

Christmas Day

December 25, 2015



"The Word became flesh..."

John 1:14

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tucson, AZ

Christmas Day Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising
Christian Worship #42

Please stand

INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

RESPONSIVE READING FROM ISAIAH 9

M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

C: on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

M: You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;

C: they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest.

M: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

C: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

M: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

C: The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: It is with great joy that we gather this morning to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Yet on this occasion we remember that it was for our sin that he came into this world. With humble hearts let us come before our God in repentance, acknowledging our sinfulness and seeking his forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am a sinner from birth and that I have offended you in what I think, what I say and what I do. Forgive me for my lack of love toward you and others. Throughout my life and especially at this Christmas season I have often failed to truly appreciate the gift of salvation won for me by the life and death of your Son, Jesus. Forgive my many sins and have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God our Heavenly Father has been merciful to us. We have redemption and forgiveness through the blood of his Son, Jesus, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. We are the people on whom God's favor rests.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Christian Worship #64



1. Let us all with glad - some voice Praise the God of heav - en,
2. To this vale of tears he comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,
3. We are rich, for he was poor; Is not this a won - der?
4. O Lord Christ, our Sav - ior dear, Bless us and be near us.

Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son has giv - en.
That with him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.
There - fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Son of God, we praise you for coming to earth on the first Christmas to live the life we could not live and to die the death we were doomed to die. As we celebrate your coming to earth to be one of us, help us rejoice also that you continually come to us in your Word and Sacrament. Strengthen our faith. Cause our love to increase and our hope to grow. Bless all we say and do to the glory of your Name.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own

Isaiah 52:7-10 (NIV)

eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

*Noel, Noel, sing we Noel. Born is the King of Israel.
The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*Noel, Noel, sing we Noel. Born is the King of Israel.
They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.*

*And by the light of that same star, the wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, sing we Noel. Born is the King of Israel.*

*Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who hath made heav'n and earth of naught, and with His blood our life hath bought.
Noel, Noel, sing we Noel. Born is the King of Israel.*

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9 (NIV)

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son;

today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

VOICES OF GRACE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Musical Arrangement by Philip Kern

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*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 we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Please stand

GOSPEL

John 1:1-14 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to

every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Please be seated

HYMN

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful
Christian Worship #55

SERMON

“The Word Became Flesh”

John 1:1-14

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the row and pass it along. Thank You!



If you prefer, use your smart phone to give online by scanning this QR code.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come
Arr. by Lloyd Larson

Please stand

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

M: Precious Savior Christ Jesus, Eternal Word, you became flesh and dwelt among us because of your great love for mankind. Though you were God, you humbled yourself out of love for your creation, and came to earth as one of us. We stand in reverent awe before your manger bed, contemplating the mystery of your incarnation.

You are the Light of all the earth. The message of salvation through faith in you is meant to gladden every heart. Send out your light and your truth to nations everywhere, that every knee may bow before you, and every heart worship you as true God incarnate, who came to earth to save mankind from sin.

Keep your light of love and truth shining brightly in our hearts by faith. Lead us more and more into the truths of your Word. Watch over us so that we are not led aside into the paths of sin and unbelief. Increase our understanding of your Word and give us wisdom to apply it to our daily lives.

Special prayers may be included here.

M: Hear us Lord as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer.

M: Rejoicing in your birth and trusting in your mercy, O Christ, Light of the world, we commend to you all for whom we pray.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN

Peace Came To Earth
Christian Worship Supplement #707



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And
The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In
How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but
wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but
bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but
else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
see: Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Please stand

PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: May our newborn Savior, Jesus Christ [†], the Light of the World, bless and keep you on this Christmas Day and always.
C: Amen.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

Joy To the World
Christian Worship #62

POSTLUDE

Noel, Noel!
By J. S. Bach

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leader Pastor Sam Clemons
Accompanist..... Teri Guenther
Voices of Grace Director Beth Kassulke
Worship Choir Director..... Teri Guenther
Clarinets Beth Kassulke & Missy Wiechmann
Violin Maya Parra
Drums..... Taylor Parra
Trumpets Pastor Nathan Kassulke & Pastor Ron Koehler
Ushers Jon Dongoske, Dylan Guenther, Danny Koehler, Taylor Parra
Sound & Recording Tech..... Jeff Weinstein

Celtic Noel: Musical arrangement by James Koerts. © 2015 Lorenz Publishing Co.
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**Please join us here at Grace-Tucson for a New Year’s Eve Worship Service
on Thursday, December 31 at 7:00 PM.**

REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

At Grace-Benson
451 W. Duane St
7:30 AM Worship Service

At Grace-Tucson
830 N. First Avenue
7:45 AM Worship Service
10:00 AM Worship Service

At Grace-Sahuarita
17675 S. La Canada Dr
9:45 AM Worship Service

At Grace-Vail
Worshiping at Esmond Station School
9400 S. Atterbury Wash Way
10:00 AM Worship Service