



### **Preparation for Worship**

The Christmas story isn't one of loneliness and quiet isolation in the darkness. This is a story of welcome and hospitality, of lamplight and family, of birth in all its incredible sacred humanness, entrenched in a culture and in a time and within a family.... The incarnation is the miracle: It's not Jesus' otherness but his us-ness, his human-ness, his full experience as fully human and fully God together that is the miracle.

— Sarah Bessey

Prelude

*Intermezzo on Carol of the Bells*  
*Silent Night, Holy Night*  
Rob Passow, Organist

John Dixon  
Patricia Lou Harris

Welcome and Announcements

*Please sign the friendship register*

## We Gather in God's Name

### † Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Carol #134

*Joy to the World*

### Call to Worship

One: Let us worship the newborn Christ,

Many: ...The God who came to live as one of us.

One: Let us prepare room in our lives for the babe in a manger,

Many: ...Welcomed by peasants and shepherds into the world.

One: Let us hear the story of Jesus with joy in our hearts.

Many: ...And let us keep telling the good news.

### † Hymn #119

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

### † Prayer of Confession

God of grace and mercy, we confess that we have fallen short of a true embrace of the birth of Jesus. We have been distracted by many tasks. We have sanitized the story of Jesus' birth, missing the radical humility, hospitality, and love within the story. We haven't fully internalized your love for us, and we haven't fully understood and embraced your call to love one another. Lord, we want to know your love more truly, that we might be filled with hope and joy. Help us to open our hearts, to see you, and to see the people you call us to love and serve. Amen

### † Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Hear this good news of great joy: *The Prince of Peace has come to proclaim peace on earth and good will to all.* In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and set free.

All: Thanks be to God!

### † Response #113

Angels We Have Heard on High (verse 1)

## We Proclaim God's Word

Children's Message: The Lighting of Advent and Christmas Candles

Response: *He came down that we may have hope (repeat 2x): Hallelujah, forevermore.*  
*He came down that we may have peace (repeat 2x): Hallelujah, forevermore.*  
*He came down that we may have joy (repeat 2x): Hallelujah, forevermore.*  
*He came down that we may have love (repeat 2x): Hallelujah, forevermore.*

Lesson Luke 2:1-7

Meditation *Maybe Jesus Wasn't Born in a Barn*

Carol #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Lesson Luke 2:8-20

Meditation *The Hospitality of the Peasants*

Carol #147 *The First Nowell* (verses 1, 2, and 6)

Lesson Luke 1:46-55

Meditation *The Reversal*

Carol #132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Rob Passow, Organist

† Response *Praise God* (Tune: *Greensleeves*/arr. Passow)

† Prayer of Dedication Pat Ferrell

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

### **We Depart To Serve God**

† Parting Hymn #136 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

† Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Angels We Have Heard on High* Anna Laura Page  
Rob Passow, Organist

*We bid farewell to Rob Passow, today, who has contributed so much to the music of Grace in his short time with us. We wish you well in all you do, Rob.*

The flowers were placed by the Sanctuary Guild and members of Grace.  
If you have dedicated a poinsettia, please take it home with you after Worship.

Your greeters today were Bob and Virginia Bouchard.



*IF YOU ARE VISITING TODAY* - We are very glad you chose to worship with us! Please sign our friendship register so that we can greet you by name and call on you if you desire. If you need help, please call on an usher for assistance.

***ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOMED IN WORSHIP*** - Please ask an usher for a Worship Bag. For infants through 3-year-olds, our Nursery is downstairs in Room 5.

***CHILDREN'S WORSHIP*** - Children through 3rd grade have their own worship time following the Children's Message in the sanctuary. Please pick children up following worship—K-3rd graders will be in Room 14, and younger children in Room 5.

***SUNDAY SCHOOL/YOUTH*** - Classes for 5-year-olds through adults are offered at 9:15 a.m., from 2nd Sunday in September to the 3rd Sunday in May. Please check the Youth bulletin boards in the main level hallway to see the Youth schedule.

***PLEASE ASK ANYONE FOR HELP OR DIRECTIONS!***

## **GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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### **PASTORS**

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### **OFFICE HOURS**

**MON-FRI 9:00-4:30**  
**CLOSED ON FEDERAL HOLIDAYS**

### **MEMBER DIRECTORY**

**SEARCH FOR THE "INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY" APP**  
**ENTER YOUR E-MAIL AND THE PASSWORD: 7434Bath**  
**(Your e-mail must be in the directory in order to use it.)**

