

WELCOME TO GRACE CHURCH

Gladly serving the Lord Jesus and neighbors near and far

BECAUSE OF THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE, WE ARE NOT CONSUMED, FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING; GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

We worship *The Prince Of Peace* on the *Third Sunday In Advent*
December 15, 2024 (9:00 a.m.)

Come as you are, then "go home different"

BECAUSE OF THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE, WE ARE NOT CONSUMED, FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING; GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

216 S. Market Street, Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055 Church Phone: (717) 766-3282
Email is gracechurch216@gmail.com Website is <https://www.gracechurchmech.com/>

BECAUSE OF THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE, WE ARE NOT CONSUMED, FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING; GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

PASTOR: W. Michael Langford

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Chris Peters (9 a.m.- 5 p.m. on Thursdays)

BLESSING US WITH THEIR MUSIC: Linda Langford (**organ**), Chris Peters (**piano**)

MINISTERS: All of us! (**We are all ministers of God's grace and we're on-duty '24/7'**)

**DON'T
FORGET
THE**

**"Reason
for the
Season"**



GATHERING CAROL (U.M. # 236) “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

(1) *While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.*

(2) *“Fear not!” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind.
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all of humankind, to all of humankind.*

(3) *“To you, in David’s town, this day is born of David’s line
A Savior, Who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:*

(4) *“The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid, and in a manger laid.”*

CEREMONY OF THE ADVENT WREATH Our liturgist today is Pat Emel

ADVENT HYMN (UM # 211) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verse 6)

(Verse 6) *O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.*

(REFRAIN) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...shall come to thee, O Israel.

AN ADVENT LITANY

*One Sunday in Advent is different: it reminds us of a very special gift which we receive in Christ.
The joy in our hearts reflects that of a young woman named Mary who was to bear a child.
The angel Gabriel announced to her that that her child would deliver the people, offering salvation
In response, she sang: “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
Much later, God’s angel appeared to shepherds, saying: “Don’t be afraid. I bring you good news!”
This joyous news would be for all people: “a Savior comes, who is the Messiah, the Lord”.*

*Mary and the shepherds remind us that God wants everyone to personally experience His joy.
May rejoicing come to all who trust in Jesus, extending beyond Christmas...into Eternity.*

THE “CANDLE OF JOY” and PRAYER

OPENING HYMN (U.M. # 249) “There’s A Song In The Air”

(1) *There’s a song in the air! There’s a star in the sky! There’s a mother’s deep prayer
And a baby’s low cry! And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!*

(2) *There’s a tumult of joy o’er the wonderful birth, for the virgin’s sweet boy
Is the Lord of the earth. Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!*

(3) *In the light of that star lie the ages impearled; and that song from afar
Has swept over the world. Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!*

(4) *We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song that comes down through the night
From the heavenly throng. Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,
And we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!*

Please offer your own “GOD IS GOOD” greeting to those seated nearby!

Some "In-House Caroling" (selected verses)

CAROL **"O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful"**

- (1) O thou joyful, O thou wonderful Grace revealing Christmas tide!
Jesus came to win us from all sin within us; Glorify the Holy Child!
- (2) O thou joyful, O thou wonderful Love revealing Christmas tide!
Loud hosannas singing and all praises bringing: May Thy love with us abide!
- (3) O thou joyful, O thou wonderful Peace revealing Christmas tide!
Darkness disappeareth, God's own light now neareth: Peace and joy to all betide!

CAROL (U.M. # 251) **"Go, Tell It On The Mountain"**

- (REFRAIN) Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**
- (1) While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light. **(REFRAIN)**
- (2) The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. **(REFRAIN)**
- (3) Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **(REFRAIN)**

BODY BUILDING

We share brief joys, announcements and testimonies of God's grace

PRAYER CONCERNS

We lift friends, needs and concerns before God's gracious throne

PRAYER CAROL (U.M. # 219) **"What Child Is This"**

- (1) What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
- (REFRAIN) This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**
- (2) Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. **(REFRAIN)**

PRAYER

GOD'S HOLY WORD Luke 2:8-11 and Psalms 126:1-3

**Then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.**

TODAY'S MESSAGE Pastor Mike Langford

"Like People Who Dreamed"

CLOSING HYMN (# 210) “All Earth Is Waiting”

*(1) All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and the open furrows,
The sowing of the Lord. All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
It cries out for justice and searches for the truth.*

*(2) Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, “A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,”
For his name is “God with us,” our brother shall be,
With him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.*

*(3) Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
Open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
He is now coming closer, so come all and see, and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.*

*(4) In lowly stable the Promised One appeared,
Yet, feel his presence throughout the earth today,
For he lives in all Christians and is with us now; Again, with his coming he brings us liberty.*

A BENEDICTION

We thank you for presenting your tithes and offerings in the plates found at the exits.

This worship service is over. NOW BEGINS our Christian service in Jesus’ Name!

~~167~~

*We are **not** on a “167-hour vacation from faith” after this worship ends. We show the grace daily!*

MINISTRY CHALLENGE...Let’s do all that we can to show others the Messiah. Let it be evident in your kindness and touch. That Newborn King is too wonderful to miss!

LAST WEEK...Jesus declared his cousin John the Baptist “the absolute best”. He had many good things to say about him. But John was struggling and seemed to have second thoughts about who Jesus was. When John he’d been in prison for a while when he asked “Is Jesus THE ONE, or should we look for another?” We’ve been there. Life gets us down and our faith begins to fade. We start asking our questions about our Savior: what He is able to do IN us and FOR us. Jesus is fine with all of that! He proves himself to be the real deal by virtue of the fact that blind people see, the incurable are cured, the deaf hear, dead folks are raised and good news is preached to the poor. Jesus said that John wasn’t just some wimpy, “prima donna” preacher. He was sent to pave the way for Jesus. So, what do YOU “expect to see” at Christmas? Decorations and pretty lights? When so many people wonder if Jesus is the Messiah (or if another is out there), we know the truth. Christmas is found in the person of Christ. When discouraged, remember that God has never let us down! In Christ, God shows up to confirm our faith and make us strong. The Proof’s In The Pudding! (Matthew 11:01-10)