



grace

presbyterian

church

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Margaret Bradly, Organ

*Call to Worship

Isaiah 60:1-2

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.”

*Hymn of Praise

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#208

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,
come and behold him born the King of angels;

**Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

God of God, Light of Light; lo, he abhors not the Virgin’s womb;
very God, begotten, not created; **Refrain**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;
glory to God in the highest; **Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing; **Refrain**

*Prayer of Adoration and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Confession

Psalm 103:8-10

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.”

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but you are rich, and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor. Strengthen our faith and trust in you. We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us. We are weak in faith; strengthen us. We are cold in love; warm us, and make our hearts fervent for you, that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 103:11-12

“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.”

Choir Anthem

***Hymn of Preparation:**

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

#229

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger,
there he lay, the Undeiled, to the world a stranger
such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;
heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
he is still the Undeiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;
praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:10-19

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷ The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!” ¹⁸ In that day the LORD will whistle for the fly that is at the end of the streams of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. ¹⁹ And they will all come and settle in the steep ravines, and in the clefts of the rocks, and on all the thornbushes, and on all the pastures.

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Randy Bibby

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 5:11-6:3

¹¹ About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³ for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. **6** Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do if God permits.

Sermon

**“Spiritually Immaturity”
“Jesus is Greater”**

Rev. David Stewart

I. A Warning Against Spiritual Immaturity

II. A Call to Spiritual Growth

***Hymn of Response: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

#203

Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. **Refrain**

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. **Refrain**

Benediction:

Jude 24-25

"Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and present you before his presence with exceeding great joy, to the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and forever."

***Three-fold Amen.**

***Indicates congregation will stand, if able**

There is an offering box in the back of the sanctuary for tithes and offering.

12/04/22 Offering	\$ 6,743.00
YTD Offering	\$ 173,556.84
YTD Budget	\$ 172,088.00
Building Fund	\$ 20.00
Benevolence	\$ 200.00

Announcements:

Annual Advent Dinner: Tonight, 5:00 p.m. The church will be providing the main dish. Those attending are asked to sign up for sides and dessert. If you have not signed up but would like to attend, please see Meg Roberson after the service. There will be a musical presentation following dinner.

We will have a Christmas Eve service on December 24, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

We will be taking a special offering this Advent season in support of the Presbyterian Church in America's fund for the relief of widows and pastors in need. Please see bulletin insert. Checks should be made out to Grace Presbyterian Church, please add, "look after" in the memo line.

Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the church – David Greenwald (941-380-1987; theophilus777.0@gmail.com) *Westminster Confession of Faith*,

Thursdays, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the church – Bob Rhodes (863-303-4579 rgr31574@aol.com), *Judges*.

Choir practice is held regularly on Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Please feel free to join us if interested.

GRACE SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES/AGENCIES

Agape Flights – Venice, FL
Carter, Michael & Cathalain – MTW – Nagoya, Japan
Child Evangelism Fellowship – Charlotte County, FL
Dalfred, Karl & Sun – OMF International - Thailand
Grady, Miriam & son Evan – MTW – Czech Republic
Collin & Zury – RUF Global
Knaebel, Chris & Rebecca – Church Planting – Sarasota, FL
Lennox, Patrick & Regina – MTW – Native Americans
Martin, Jeremy & Angel – Serge – London, England
Pregnancy Solutions – Port Charlotte, FL
Stevens, Carla – MTW – Christian Educational Consultant
Tanner, Lucas – RUF – Florida Gulf Coast University
TWIG – Venice, FL
Young Life – Port Charlotte, FL

10548 SW County Road 769
Lake Suzy, FL 34269
(941) 743-7971

www.gracelakesuzy.org

Member of the Presbyterian Church in America