



CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Margaret Bradly, Organ

*Call to Worship

Psalm 40:16

“May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, Great is the LORD.”

Choral Call to Worship: “Come, All Ye Faithful, Sing!”

Choir

***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 giv’n.
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 Repentance:

Psalm 19:12-13

“Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.”

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty and loving God, as we come to the end of the year, we recognize our human frailty and sinfulness. In the past, we have withheld the gifts that You have bestowed upon us and failed to use them in faithful service. We have failed to understand the needs of those around us, and to seek their good over our own. We have relied on our own strength and given in to despair, when we should have turned to You for guidance and hope. Forgive us, Lord, and grant us new opportunities to be the people that You’ve called us to be in Your Word. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we may be Your instruments of peace and joy as we face the future. In Christ’s Name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 37:23-24

“The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.”

***Hymn of Preparation:**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

#216

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil fill the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow;
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2: 13-18

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Intercessory Prayer

Mr. Andy Mitchell

Scripture Reading

Rev. 12:1-17

12 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ² She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴ His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵ She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, ⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days. ⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” ¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. ¹⁵ The serpent poured water like a river out of his

mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. ¹⁶ But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood¹⁸ on the sand of the sea.

Sermon

“Heaven’s View of Christmas”

Rev. David Stewart

I. Scene I: Villains and a Hero

II. Scene II: War in Heaven

III. Scene III: War on Earth

***Hymn of Response:**

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

#226

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed,
there to bend the knee before him who heav’n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin’s alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring. Christ, to thee, our heav’nly King.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav’nly country bright need, they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

Benediction:

Romans 15:13

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

***Three-fold Amen.**

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

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

12/18/22 Offering	\$ 4,913.00
YTD Offering	\$ 180,565.34
YTD Budget	\$ 179,112.00
Building Fund	\$ 20.00

Announcements:

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. Checks should be made out to Grace Presbyterian Church, please add, "look after" in the memo line.

We will have our annual Congregational meeting immediately following the worship service on January 15, 2023.

Bible Studies will begin after the first of the year

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 will resume on Thursdays, January 12, 2023, 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

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