



Grace Episcopal Church Galena, Illinois

First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 2020

Welcome to Grace Church!

It is, as always, a pleasure and privilege to worship together today. Please know that your presence is valued whether this is your first time at Grace or whether you are a regular, whether we are together in person or online on Zoom.

*As we prepare ourselves for worship,
please sit or kneel in quietness
while the prelude is offered.*

MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

- | | |
|---|--|
| * Members and Guests, <i>Celebrants</i> | * Robin French, <i>Music Director</i> |
| * Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell, <i>Presider</i> | * Nancy Cook, <i>Erben Organ</i> |
| * Rev. Diane Luther, <i>Deacon</i> | * Charlotte Stryker, <i>Vestry Coordinator</i> |
| * Nancy Cook, <i>Lector</i> | * Charlotte Stryker, <i>Altar Guild</i> |
| * Elizabeth Ludescher, <i>Intercessor</i> | * Maren Coates, <i>Greeter</i> |

Prayer before worship

O Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We gather to worship

PRELUDE

Carol Medley

Traditional/Hayes

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Priest: The Word was made flesh, Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: **The Word was made flesh, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Priest: And dwelt among us;

People: **Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People: **The Word was made flesh, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

THE COLLECT

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word, Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: ***Amen.***

Please be seated for the readings.

THE LESSON

Lector: A reading from **Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her Jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

PSALM 147:13-21

(alternately by verse as directed by the lector)

**Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
Praise your God, O Zion;**

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;
He has blessed your children within you.

**He has established peace on your borders;
He satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

He sends out his command to the earth,
And his word runs very swiftly.

**He gives snow like wool;
He scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;
Who can stand against his cold?

**He sends forth his word and melts them;
He blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**

He declares his word to Jacob,
His statutes and his judgments to Israel.

**He has not done so to any other nation;
To them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!**

THE EPISTLE

Lector: Lector: A reading from **Galatians 3:23-35, 4:4-7**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to **John**.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell

We affirm our faith

THE CREED

(Please stand as able.)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son], who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

We offer prayers

Deacon: In Christ God's Word has become flesh dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. Let us pray to the true light which enlightens the world, that from the fullness of God all creation may receive grace upon grace, saying: What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Intercessor: Clothe your Church with the garments of salvation and cover her with robes of righteousness, O Gracious One, that we may be your witnesses to testify to the light. What has come into being in Christ was life,

People: and the life was the light of all people.

Lector: Almighty One, inspire the leaders of our nation and all in authority in the ways of grace and truth, that we may no longer be a people enslaved under the law but may know ourselves to be heirs, adopted as God's children. What has come into being in Christ was life,

People: and the life was the light of all people.

Intercessor: Be our light in the darkness for all the world, O God, that the fullness of your heart may be made known for the healing of the earth. What has come into being in Christ was life,

People: and the life was the light of all people.

Lector: Live among us, O Word made flesh, and reconcile this community to your light. What has come into being in Christ was life,

People: and the life was the light of all people.

Intercessor: May your people be a crown of beauty and a royal diadem in your hand, as we pray in faith for all those on our Prayer List, especially Rev. Paul (Goddard) and Olivia (Coponi). Others? _____. What has come into being in Christ was life,

People: and the life was the light of all people.

Lector: Hear our gratitude for your glory manifest among us, especially for Matthew (Morel) and Max (Vollkommer) serving in the military; our Outreach partners: Glory Parish in the Diocese of Renk and La Santa Cruz parish in the Diocese of SE Mexico; the United Thank Offering, the Galena ARC, the United Churches Food Pantry, Episcopal Relief and Development, Shelter Care Ministries, Dubuque Rescue Mission; all who worship in this place and those who have not yet walked through these doors. Others? _____.

Receive those who have died as heirs of eternal life, along with those whose anniversaries of death we remember this week, especially Isabel (Sampson), Mathilda (Stellenberg) and Mrs. Charles (Merrick). Others? _____. What has come into being in Christ was life,

People: and the life was the light of all people.

Deacon: Loving and gracious Creator, from the beginning you have brightened our darkness with the light of your life: Let your vindication shine out like the dawn, and your salvation like a burning torch, that your Word made flesh may bring grace upon grace to all the earth, in the power of your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

(Stand or kneel as able)

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(a time of silence is kept)

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

Deacon: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: *Amen.*

(Stand as able.)

We share the Peace of Christ

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

We share the ministries of the Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS/BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY

ANNIVERSARY/BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase;
bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand;
comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful;
raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding
abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Holy Communion

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

For those who have received the consecrated wafers and communion items, you may prepare your worship area as the priest prepares the table.

PRESENTATION HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

Chadwick/Barnes

As the hymn is played, and the altar is prepared for Communion, you may reflect on these words:

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

"Les anges" is a French noel (from the Languedoc region) believed to date from the eighteenth century. Its text and tune were first published in the Nouveau Recueil de Cantiques in 1855. The English translation originated as a free imitation from the French by James Chadwick. The Christmas gospel in Luke 2:8-15 is the basis for the text. The hymn's refrain, "Gloria in excelsis Deo" is the first part of the angels' chorus in Luke 2: 14; it is one of the few Latin phrases in common use in Protestant churches.

It's a simply beautiful image: the shepherds in a great field, staring up in wonder at a sky full of the heavenly hosts, singing out their praise and joy, the echoes of their song of reverberating off the mountains to add to the cacophony. It isn't hard to imagine the shepherds' response. Did they fully understand what they were witnessing? Do we even fully understand what they were witnessing? This hymn invites us to "Come to Bethlehem and see." Today, we go to Bethlehem. We peak through the stable doors, and we kneel in amazement before the Christ child, our ears still ringing from the angels' song. More so than the shepherds, we are able to see who this child is, because we know the Gospel story. (Hymnary.org)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP Eucharistic Prayer D

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

(Stand or kneel as able.)

Presider and **People:** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

Presider: We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation. Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.
Amen.

Presider and People: We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you,
Lord our God.

Presider: Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and forever. **Amen**

Presider: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider: The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

People: Lord, unite us in this sign.

FRACTION

Presider: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

COMMUNION MUSIC

For those who do not have the consecrated wafers, you may say this prayer as others receive.

PRAYER FOR WHEN WE ARE UNABLE TO SHARE COMMUNION

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

-- The Prayer Book for the Armed Services

Presider: Let us pray:

Celebrant and

People: Eternal God, heavenly Father,
You have graciously accepted us as living members
Of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
And you have fed us with spiritual food
In the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
And grant us strength and courage
To love and serve you
With gladness and singleness of heart;
Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

Presider: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your Path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among You, and remain with you always.

People: *Amen.*

Deacon: Go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

For Unto Us a Child is Born

Handel/Hayes

The poinsettias today are given by the Altar Guild.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers are Requested: *Please include the following concerns during worship today and throughout the week:*

Cycle of Prayer:

The Most Rev. Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury and for our companion Parishes: Glory Parish in the Diocese of Renk and La Santa Cruz parish in the Diocese of SE Mexico.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeffrey, our Bishop and all members of Grace Church.

We pray for those who are sick or in need:

*Ruth (Beegle), *Bob (Burton), Buttell Family, *Bill (Calvert), *Nancy (Cook), Olivia (Coconi), *Kathy (Doig), Matthew (Dowe), *Renee (Dowe), *Al (Elsbree), Keith (Ferguson), *Jennie (Fjelde), Rev. Paul (Goddard), Susan (Haerle), *Barb (Hooper), Howell Family, Ginger (Komiskey), Alden (Kuntz), Verity (Liljedahl), *Alice Maffit, *Diann & *Robert (Marsh), *Mary (Nelson), Sarah (Newton), *Bill (Norton), Lisa (Prindle), David (Schaller), Jason (Schaller), Gabriel (Serrano), Melody (Serwich), *Pat (Terry), *Tom (V.), Joe (Watts), Mina, Heather (H.), David (J.), Kathie (O.) and Bruce (W.)

We give thanks for the many blessings we have received:

Max (Vollkommer) and Matthew (Morel) serving in the military; the birthday of: *Rob (Volkemmer); our Outreach partners: the United Thank Offering, the Galena ARC, the United Churches Food Pantry, Episcopal Relief and Development, Shelter Care Ministries, Dubuque Rescue Mission and all who worship in this place and those who have not yet walked through these doors.

We pray for those who have died and remember the anniversary of the deaths of:

Isabel (Sampson), Mathilda (Stellenberg) and Mrs. Charles (Merrick).

ANNOUNCEMENTS for the week of December 27, 2020

Zoom Poetry Meeting

A Zoom Poetry group is meeting at Grace Church on Mondays at 2:00pm. If you are interested, write Carol Poston at poston@sxu.edu or call her at 815-777-0220 to receive the link to the meeting.

Mid-Week Eucharist is this Wednesday, December 30th, at 7:30am in the church and online.

Wednesday Morning Study Group is Wednesday, December 30th, at 10:30am online.

Meditative Prayer meets Friday, January 1st, at 9:00am online. You are welcome to join, and gentle guidance will be provided for those unfamiliar with this practice.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

for January 3, 2021

Second Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 84 or 84:1-8

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
or Luke 2:41-52
or Matthew 2:1-12

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grace episcopal church
galena, illinois

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee, Bishop of Chicago
The Very Rev. Gloria G. Hopewell, D. Min., Rector
The Rev. Linda Packard, Priest Associate
The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon
Nancy Kenney, Parish Administrator

Vestry

Greg Serwich	Sr. Warden	Lynn Giles	Jr. Warden
Richard Luther	Treasurer	Diann Marsh	Clerk
Anita Sands (2018-21)	Tony Packard (2018-21)	Charlotte Stryker (2019-22)	
Elizabeth Ludescher (2019-22)	Nancy Cook (2020-23)	Eric Kallback (2020-23)	

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