



*Worship for Sunday
December 30, 2018
10:30 a.m.*

*Our Mission:
Growing in Spirit
Living as Disciples
Serving God's World*

Preparation for Worship

It Is Not Over - by Ann Weems (from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*)

It is not over,
 this birthing.
There are always newer skies
 into which
 God can throw stars.
When we begin to think
 that we can predict the Advent of God,
 that we can box the Christ
 in a stable in Bethlehem,
 that's just the time
 that God will be born
 in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.
Those who wait for God
 watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
 listening,
 always listening,
 for angel words.



We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

Molly Hill, Pianist

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the friendship register.

† Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

† Call to Worship

One: We are brought together by the call of God,

Many: The One who has loved us from the beginning.

One: We are bound together by the presence of the Spirit,

Many: The One who has challenged us to love more deeply.

One: We worship together in the name of Christ,

Many: The One who was Love made flesh.

† *Please stand if you are able.*

Prayer of Confession

On this the sixth day of Christmas,
as another year draws to a close,
we come together before God and with one another,
confessing
the ways in which we have been caught up
in the frenzied spirit of the holidays
and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace;
the times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires,
that we have neglected the voices of your children
who cry out for Justice;
in our focus on making the season perfect,
we have turned away from the hurting people
and broken places in our world in need of Healing;
in the times we have dismissed Christmas as a time only for children,
and we have stubbornly closed our hearts to your amazing gift of Love.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word Become Flesh,
our Savior and King, hear us as we humbly pray.

Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting unto everlasting. As far as the East is from the West, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

We Proclaim God's Word

The Welcome of New Members Angela and Derek DeBoer

The Baptism of Rosalind Eileen DeBoer and Thomas Paul DeBoer

(The Apostles' Creed is on page 17 in the front of the hymnal.)

Response #486 (Vs. 1 & 4) *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

Children's Message

Rachael Amatuzzi

Play 'n' Worship and Bridges will follow the Children's Message.

Anthem

Here We Come A-Wassailing
Jennifer Neel and Barbara Neel, Soloists

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:20; Matthew 2:12-13

Hymn #127

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Sermon

Departing Bethlehem

Rev. Dr. Ben Trawick

Offering

Offertory

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Jim Lawson, Soloist

Response #609

Prayer of Dedication

Bob Patrick

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Depart To Serve God

† Parting Hymn #111

From Heaven Above

† Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Molly Hill, Pianist



The Flowers in the Sanctuary are

Dedicated to the Glory of God

Your greeters today were Bob and Virginia Bouchard.

GRATEFUL GIVING AND LIVING

Notice of Installation. Boone Clayton, a son of Grace Presbyterian Church, and Warren and Maria Clayton, will be installed as the Associate pastor of Denbigh United Presbyterian Church, 302 Denbigh Blvd., Newport News, VA 23608, during that congregation's 10:30 service on January 13, with Jay Click preaching. Please support Boone and his family with your prayers and well-wishes. If Grace members desire to travel, feel free to reach out to Warren Clayton for details.

Pastor Katie's Ordination - Sunday, January 6, 4:00 p.m. Please see the E-News for your invitation to celebrate this special occasion with Pastor Katie.

2018 Contributions. Checks received by January 6, and dated December 31, 2018, or earlier will, be considered contributions to the church for the year 2018.

*If you dedicated a poinsettia to a loved one,
please take it home with you today.*



***WE ARE VERY GLAD YOU CHOSE TO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!
PLEASE SIGN OUR FRIENDSHIP REGISTER SO THAT WE CAN
GREET YOU BY NAME AND CALL ON YOU IF YOU WISH.***

ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOMED IN WORSHIP - ...Even if they fidget! Worship Bags are available for young children with a children's bulletin, books, and crayons, and a Nursery is available downstairs in Room 5 for infants through 3-year-olds.

After the Children's Message, children have their own worship experience downstairs. Play 'n' Worship is for preschoolers, and Bridges to Worship is for K-3rd graders. Please pick up children before going to Fellowship. K-3rd graders will be in the Bridges Room (Room 14), and all other children will be in the Nursery (Room 5).

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Classes are offered at 9:15 a.m. from the 2nd Sunday in September through the 3rd Sunday in May. Children's Discipleship provides classes for 4-year-olds through 12th graders, and Adult Discipleship reaches all adults after high school.

GRACE INSIGHTS - Learn more about Grace Church, our mission, and our denomination, PC(USA), in classes that form throughout the year. If you are considering membership and would like to attend a class or if you have interest in learning more about us, please speak to one of our pastors or Elder Valerie Wenderoth. You will find Grace a very welcoming place. New class forming in January 2019.

PLEASE ASK ANYONE FOR HELP OR DIRECTIONS!

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**OFFICE HOURS:
MON-FRI 9:00-4:30
WE ARE CLOSED ON FEDERAL HOLIDAYS**

**FOR ONLINE MEMBER DIRECTORY:
SEARCH FOR "INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY" APP
ENTER YOUR E-MAIL AND PASSWORD: 7434Bath**