

# Christmas Eve 2024



## Prelude

## Carol

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!

## Opening

- P: Today is a special day of celebration.  
C: We come to give thanks to God!
- A: What do we give thanks for?  
C: We give thanks for the birth of Jesus.
- A: Who is Jesus?  
C: Jesus is God's son.  
Jesus is God's gift of love to us.  
Jesus is our teacher and our savior.
- A: Where was Jesus born?  
C: Far away. Across the ocean. In a town called Bethlehem.
- A: What will Jesus teach us?  
C: To listen to all God says and to love each other as much as God loves us.
- A: How will Jesus save us?  
C: Jesus is faithful to God from the manger to the cross to the empty tomb.
- A: How should we give thanks to God for this gift of our faithful Jesus?  
C: We should follow like the Magi.  
We should listen like the Shepherds.  
We should praise like the Angels!

## Carol

*Please all sing together . . .*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Thank you, God, for the wonderful gift of Jesus.

Thank you for the faithfulness of his parents, Mary and Joseph.

Thank you for the praise of the angels who sang Good News.

Thank you for the excitement of the shepherds who ran to see Jesus.

Thank you for the respectful and generous Magi who came from far away to honor Jesus.

Thank you for this special day of remembering and celebrating! Fill us with the Spirit so that the joyful experience of Christmas will come alive through all we do and say in this season and in the New Year. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Carol

*Please all sing together . . .*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God; Glory in the highest.  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!



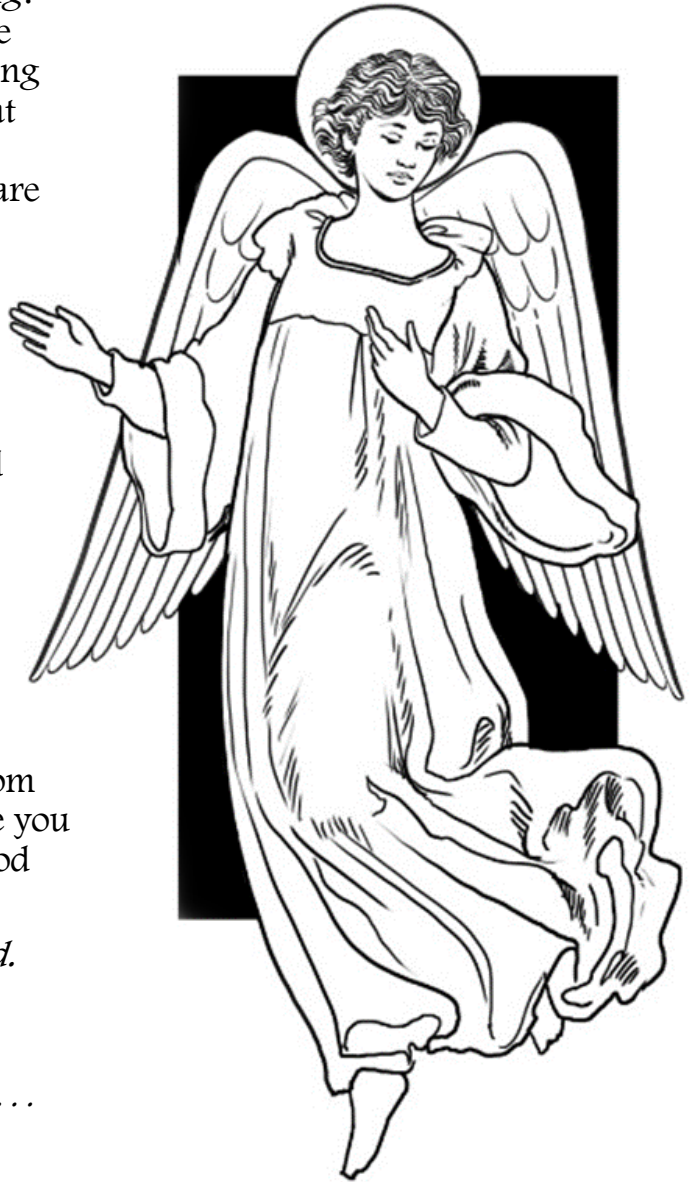
Which one of you thinks that they are smart? Which one of you thinks they understand everything? Well, then, if you are one of these people, you should always be doing good works with a gentleness that comes from your wisdom and understanding. However, if you are envious and selfish, you need to realize that this kind of wisdom and understanding does not come from God. It only leads to confusion and tragic results of every kind. On the other hand, the wisdom that comes from God is pure, then peaceable, gentle, not insisting on its own way, but full of mercy and good fruits, without favoritism or pretending. God blesses everyone who acts peacefully and works to bring peace . . . So, follow God and turn away from the Devil and the Devil will leave you alone. Humble yourself before God and God will lift you up.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Carol** *Please all sing together . . .*

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts



the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

## Gospel Lesson Part 1

Luke 2

As John the Baptist was being born to Elizabeth and Zechariah, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus, the ruler of the Roman Empire, that a census would be taken of the whole world. This census was taken while Quirinius was the Roman governor of the region of Syria. Everyone went back to their hometowns to be counted. Joseph had come from the town of Bethlehem. He was related to David, the mighty King of God's people from long ago. King David had been born in Bethlehem and worked there as a shepherd before he took his place as God's chosen King in the city of Jerusalem. Mary was engaged to Joseph, so she went with him to Bethlehem. She was pregnant and almost ready to give birth.

**Carol**     *Please all sing together . . .*

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.

## Gospel Lesson Part 2

Luke 2

While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, God decided it was time for Mary to give birth to Jesus. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room.

**Carol**     *Please all sing together . . .*

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.

**Gospel Lesson**    Part 3

**Luke 2**

**I**n the fields around Bethlehem there were Shepherds at work. It was night and they were taking care of the sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were very, very scared.

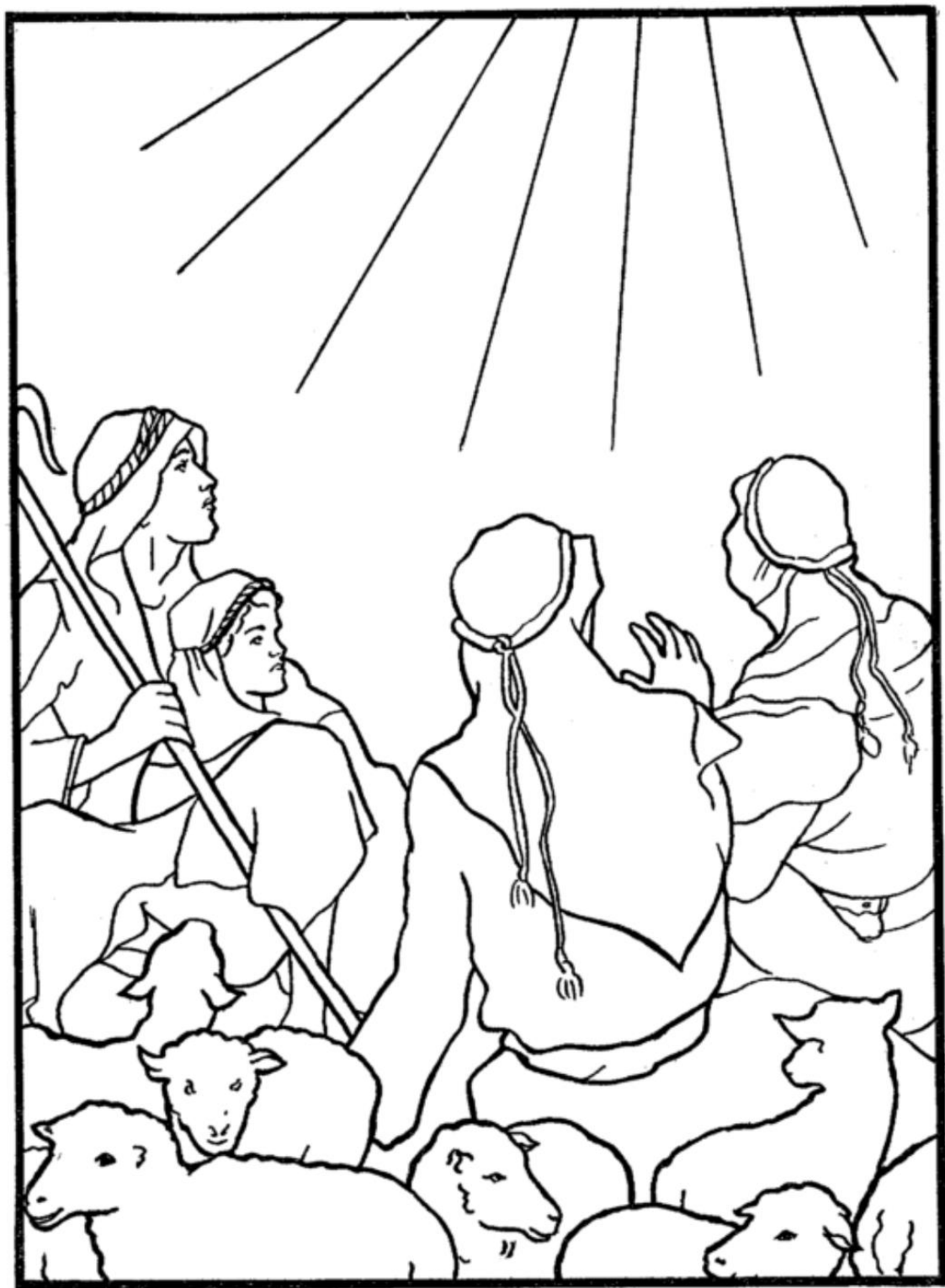
But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! Listen! I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people. To you is born today in the city of David a Savior who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among all people! For God delights in you!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem right now so we can see this word that has taken place - which the Lord has made known to us."

**Carol**     *Please all sing together . . .*

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.





## Gospel Lesson Part 4 Luke 2

So, the shepherds ran quickly into Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they told everyone what the angel had said about this child. Everyone who heard what the shepherds were saying were amazed. But Mary preserved their words in her heart by pondering what it all might mean.

The shepherds went back out to the fields. As they walked along, they sounded like the angels, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. For it had all happened just as it had been told them.

*Reader: The Gospel of the Lord!*

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Sermon

Carol of the Day *Please all sing together...*

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain:*

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.



Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be,  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? [*Refrain*]

## Prayers

*P: Let us pray for this night and our celebration of the birth of Jesus.*

**C:** Gracious God, thank you for coming to us as the baby in the manger. Jesus is a sign of your delight in us. He is your gift of grace and love. Let the joy we feel this day continue to grow in us as we listen to His word throughout the rest of the year and as we follow Him faithfully every day.

*A: Let us pray for the nations.*

**C:** Wonderful Counselor, bring your wisdom to the leaders of all the nations so that they will govern their people with true peace and justice. With your might arm, bring down the tyrants and overpower all evil. By the blessing of the Spirit, strengthen what is good, what is true and what is beautiful.

*P: Let us pray for the Church.*

**C:** Heavenly Father, your Son gathered the Church to gift us with a community of believers who can support, nurture and sustain one another in the faith. As you watched over and empowered the ministry of your Son, watch over and empower the faithful ministry of every Church and congregation. We pray that you always remember us here at Grace, keeping us a constant light in the dark places of peoples' lives.

*A: Let us pray for God to be a healing presence with those who need him most.*

**C:** Mighty God, there are many who are in need today. Inspire us to reach out and minister as we are able. Guide and strengthen those who are working to care for the sick, the lonely, the dying, the homeless, the aged, the abused and the hungry. In this holy season, bring them all your gifts of healing, comfort and hope.

*P: Let us pray for all families.*

**C:** Father, bless all parents and children with strong and healthy relationships. As families gather in celebration, let there be joy and happiness. Where there has been pain, let there be the hope of forgiveness, reconciliation and renewal.

*A: Let us pray for those who are traveling.*

**C:** As you watched over and guided the Holy family's travels, watch over and guide all those who travel this holiday. Give them good weather, infinite patience, safe journeys and happy homecomings.

*P: Let us pray for ourselves.....All this we ask in the name of the child laid this night in the manger, our Savior, Jesus the Christ.*

**C:** Amen

## Passing of the Peace

Offering



## Offering Carol

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?

*Chorus:*

This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and  
angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!



So, bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. [*Chorus*]

## Offertory Prayer

*A: Let us pray:*

**C:** Gracious God, joining those people long ago who brought their gifts to your infant Son, we now bring our gifts of praise, adoration and thanks. Receive them as a response to the abundant blessings you provide us every day. We pray that You are pleased with our offerings and that you will use them to accomplish Your holy will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Great

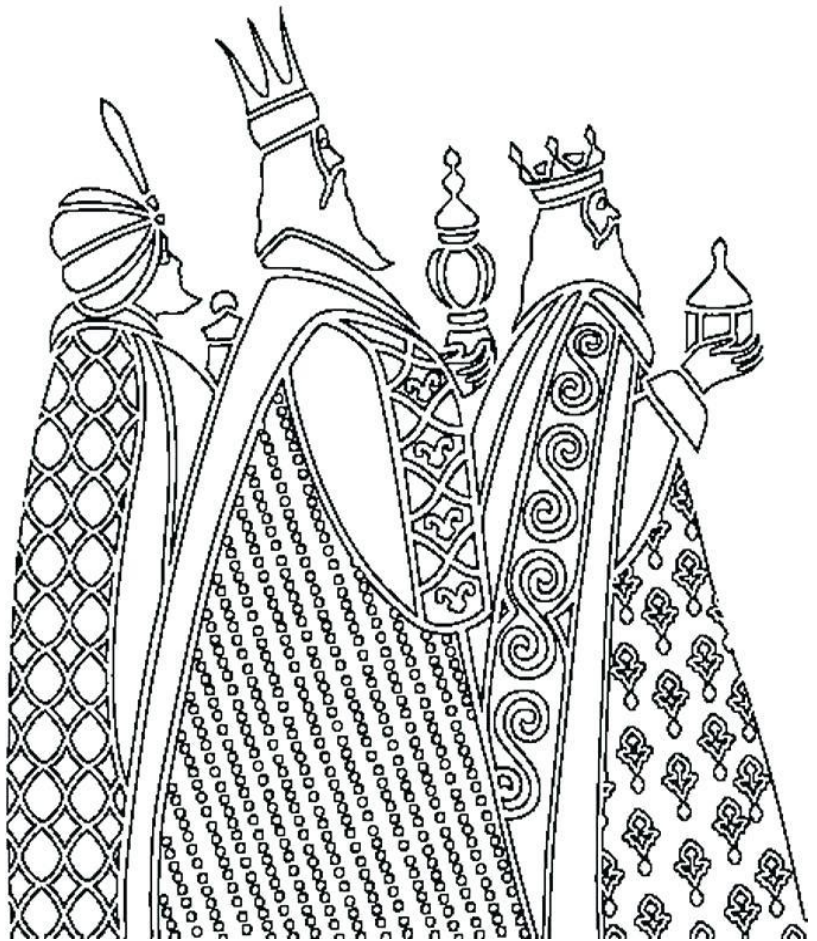
## Thanksgiving

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C:** And also with you.

*P: Lift up your hearts.*

**C:** We lift them to the Lord.



*P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*P: It is indeed right and responsible that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you almighty and merciful God, through our Savior, Jesus, the Christ; who was born in a manger in a Shepherd's town, but took his throne in the holy city of God's Kings to overcome death and the grave on the cross. Because Jesus is born with our birth, we take hope in our re-birth through His resurrection. And so, in great joy this day, we now join our voices with those of the angels who sang over fields on that blessed night:*

*Verse*

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

*Refrain*

Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Gloria in excelsis Deo

## *Eucharistic Prayer*

### *Lord's Prayer*

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, forever and ever. Amen.

## *Communion this Evening*

Everyone seeking to answer our Lord's invitation to come and gather at His table to receive His blessing of grace in the fellowship of sharing his presence in the bread and wine/grape juice is welcome here. Communion will be administered by pouring chalice – grab a glass at the head of the aisle as you approach the rail. Gluten free hosts are available, simply ask Pastor as he approaches.

# Distribution Carols

## Away in a Manger

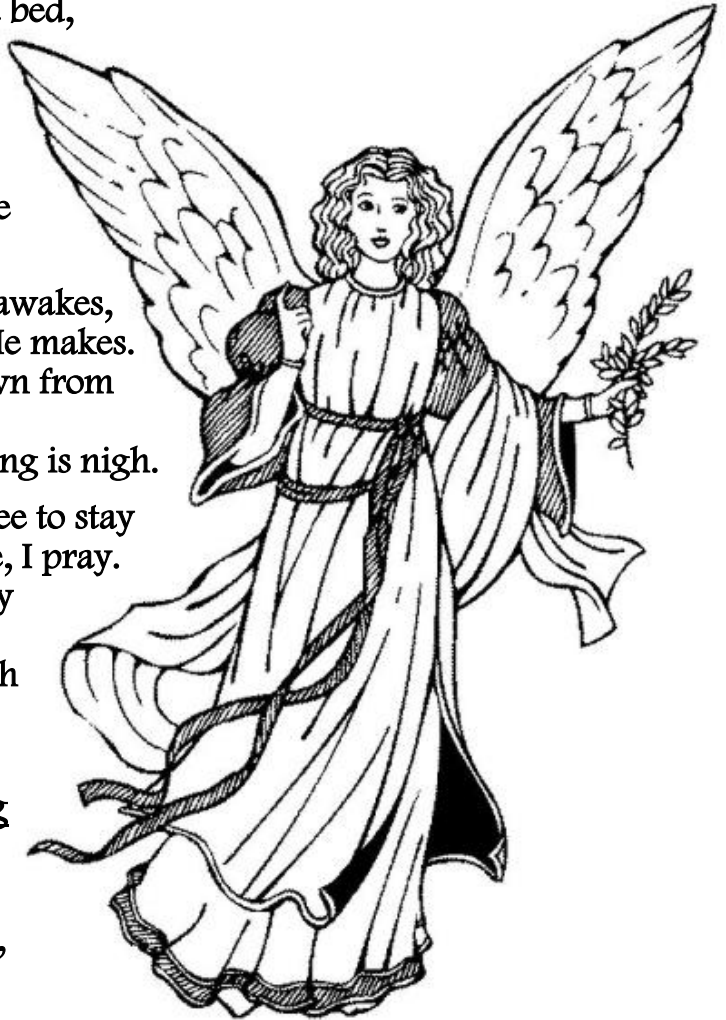
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down  
His sweet head;  
the stars in the sky looked  
down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the  
hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from  
the sky  
and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy  
tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with  
Thee there.

## Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"



Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth.

Post-Communion Prayer

Lighting of the Candles & Carol

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!  
Shepherd's quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heav'n afar,

Heav'nly 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.

Benediction

Dismissal

*P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**



**There is Still Time** - Tax-deductible donations for 2024 can still be made tonight, next Sunday or any day this week. Everyone who makes a donation to Grace will receive a statement. Cash (use your offering envelope or one from the pew rack), Checks, Credit Card (at [GraceYorktown.org](http://GraceYorktown.org)), or this QR code make giving quick and simple. If you have not completed a 2025 Commitment (Pledge) Card, you are encouraged to do so this evening; cards are available on a table in the front hall.



Support a  
Sunday School/  
Student for a  
Season  
\$100



Support a  
Tuesday Bible  
Study Session  
for one Week  
\$75



Support  
Providing  
Communion on  
a Sunday  
\$50



10:00 a.m.  
*Christmas Day!*

Dec 29th  
LESSONS & CAROLS  
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
8:30  
11:00

2025 Jan 5th  
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
New Year's Worship  
*A Biblical look to the Past, Present and Future*

JOIN THE FUN!  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
Every Sunday @ 9:45  
To Sing To Learn More To Pray Together