

First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2019
9:30 A.M.



WELCOME TO GRACE

Prelude

Word of Welcome

stand as you are able

Welcome to Worship

L Welcome to the celebration!

C We come to proclaim what angels proclaimed on the first Christmas. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to everyone.

L Welcome to Christmas and the celebration of new life in Jesus.

C We come to worship the Christ. This baby of God is the Messiah for the world and the Savior of us all.

Gathering Hymn

'Joy to the World' (*English melody*)

267

**(Written by Isaac Watts looking forward to the second coming of Christ.)*

please be seated

We Confess our Need for a Savior

A Gracious God,

C we confess we are people in need of a Savior. We have been to the manger but we serve other gods. We have seen the star but we look in other places for our salvation. We have said "yes" to the baby Jesus but we say "no" to the suffering servant calling us to commitment. Forgive our sin and give us a new beginning.

We Hear the Good News of Christmas

A The God of all the universe has turned creation toward Bethlehem, to see a lowly manger where Jesus began his life of servanthood and suffering. This humble baby comes as the Christ to save everyone from their sin and separation. Today our forgiveness is made possible in Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Greeting

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Opening Sentences

A Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth.

C Let the earth hear, and all that fills it.

A The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

C the desert shall rejoice and blossom.

A They shall see the glory of the Lord,

C the majesty of our God.

A Nations shall come to your light,

C and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

A This is the Lord who was born for us;

C let us be glad and rejoice in the salvation of God.

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray

O Lord our God, you break into our world with messages of comfort, peace, and joy. Shine your light for those who live in darkness.

Establish your peace throughout the earth. We rejoice in the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.

C Amen

Lessons and Carols from Around the World

The world celebrates Christ's birth.

In the Christmas season, we sing of Jesus' birth and hear the promises of God. Jesus is hope for all people. The carols in this service come from a variety of countries, cultures and traditions.

Glory to the Newborn King!

Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 *God promises a king*

Hymn **264**

'Prepare the Royal Highway' (Swedish) vs 1 & 4
*(A folk tune from the 17th Century. The author, Franzen was born in Finland but later became bishop in Sweden.)

Reading Luke 2:1-7 *The birth of Jesus*

Hymn **276**

'Infant Holy, Infant Lowly' (Polish)
*(A traditional Polish Christmas carol from the 13th Century. The song's rhythm resembles a mazurka, a Polish folk dance.)

Reading Luke 2:8-16 *The shepherds go to see the Savior*

Meditation

Hymn **289**

'Angels We Have Heard on High' (French) vs 1 & 3
("Gloria, in excelsis Deo"*, Latin for *Glory to God in the Highest* is the first line of the song of the angels in the Gospel of Luke.)

Reading Matthew 2:1-11 *The magi follow the star*

Hymn **301**

'Bright and Glorious Is the Sky' (Danish) vs 2 & 3

**(Grundtvig, the author, was a famous Danish preacher, educator, and hymn writer. In this hymn he compares the light of the star to the Bible – the light that leads us to Christ.)*

Reading Matthew 2:13-18 *The slaughter of the holy innocents*

Hymn

296

'What Child Is This' (English) vs 1 & 2

**("Greensleeves", the tune associated with this carol, is a traditional English tune that preceded the poem by a century or more. It began as a love song and may have been used as a popular drinking song.)*

stand as you are able

A Christmas Creed

C We believe in one God, who is Creator, Ruler of the universe, Maker of all we see and all we don't see: Source of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ, God from God, Light from light, true God and true human. He is one with the Creator; the Word made flesh, our Messiah: Savior of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit, Breath of God moving among us. Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ; our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of all creation! Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Petitions end:

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast

mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

Lord's Prayer

p.145

Peace

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The people greet one another saying: "Peace be with you".

please be seated

offering received and presented

Hymn at the Offering

'From Heaven Above' (Germany)

vs 1-3 & 12-14

268

**(Luther wrote the first 5 stanzas as the angel's proclamation of the wonderful news of Jesus' birth. The entire hymn was used for Luther's family Christmas Eve celebration.)*

stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

A Merciful God,

C in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

L Grace from God's own heart, peace from the † Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

C Amen

Sending Hymn

'The Bells of Christmas' (Danish)

vs 1, 3 & 4

298

**(Grundtvig, the author, was one of the most influential people in Danish history. His philosophy was steeped in national literature and supported by deep spirituality.)*

Dismissal

A Christ is born!
Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Prayer Huddle

** Notes on the hymns were found online under the hymn name, author and song's meaning.*



Worship Assistants: December 29

Greeters: Mason – Verla Koerner
East – Phyllis & Gary Schroeder

Assisting Ministers: Robbie Johnson and
Carey Mackesy

Ushers: Marty Grow, Laury Grow, Kathy Lanska,
Brian Klauer

Accompanist: Anita Golz

Attendance 12/22/19: 9:30 – 106

Grilled Cheese Lunch: 12/19/19: 86

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Dan Luett

920-594-2015 pastordanluett@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Carey Mackesy

Welcome to Grace

Whether you are a member or visiting for the first time, may God's grace surround you today. There is a guest book to sign in the gathering area. If you are looking for a church home, you are welcome here.

In Prayer this Week

For members on the Care List especially Dorothy Henke.

For Healing Tom Jensen; Mardie Paalman, Cookie Regal's sister; Winston Augustus Smith, Cheryl Muggenthaler's nephew; Mary Langdon, Cheryl Muggenthaler's sister-in-law; Rev. Jennie Johnson Wrege; Valerie Sieg; Marvin Wrege; Margaret Congdon; Mike VerKuilen; Lloyd Learman; Charlotte Endorf; Marian Breitenfeldt; Bev; Jim Marks; Darlene, Linda Grebe's mom; Judy Cross; Tom Muggenthaler; Gene Krull; Ole Olson; Gerry Kerwell; Joyce; Ken and Edna; Paula; Ben Holz.

For those with cancer especially Ellie; Mark Catlin; Kenny Verdegan; Louie Dumke; Sam Strong; Barb; Megan Scovronski.

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” Romans 12:12



If you have a Prayer Chain request, please contact Mary Hubers (422-1090) or Susan Pringnitz (733-7591). Call the church office with requests for prayer to be put in the bulletin and/or to ask for a prayer to be relayed to the Prayer Chain.

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Announcements

Thank you for **signing the card** each week on the table in the Narthex that are mailed out to the homebound members.

Check out the **Grace Web Site** www.gracelutheranappleton.org for updated information about our congregation. We also have a feature – Daily Devotions. Every day a new devotion is on our website. Check them out!

Snow shoveling is upon us once again. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex. Can you help? It really helps for everyone to know it is taken care of. Thank you in advance for all the help.

IMPORTANT: - Contributions for 2019 – Contributions you want recorded for 2019 must be received by December 29 TODAY!! Checks MUST have a December date to be counted for 2019.

Envelopes – are available now. If you attend Grace and are not a member you may still receive envelopes so your donations can be recorded and you will receive a statement at the end of the year. The other option is to put your donation in one of the pew envelopes with your name on it and it will also be recorded. If you make your donations through auto pay at your bank just put your **new envelope number where they ask for account number starting January 1, 2020**. Statements for 2019 will be out by the end of January 2020. Please see Cheryl Muggenthaler if you have questions or request envelopes for 2020.

Once again it is the **season of snow**. In case of extreme weather, Grace will announce any closures thru the radio on WHBY 1150 AM and thru the TV on station WBAY (ABC).

The **Semi Annual Congregational Meeting** will be January 5th after the 9:30 am worship service at approximately 10:30 am. At this meeting, the 2020 budget will be presented for approval.

2019 End of year Statements will be available before January 31, 2020. Please watch for your statement when the time comes. By law we have to mail out any that are over \$600.00 if not picked up.

If you give through your bank, remember to update your **envelope number**, in the account Section, to your **2020 envelope number**.

GRACE VISITORS The care team is looking for 2-3 people who are willing to meet and develop a friendly relationship with a less mobile member of our church family. As we age, we tend to stay home more, and that can get quiet and lonely...or just boring. The care team would match you with one individual who you would visit once a month and perhaps send a card or call them an additional time each month. That's all. Please contact Sharon Meier, 739-4291, for more information. You are needed!

Devotional Books for 1st quarter 2020 are on the table in the narthex. Please take one if interested.

FVLH would like to invite ALL people who enjoy singing to consider joining the choir at FVLH. We practice on Thursday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30. We sing at the monthly worship and communion service at FVLH held at 9:30 AM on the 1st Thursday of each month. We make a Joyful Noise! No auditions required!

Call Becky Luett if you have questions. Rehearsals to start back up after Christmas break on January 16.



GRACE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec 29 9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Potter's House Worship

Monday, Dec 307:30 pm AA Meeting

Tuesday, Dec 31

Wednesday, Jan 1 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Thursday, Jan 2

Friday, Jan 3 9:00 a.m. Bible Study

Saturday, Jan 49:00 a.m. Hmong Service

Sunday, Jan 5 9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Congregational Meeting
6:00 p.m. Potter's House Worship

