

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

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Sean & Beka, Huck, Evelyn, Grace, Lily and Claire Gordon

## THE ANNOUNCEMENT

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### Galatians 4: 4-5

*"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,  
born of woman, born under the law,  
to redeem those who were under the law,  
so that we might receive adoption as sons."*

### \*As With Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before Him Whom heav'n and earth adore,  
So, may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In that heav'nly country bright, need they no created light;  
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, Thou its Sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing, alleluias to our King.

TEXT: William C. Dix MUSIC: Conrad Kocher

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

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### Psalm 145: 14-17

*LEADER: The LORD upholds all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.  
The eyes of all look to You,  
and You give them their food in due season.*

**ALL: You open your hand;  
You satisfy the desire of every living thing.  
The LORD is righteous in all His ways  
and kind in all His works.**

### \*O Come, All Ye Faithful

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!

(chorus)

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

(repeat chorus)

Highest, most Holy, Light of light eternal,  
Prophets foretell Messiah's lowly birth.  
Faithful, embrace Him! Love and awe unending!

(repeat chorus)

TEXT: Latin Hymn; ascribed to John Francis Wade; translated by Frederick Oakely MUSIC: John Francis Wade

## SCRIPTURE READING

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### Isaiah 60: 1-9

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.*

*And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.*

*Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.*

*All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you;  
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;  
they shall come up with acceptance on my altar,  
and I will beautify my beautiful house.  
Who are these that fly like a cloud,  
and like doves to their windows?*

*For the coastlands shall hope for me,  
the ships of Tarshish first,  
to bring your children from afar,  
their silver and gold with them,  
for the name of the LORD your God,  
and for the Holy One of Israel,  
because he has made you beautiful.*

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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**ALL: Almighty God,  
who pours out blessings and instructs sinners in the way of life,  
forgive our sins and show compassion to us.**

**We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.  
We have taken too lightly your instructions and warnings,  
and turned toward ourselves for guidance.**

**Forgive us for thinking of ourselves first, and Your kingdom second.  
Show us Christ Jesus,  
who bent to serve us,  
who cleansed us from our sins,  
and now lives to intercede for us.**

- adapted from the prayers of John Knox

## PRIVATE CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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### **Romans 8: 31-35**

*LEADER: If God is for us, who can be against us?  
He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all,  
how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

*Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*

*Who is to condemn?*

*Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—  
who is at the right hand of God,  
who indeed is interceding for us.*

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*

## **\*There is Hope**

There is hope in grace unceasing, You withhold your wrath from me  
Poured it out upon my Savior, on the cross of Calvary

There is hope now for the hopeless, there is victory all can know  
For the tomb lies bare and broken, and death's pow'r is overthrown

(chorus)

Jesus Christ my hope forever, hope unlike the world can bring  
Your steadfast love beyond all measure, there is hope in Christ my king

There is hope for sons and daughters, who have wandered on their own  
Hear the songs of joy from heaven, as the lost are welcomed home

(repeat chorus)

I will wait until I see him, though the twilight turns to night  
For my hope is not defeated, it will greet His dawning light

(repeat chorus)

There is hope in Christ my king

Words and Music by Niki Shepherd & Paris Shepherd ©2022 CityAlight Music

## **\*This is My Father's World**

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears  
All nature sings and 'round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas - His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world—the birds their carols raise.  
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king—let the heavens ring. God reigns—let earth be glad.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world; the battle is not done.  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and Heav'n be one.

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901; Music: Terra Beata, traditional English melody, arranged by Franklin L. Sheppard in his Alleluia, 1915

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

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# The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead and buried;  
He descended into Hell;  
the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into Heaven,  
and is seated on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

(Note: Although not written by the apostles, this creed is a summary of their teachings. Though its origin is traced to the second century, it developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century. For the sake of clarity, please note that we believe that Jesus suffered the agony and punishment of Hell on the cross, most especially when He knew that He had been forsaken by His Father, and that He died a real death from which He was resurrected. We believe also that "holy catholic church" refers to the church universal.)

## PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

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*Although giving is a significant part of worship, we do not collect the offering during our service. Two boxes are placed by the doors to receive your offering. Tithes and offerings for the General Fund are placed in the box without the "steeple." Offerings for the Building Fund are to be placed in the box with the "steeple." Please make checks payable to Grace PCA, with "General" or "Building" included in the check memo.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SERMON: MATTHEW 2:1-12

Tyler Clements

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ALL: The grass withers and the flower falls,  
but the word of the Lord remains forever.

## LORD'S SUPPER

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# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

(chorus)

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

(repeat chorus)

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.

(repeat chorus)

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease, fill all the world with heaven's peace.

(repeat chorus 2x)

# How Can I Keep from Singing

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation  
I hear the sweet though far-off hymn that hails a new creation:  
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;  
It finds an echo in my soul--how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth;  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night He giveth:  
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that refuge clinging;  
Since Christ is Lord of Heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

I lift mine eyes; the tempest roars all help from God expecting  
Whose banner over us is love; until our souls' perfecting  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing:  
All things are mine since I am His--how can I keep from singing?

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation  
I hear the sweet though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Words by Robert Lowry, 3<sup>rd</sup> verse adapted from Robert Lowry

# It Was Finished Upon That Cross

How I love the voice of Jesus, on the Cross of Calvary  
He declares his work is finished, He has spoken this hope to me  
Though the sun had ceased its shining—Though the war appeared as lost  
Christ had triumphed over evil, it was finished upon that Cross

Now the curse it has been broken, Jesus paid the price for me  
Full, the pardon he has offered, great, the welcome that I receive  
Boldly I approach my Father—Clothed in Jesus' righteousness  
There is no more guilt to carry, it was finished upon that Cross

Death was once my great opponent, fear once had a hold on me  
But the Son who died to save us, rose that we would be free indeed!  
Death was once my great opponent, fear once had a hold on me  
But the Son who died to save us, rose that we would be free indeed!  
Yes He rose that we would be free indeed!

Free from every plan of darkness—Free to live and free to love  
Death is dead and Christ is risen! It was finished upon that Cross  
Onward to eternal glory—To my Savior and my God  
I rejoice in Jesus' victory, it was finished upon that Cross  
It was finished upon that Cross, it was finished upon that Cross

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Nigel Hendroff © 2021 CityAlight Music (admin. Integrity Music).ARR.ICS.UBP.CCLI#245668

## BENEDICTION

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## DOXOLOGY

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Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

## AFTER SERVICE PRAYER

Kevin Hinegardner & Don Griffin

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*It is our sincere desire to pray effectively for the particular needs of those worshipping with us this morning. If you have a prayer concern that you want shared with the congregation during the prayers of the people, please email [prayer@gpca.church](mailto:prayer@gpca.church) or contact one of the pastors prior to the service with your request. If you desire prayer on a personal matter, we invite you to meet with the elders in the front pews after the Benediction.*

## \*CONGREGATION WILL STAND

Use this QR code to let us know you're here today.



Elders are available to pray and assist you at [elders@gpca.church](mailto:elders@gpca.church).