

Leader: Let us pray.

Father, You make this holy season radiant with the splendor of Jesus Christ our Light. We welcome Him as Lord, the true light of the world. And we pray, O God for your light to be upon all those we hold before You now in the silence of our hearts and with the words of our lips. Hear us now as we pray, each in our own words and our own way.

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.

A CELEBRATION OF CAROLS

The congregation is invited to request Advent and Christmas carols to be sung. Please choose from Hymn Nos. 196 to 251.

*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

Go in peace, love and care for one another in the name of Christ Jesus;
And the wisdom of the Wonderful Counselor guide you
The strength of the Mighty God defend you.
The love of the everlasting Father enfold you.
And the grace and the light of the Prince of Peace shine all about you, both now in this festive season, and forevermore. Amen and amen.

THE POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

setting by John Ness Beck

Grace United Methodist Church

Rev. Stephen A. Beutler

Rev. Stacey Fischer Gehring

Rev. Larry Newberg

Pastors

Specialized Ministries

Barbara Hobbs, Music Ministries
Jacque Hunt, Chamber Ensemble Director
Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager
Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager
Carisa Durham, Childcare Provider
Hannah Arend, Christian Education Intern
TJ Knowland, Youth Director
Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager
Debbra Long, Volunteer Parish Nurse
Brandy Dodd, Childcare Provider
Amanda Kelly, Children's Ministry
Debbra Long, Volunteer Nurse
Phill Montgomery, Counselor
Amy Lovegrove, Childcare Provider

Our Greeter is Larry & Barbara Moss. Today's Acolyte is Chris Pinto.

Fellowship Time will be hosted by the Growing Christians Sunday School Class and Mel Hobbs. The Altar Flowers were given to the glory of God by Kathleen Babchuk and Charlotte Young in memory of her husband Richard Young.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP

December 27, 2009
9:25 a.m.

1st Sunday after Christmas Day
Liturgical Color: White

We thank you, Lord, for Christmas - grant that we may be grateful enough to keep it not for a day, but for always. In the name of Christ, whose coming is a mystery; whose life is a miracle, whose ministry in word and deed and death is salvation, and whose presence is now our highest hope. Amen.

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

*Worshipers 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

“Here We Come A-Caroling”

setting by Anna Laura Page

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.

WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

*THE INTROIT CAROL

“**Joy to the World!**” (Stanza 1)

Hymn No. 246

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Leader: As we light these candles today, we thank God for hope God gives us, for the peace God bestows, for the joy God pours into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

All: **We thank God for His gift of Jesus. We thank Him that through Christ God's light has come into the world and made it possible for us to see, and in seeing, to rejoice. His truth, His love, His very self, transforms all who receive Him.**

(Light the first, second, third, fourth and Christ Candle)

Leader: Let us pray.

Loving God, Emmanuel, we thank you for being with us—for sending your Son to walk with us and to lead us. As Christ Jesus was born of Mary, so may He be born in us and through us revealed to the world. Grant that the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of which we have heard and spoken of throughout Advent may be fully realized in us as we worship and serve you through Him, both now and forevermore. Amen.

*THE CAROL

“Joy to the World” (Stanzas 2-4)

Hymn No. 246

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Andrew (Andy) Jones McConnell
James and Megan McConnell, parents

At the appointed time, the congregation shall respond:

Lord, we have here in our church family a new child, a new person, a new soul. The responsibility for this little person is too much for any two parents alone. They need the loving support of the fellowship of believers as they train and guide and nurture little Andy. We give ourselves today, Lord, to that task. We accept the responsibility of helping to bring Andy to maturity in You. We will uphold him with our love, teach him the word of God, encourage him when he fails, and we will be careful not to bruise this tender bud by harsh words, quick judgments, and cruel criticism. For truly, Father, this is our child, and we want to protect and teach him and to bring him to the moment when he will choose for himself to know You as Savior and Lord of his life. Amen.

THE CAROL

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Hymn No. 224

THE NARRATION AND CAROL

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Hymn No. 220

THE NARRATION AND CAROL

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Hymn No. 230

THE NARRATION AND CAROL

“While Shepherds Watched their Flocks

Hymn No. 236

THE NARRATION AND CAROL

“Away in the Manger”

Hymn No. 217

THE NARRATION AND CAROL

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Hymn No. 218

THE NARRATION AND THE CAROL

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

Hymn No. 248

WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

THE CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

Pastor Steve Beutler

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD

SHARING OF GOD'S BLESSINGS

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 “Bishop's Christmas Offering” for children.

The Giving of our Tithes and Offering

The Offertory

“Wexford Carol”

*The Chorus and Prayer of Dedication

To the tune of “What Child is This!”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

THE CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.