time of intercessory prayer are welcome to come and kneel or stand.

All are invited to spend these moments in silent prayer seated at your pew.

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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. Amen.

The Choral Response

"O Come Let Us Adore Him"

WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

THE ANTHEM

"Advent Candle Song"

Altar Choir
Arthur Clyde

During the playing of the hymn, "Jesus Loves Me" children, preschool through Grade 2, are invited to attend Children's Church in the Multi-Purpose Room, lower level. An adult will meet the children at the sanctuary exit to escort our little ones.

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 11:2-11
(Pew Bible page No 688)

THE PROCLAMATION

GOOD NEWS - GOD NEEDS PEOPLE

Pastor Steve Beutler

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERING GOD OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

If you are visiting this morning, you are our guest. If Grace U.M. Church is your home, remember that the biblical expectation is that you will give your tithes to your church. May we all remember that giving to God in response to His great love is the most celebrative moment of corporate worship. Today's loose coin offering is dedicated to CAM.

The Giving of our Tithes and Offering

The Offertory

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Hymn 211

*The Chorus and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Michael Burkhardt