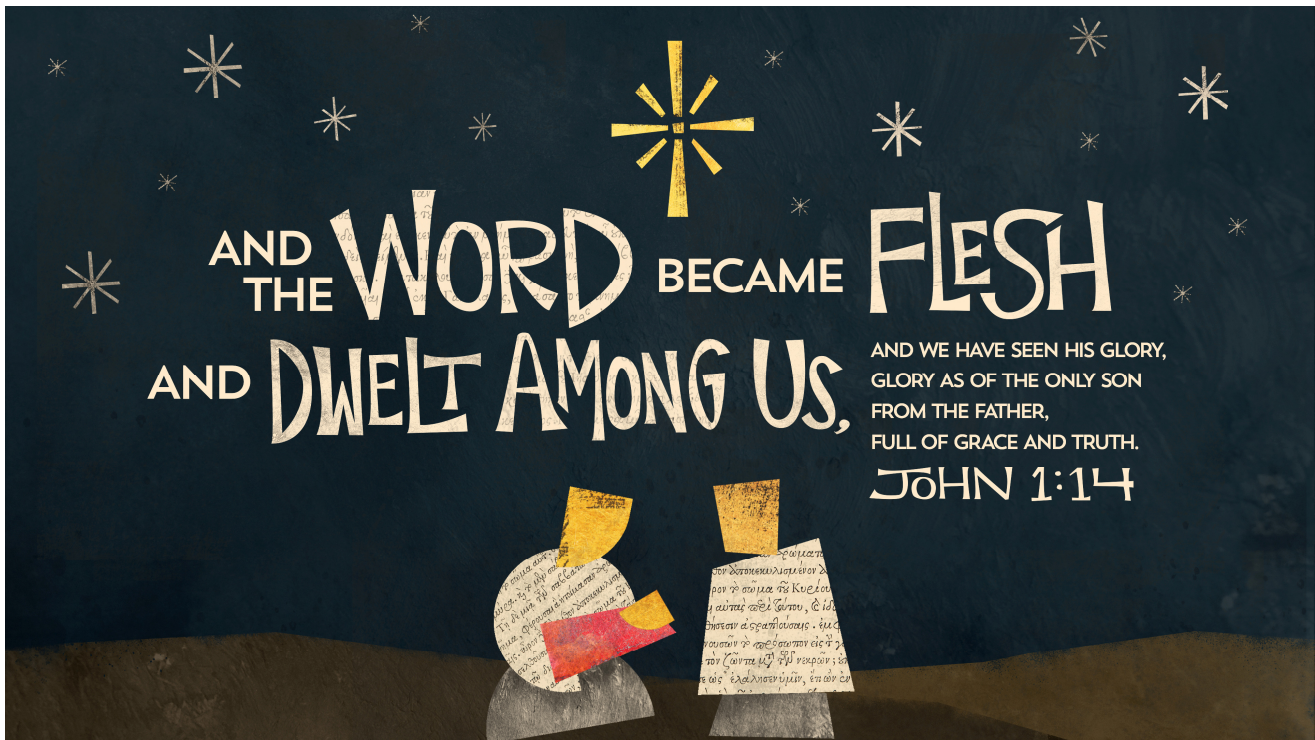


Christmas Day



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tucson, Arizona

December 25, 2017

PRESERVICE MUSIC

The First Nowell and O Come, All Ye Faithful
Played by the Handbell Choir
Noel, Noel! Good Tidings of Great Joy!
Organ Prelude

Christmas Day Worship

OPENING HYMN

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful
Christian Worship #55

Please stand for the final stanza of this hymn.

INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
(Psalm 95:1)

C: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens. (Psalm 8:1)

M: Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights - the sun to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.
(Psalm 136:3-9)

C: Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. (Psalm 147:5)

M: But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away. (Isaiah 59:2, 9, 11)

C: For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins. (Isaiah 59:12)

M: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. (Psalm 103:8-10)

C: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised. (Psalm 113:3)

M: "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness." (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

C: Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. (Matthew 3:3)

M: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

C: Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia! (Psalm 113:2)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

WORSHIP CHOIR

Christmas Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Heavenly angels sing.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Come praise the newborn King.

Go tell it to the world that the Lord has come down from glory today!

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Let all creation sing.

*His name is Wonderful, is Counsellor, is Mighty God,
Is Everlasting Father, and is called the Prince of Peace.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Heavenly angels sing.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Come praise the newborn King.

Go tell it to the world that the Lord has come down from glory today!

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Let all creation sing.

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10 (NIV 2011)

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own

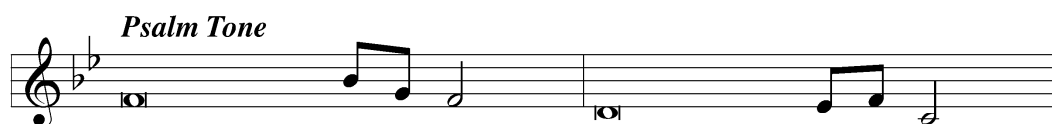
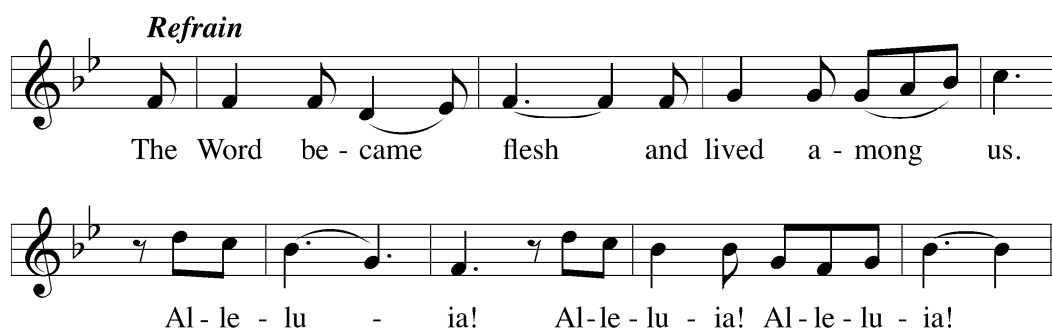
eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

M: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 98

The Vocal Ensemble will sing the verses. The congregation is invited to join on the refrains.



Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Refrain

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;

make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing.

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9 (NIV 2011)

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for

sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship

him.” In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire.” But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of

your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

M: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

WORSHIP CHOIR

Sing Joy to the World

*Long ago in Bethlehem Jesus Christ was born.
Child of Mary, Son of God came on a blessed morn.*

*Long ago in Bethlehem angels came to sing,
Honoring the newborn babe. Hear their voices ring.*

*REFRAIN: Sing joy to the world, let earth receive her King.
Sing joy to the world, all heaven and nature sing.
Sing joy, sing joy to the world!*

*Tiny King in Bethlehem of a humble birth.
Praise his name forevermore all throughout the earth. REFRAIN*

*Joy to the world; the Lord is 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.
Sing, O, sing, sing joy, sing joy, sing joy!*

Please stand

GOSPEL

John 1:1-14 (NIV 2011)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to

everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

SERMON

“This Is God’s Son”

Hebrews 1:1-9

CONFESSION OF FAITH *(Excerpts from the Athanasian Creed)*

M: It is necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh. Now this is the true Christian faith:

C: **We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God’s Son, is both God and man.**

M: He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother,

C: **fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh, equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;**

M: and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons, but one,

C: **one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;**

M: one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;

C: **for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.**

M: He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

C: **He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.**

M: This is the true Christian faith.

C: **Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.**

OFFERING

Members of Grace respond to their Savior’s love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation’s work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God’s kingdom.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the row and pass it along. Thank You!



If you prefer, use your smart phone to give online by scanning this QR code.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Joy to the World
Violin and Piano

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: **Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: **Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Christian Worship #61

Please stand

PRAYER

M: Lord God, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we praise you for the special love you have shown us, your fallen and sinful creatures. You have kept your word and sent your Son to be born as the promised Savior and Redeemer. As through your Holy Spirit you have opened our eyes to see this child as the mighty God and Redeemer of the world, so also strengthen us to continue to live in his love and to share his good news with others. In Jesus' name,

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
C: Amen.

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Joy To the World
Christian Worship #62

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World
Piano Duet

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher Pastor Nathan Kassulke
Worship Leaders.....Pastor Ron Koehler, Pastor Tim Patoka
Accompanist & Worship Choir Director Teri Guenther
Handbell Director Beth Kassulke
Vocal Ensemble Maya Parra, Nicole Peterson, Dylan Guenther, Taylor Parra
Violin Maya Parra
Trumpet.....Pastor Nathan Kassulke, Pastor Ron Koehler
Piano..... Teri Guenther, Beth Kassulke, Kathy Parra
UshersDanny Koehler, Dylan Guenther, James Pauley, Taylor Parra
Sound & Recording Tech.....Jeremy Snavelly

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**Please join us here at Grace-Tucson for a New Year’s Eve Worship Service
on Sunday, December 31 at 7:00 PM.**

REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE			
At Grace-Benson 451 W. Duane St		At Grace-Tucson 830 N. First Avenue	
7:30 AM	Worship Service	7:45 AM	Worship Service
		10:00 AM	Worship Service
At Grace-Sahuarita 17675 S. La Cañada Dr		At Grace-Vail	
7:45 AM	Worship Service	Worshiping at Esmond Station School	
10:00 AM	Worship Service	9400 S. Atterbury Wash Way	
		10:00 AM	Worship Service