

***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

"Festive Angels"

Joel Raney

December 7, 2008

9:25 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Blue



**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

In the midst of our confusion, hurts, and fears, God has sent His angels. The rough places are made smooth, the soft flutter of angel wings is heard. God keeps His promise—the signs are everywhere. A twinkle of light from a stable, a choir of angels—they all point to the greatest gift of all-Jesus Christ. Deep in our hearts, we must journey to Bethlehem, kneel in worship and join our voices with the angelic chorus singing: "Glory to God".

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 SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS

"I'm Goin' a Sing"

arr. by William Smith

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

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

setting by John Behnke

WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ!

All: **We have come to experience God's grace in our worship and in our lives!**

***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.

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

Debra Long, Volunteer Parish Nurse Phill Montgomery, Counselor

Carisa Durham, Childcare Provider Brandy Dodd, Childcare Provider

Tina Browning, Childcare Provider

Chuck Hefley, Church Administrator T.J. Knowland, Youth Director

Our Greeters today are James & Debra Mitts and Jim Williams.

The Acolyte is Bethany Roberts.

Lighting the Advent Candle today is Rich and Ann Bradshaw with Benjamin, Jacob and Peter.

The red rose on the Altar is in honor of the birth of Alexander Emmanuel to Annie Polk on December 1.

WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Musical Interlude

Hymn 220

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO PRAYER

(Light the first candle of the Advent wreath)

Leader: The angel is the Christmon symbol for this our second Sunday of Advent. After the angel came to Mary and told her that she would conceive the child in her womb and would call him Jesus, Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word. And Mary sings her Song of Praise.
...My soul magnifies the Lord; he has scattered the proud.
...He has brought down the powerful from their thrones.
...He has lifted up the lowly.
...He has provided for the poor. (Luke 1:45-55)

The symbol of an Angel Blowing a Trumpet reminds us of the angels who heralded the birth of the Messiah. In Luke 2:8-15 it says: “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.”

(Light the second candle of the Advent wreath)

We light this second candle to remember the angel who trumpeted the birth of our Lord. May the light of this candle also remind us that the light of Jesus shines for everyone.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

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 ANTHEM

“The Angels’ Gloria”

Altar Choir
arr. Austin Lovelace

WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Numbers 20:16
Luke 2:8-20

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PROCLAMATION

Pastor Larry Newberg

GOD SENT AN ANGEL

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 tithe 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

“The Angelus”

*The Chorus and Prayer of Dedication

To the tune of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel!”

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.

Gordon Young

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The congregation is invited to approach the altar to receive the elements through the center aisle. The ushers will direct you as to when you may come. All who desire to participate are invited to come, kneel or stand at the altar, and receive the elements of Holy Communion by intinction (you may receive a piece of the broken bread and dip it into the cup). You may remain in an attitude of prayer and meditation at the altar as long as you desire. Please return to your pew by the side aisles. Should you desire, the communion elements will be made available for you to partake in your pew.

Hymnal pg. 18

*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*HYMN OF INVITATION TO A LIFE WITH CHRIST

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Hymn 218