



# Christmas Eve

Family Service, 5pm



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**December 24, 2024 — 5pm**  
**Christmas Eve Family Worship Service**

*We Gather to Worship*

**PRELUDE**

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**  
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Don Michael Dicie

**WELCOME**

Rev. Karen Wright

**LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY**

Melo, Caitlin, Natalie, and Bradley

**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.

**SONG OF WONDER**

“Little Baby Jesus”

by Naomi King Walker

Joy! Singers (*4s-1<sup>st</sup> graders*)

Emily Hussey & Hilary Schmidt, co-directors

*Margo Armbrecht, Drake Cabe, Rowan Cabe, Gilbert Dixon, Brody Frye,  
Henry Frye, Wyatt Schendel, Abigail Schmidt, Bristol Sellers, & Zoey Wetzig*

*Little baby Jesus on the hay, Christmas is your special day!  
Little baby Jesus come to earth; we will celebrate your birth.  
Little baby Jesus, tiny King, we will celebrate and sing!  
Little baby Jesus from above, you are God’s own gift of love.*

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

Rev. Karen Wright

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

“O Holy Night”

Music by Adolphe C. Adams

Esme Dixon, soloist

English Lyrics by John S. Dwight

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**Hymn 145, What Child is This**

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.

*We Hear the Story*

**THE WORD**

“The Birds of Bethlehem”

**THE BIRDS OF BETHLEHEM** by Tomie de Paola

Youth and Children of GCPC

**Hymns:**

**O, Come All Ye Faithful, #133, vs 1**

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! O come, let us adore him; O come, let  
us adore him; O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**SING NOEL**

“Come, Lord Jesus”

arr. Jim Ailor

Celebration! Choir (*2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders*) Incorporating “The First Noel”

Pam Smith Kelly, director ~ Angela Krug, accompanist

Katie Hearn, flute & assistant director ~ Keith Langabee, assistant

(\*Descant) \*Eloise Armbrecht, \*Eloise Dixon, Abel Frye, Kamden Frye, Charlotte Hearn,

\*Mallory Hearn, Aidan Hussey, Liam Hussey, Brynnley Krug, Evie Schmidt, James Schmidt,

Magnolia Sellers, Max Soule, Grant Stromberg, Lucas Wright, & Sarah Wright

*Come, Lord Jesus, come to dwell with us. How we need your presence near.  
Come to guide us. Come to save us. Come, O come, we welcome you here.  
Alleluia! God is with us. Alleluia! Emmanuel. Angels are praising  
and shepherds are bowing. God is with us! Sing Noel!*

### **Away in a Manger, #115, vs 1**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

### **Angels We Have Heard on High, #113, vs 1**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in  
reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

### **Go Tell it on the Mountain, #136, vs 1**

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born! While shepherds kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by  
night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Go tell it on the  
mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is  
born!

### *We Share the Light*

**\*CANDLELIGHT HYMN 122**

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

STILLE NACHT

Congregation

*(We will light one another's candles reminding us of the coming of the Light of the World.  
Please tip your unlit candle into the flame of your neighbor's candle.)*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and mild.  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at thy birth. Jesus Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing: Alleluia to our King:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

**\*CHRISTMAS LITANY**

Rev. Karen Wright

Leader: In the beginning and in the midst of darkness, God spoke.

**All: Let there be light.**

Leader: In the beginning was the Word. And the Word came and dwelt among us. And the Word was the light of all peoples.

**All: Let there be light.**

Leader: We light our candles, knowing that the One who is the source and promise of all light is the One whose birth we celebrate.

**All: Let there be light.**

Leader: We are here to seek a little light by which we can see, by which we can live, by which we can love.

**All: Let there be light.**

Leader: We light our candles in gratitude for the love and light that shines through the babe born in Bethlehem who became the Redeemer of us all.

**All: Let there be light.**

Leader: May we be emboldened to share the love of God with a world longing for light and hope, purpose, and love. May our actions and generosity shine in a world under the shadow of despair.

**All: Let there be light.**

Leader: We join the chorus of those whose carols have echoed through the years — “O come to us, abide in us, our Lord, Emmanuel.”

**All: Let there be light.**

*We Carry the Light Into the World*

**\*RESPONSE 134, stanzas 1 & 4** “Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! The Lord has come:

Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare him room,

And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”  
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Lani Smith

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### Participants in Tonight’s Service

(Some cast member names may not have been available at time of printing.)

**Traveling Mary and Joseph** - Mallory and Eloise D

**Holy Family** - The Armbrechts

**Bird Wranglers** - Esme, Sarah, Bradley, Eloise A

**Angels** - Zander, Nini, Morgan, Magnolia, Bristol, Kamden, Rowan, Evie

**Narrators** – Nini, Esme, Morgan, Bradley, Connor, Natalie

**Shepherds** - Ethan, Harrison, Grant, Max

**Animals** - Connor, Melo, Natalie, Caitlin, Lucas, Gilbert, Brody, Aiden, James, Liam

**Tech Crew** – Ray Kowalczewski, Jason Turner

**Worship Moderator for our Facebook stream** – Kim Krueger

**Director** – Emily Nelson Dixon



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ [www.gcpc.org](http://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 [gpcpc.org/vbs](https://gpcpc.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 [gpcpc.org/teaparty](https://gpcpc.org/teaparty)"*

## **Weekend Crafters Winter Retreat**

Friday, January 17, 6-9pm

Saturday, January 18, 9am-4pm

*"RSVP ASAP at [gpcpc.org/crafters](https://gpcpc.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 [gpcpc.org/golf](https://gpcpc.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 [gpcpc.org/craftfair](https://gpcpc.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

[gpcpc.org/vbs](https://gpcpc.org/vbs)

## **GCPC 40th Anniversary Celebration**

### **Brunch Following**

Sunday, June 22, 9:30am



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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 [gpcpc.org/calendar](https://gpcpc.org/calendar)