



*Christmas Eve
Lessons & Carols
8pm*



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24, 2024 — 8pm

Christmas Eve Service

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

“The Wexford Carol”

“Ave Maria”

“What Child Is This?”

“Silent Night”

Linda Dover, organist ~ Bob Dover, clarinet

arr. Mark Hayes

by Charles Gounod

arr. Rich Heffler

arr. John Leavitt

LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY

Paul & Linda Bruns

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

The journey of life requires the light of
Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love shining out into the world.

On our way to Bethlehem, we search for the star that lights the path.

The road can be difficult, and the search for home can be elusive.

We are a people who look for Good News for all people.

There are milestones—signs and markers—that can guide us to a better day.

God’s light goes before us, we are not alone.

Holy and Living God, we pray for more hope, peace, joy, and love in our world.
Too often we throw up our hands in frustration, thinking there is little we can do.

Show us that much can be done in the most unlikely of places,
including a small town like Bethlehem.

Call us to offer stability in times that feel difficult.

Call us to be “stables of care”

so that we can show others

that you are present with us, Emmanuel.

We pray this in the name of your Son,

Jesus, the Christ, the Center of Our Lives. **Amen.**

Let this be a marker of assurance that we are moving in a faithful direction:

God is with us every step of our way.

Jesus is being born into our lives even now.

The Spirit is transforming us in this place.

Peace be with you!

And also with you.

SONG OF THE STARRY NIGHT

Music by Morten Lauridsen

“Sure On This Shining Night”

Words by James Agee

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

*Sure on this shining night of star-made shadows round,
kindness must watch for me this side the ground, on this shining night.
The late year lies down the north, all is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth. Hearts all whole. Sure on this shining night.
I weep for wonder wand’ring far alone of shadows on the stars.
Sure on this shining night, this shining night, sure on this shining night.*

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:8–16

Barbara Douglas

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah

***HYMNAL 113**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

(Stanzas 1 and 3)

SONG OF THE SHEPHERDS “Awake My Love, Arise and Sing!”

by Debra Scroggins

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Bob Dover, clarinet ~ Keith Langabee, percussion

*Awake my love, arise and sing! My eyes have beheld a newborn king!
The babe is cradled in manger low. Arise my love, we’ll go!
Awake my love without delay! Such wonders await you! Remember this day!
A king is born in Bethlehem! Arise my love, arise! (Repeat)
Awake! Arise! Such marvelous wonders will open your eyes!
Awake! Arise! Our King is now with us! Arise!*

*Awake my friends, arise and sing! Our eyes have beheld a newborn king!
The babe is cradled in manger low. Arise my friends, we’ll go!
Awake! Arise! Such marvelous wonders will open your eyes!
Awake! Arise! Our King is now with us! Arise!*

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

“Away in a Manger”

arr. John Leavitt

Linda Dover, organist

SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1–14

Rev. Karen Wright

***The Word of God becomes flesh
and lives among us, full of grace and truth***

***CANDLELIGHT HYMN 122**

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

STILLE NACHT

(We will light one another’s candles reminding us of the coming of the Light of the World.)

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - dian - t beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN

1 고요한밤 거룩한밤
 어둠에 묻힌밤
 주의부모 앉아서
 감사기도 드릴때
 아기잘도 잔다
 아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863;
 stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818
 Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

STILLE NACHT
 Irregular

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

(Please extinguish your candle at the close of the Benediction before people start to move.)

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Lani Smith



11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210

Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ www.gcpc.org

Upcoming Events and Services

(Details and links under each event)

Office Closed - New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

VBS 2025 Registration Begins Online!

on Wednesday, January 1, 2025

"Sign up at gcpc.org/vbs"

Epiphany Star Sunday

Sunday, January 5, 9:30am

Reception for Rebecca Prater, 10:45am

GCPC 40th Anniversary Event

Intergenerational Afternoon Tea Party

Sunday, January 12, 2-4pm

"RSVP by January 5, at gcpc.org/teaparty"

Weekend Crafters Winter Retreat

Friday, January 17, 6-9pm

Saturday, January 18, 9am-4pm

"RSVP ASAP at gcpc.org/crafters"

Annual Church Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 10:30am

Bingo & Lasagna Night!

Friday, January 31, 5:30-7:30pm

"Sign up on January 19 or January 26, during worship, or call the church office."

GCPC 40th Anniversary Event

Intergenerational DIY Mini Golf

Saturday, February 8, 7pm

"Sign up to play at gcpc.org/golf"

Covenant Group Brunch Potluck

Sunday, February 23, 10:30am

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, March 4, 5:30-7:30pm

Lent Begins

Wednesday, March 5

GCPC 40th Anniversary Event

Craft Fair

Saturday, March 29, 9am-2pm

"Seeking vendors through February 15."

Sign up at gcpc.org/craftfair"

Trivia Night!

Saturday, April 5

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 5, 10am

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 12, 9:30am

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:30pm

Good Friday, April 18, 7:30pm

Easter Sunday, April 20, 9:30am

Vacation Bible School

"Road Trip - On the Go with God!"

June 2 - June 6, 9am-Noon

Children Ages 4 yrs - 5th Grade

gcpc.org/vbs

GCPC 40th Anniversary Celebration

Brunch Following

Sunday, June 22, 9:30am



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Full details on these events and services are shared in the midweek email announcements, bulletin, newsletter, and on Facebook and Instagram.

For an online church calendar, visit gcpc.org/calendar