



Baptism of the Lord Sunday January 12, 2025 at 10:30am

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude "Schmucke dich" ("Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness")
BWV 654 - J.S. Bach

Welcome

The Lord be with you!
And also with you.

* **Call to Worship** *Author unknown*

One: The voice of God spoke to the prophets.
All: The prophets were listening.
One: The voice of God spoke over the waters.
All: The people gathered at the baptismal waters were listening.
One: The voice of God speaks today and draws us in.
All: Lord, we are listening!

* **Opening Hymn** Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether Pg. 632

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination *Adapted from The Book of Common Prayer*

Living God, when the Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism in Jordan's water you revealed him as your own beloved Son. You anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Allow that all who have been baptized into his name and all who stand at the edge of the waters of baptism wondering at the feel of grace's touch may more deeply understand through your word and this worship today the baptismal covenant made with you - and boldly confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior now and forever. Amen.

First Lesson Psalm 29 (NRSVUE)

* **Gospel Lesson** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (NRSVUE)

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

All children are welcome to follow the Children's Chapel leaders to Children's Chapel for the remainder of the service, if they choose.

Sermon "I Hear Voices" Rev. Anna Layman Knox

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from a Traditional Native American Prayer*

O Great Spirit, whose voice we hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear us. We come before you as your children. We are small and weak; we need your strength and wisdom. Let us walk in beauty and make our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. May our hands respect the things you have made, our ears be sharp to hear your voice. Make us wise, so that we may know the things you have taught your people, the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. We seek strength not to be superior to our siblings, but to live in harmony with ourselves and all of your creation. Help us to be ever ready to come to you, so when life fades as a fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen.

We pause in a time of silence for reflection and self-examination.

Assurance of Pardon
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.

* **Sharing The Peace**
Let us offer one another covid-conscious signs of reconciliation, love, and peace. Peace be with you.

* **Hymn** You Satisfy the Hungry Heart Pg. 629

Prayers of the People
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sharing our Tithes & Offerings
At Grace, we practice giving our tithes and offerings by sharing through plates distributed by ushers and also through giving online. We pray that you experience God's joy during this tangible act of giving today.

Offertory "Deck Thyself" Brahms

* **Doxology** No. 94

* **Offertory Prayer**
In November of 2024, our church wrote personal prayers, as an offering from Grace. These prayers are shared weekly during our worship time of giving.

Dedication of New Communion Pottery *adapted from Dedication of Glass Cruet Set from canonbfive.wordpress.com*

Living God, whose Son Jesus Christ gave us this sacrament, grant that all who continue to remember him, to be welcomed by him, and to share the bread and cup in his name through these vessels, may be sustained by his presence - and enjoy for ever the grace and hope of our Creator's blessing; Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Anthem "The Whisper" text by Susan Bentall Boersman
music by Craig Courtney

In the desert, in the wilderness of life, I am searching for the One who searches me. As I wander, hungry, thirsty, lost, alone, I hear God's call; I hear the whisper of my name. "Come to the table. Your name is written on My hand. Come to the table. Your name is hidden in My heart. Come to the table and live." At the table, He prepares for me a place. He redeems me, I am pardoned by His grace. He restores me with His rich and lavish love. In His call, I hear the whisper of my name. "Come to the table. Your name is written on My hand. Come to the table. Your name is hidden in My heart. Come to the table, come to the table. Come to the table and live." In His call, I hear the whisper of my name.

Holy Communion
The Great Thanksgiving for the Baptism of the Lord Pg. 17 with Musical Setting A

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* **Hymn of Sending** Deck Thyself My Soul With Gladness Pg. 612

* Benediction

Postlude "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"
(Jamaican Communion Hymn)
arr. John Behnke (Three Global Songs with Percussion)

We invite you to be seated during this postlude time of meditation, as we prepare our minds, bodies, and spirits to reenter a world that needs Grace.

We hope you'll join us in The Guild Room, following worship, for Coffee & Connection!

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Sound Board & Video - Dominic Knox
Worship Leader - Mel Eyer
Director of Music - Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman
Sunday Facility Steward - Rick Albright
Welcome Team - Bonnie Rhoads & Jessica Schneck
Children's Chapel - Marjie Creamer & Hilary Holmes
Pastor - Rev. Anna Layman Knox

PRAYER CHAIN

We lift up Rich Thompson's family and friends, as he passed away amidst the holidays in 2024. We lift up all who miss and loved him in this sacred season. - 12/23

We celebrate with joy the safe birth of Devon Lyn Kingsley, daughter of Merari and Jessica Kingsley, of Allentown. Grandparents Heather and Randy Ruoss share this joy, along with big sister Rebekah and big brother, Amos. - 12/10

We pray for Jennifer, young, away from home, and on hospice because of a protracted medical condition. May she know Christ's peace, release from acute pain, and God's presence. - 1/7

We lift up Leall Williams in prayer, as he goes through treatment for melanoma. We pray for strength, rest, and healing for his body and relief for his mind and heart, as he and his family make this journey together. We also pray for his wife, Alice, and for his children, as they support and care for each other and for Alice's father, who has a brain tumor. - 12/3

Please keep the following in your prayers:
Bryleigh Hoover, Michael Kains & Karl Heithacker - for cancer treatment
Carol Moore, Larry Coleman & Carly Wolf

If you are aware of anyone homebound, please let the office know so we can see that they are cared for. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 6:30PM IN BEGGS CHAPEL - LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING - All Leadership Council meetings are open to the congregation. Our January meeting will be in person in Beggs Chapel on Tuesday, January 14th. Please note that meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month, but this month, the meeting is a week early. Please also note that due to technological issues, zooming into the meeting will not be available this

month. We hope if you're interested, you will join in person!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 AFTER 10:30 WORSHIP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL - BRAZILIAN STUDENT POTLUCK WELCOME! - It's January, and that means - get ready to potluck!!!! We are so excited to welcome 10 students from Brazil through our music director, Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman's connection with Lebanon Valley College and brilliant Brazilian music students! The students will be participating in worship with us January 19th, 26th, and February 2nd, and we know from their reflections over the years that the time they spend with us at Grace Church is impactful for them - and a joy for us! We hope you'll plan to stay after worship for lunch together with them, as a church, that day and to bring a potluck item to share, helping our students to learn and enjoy Pennsylvania cuisine! If you have questions about how to help with the event, please contact Sue at sukomp55@aol.com.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 10:30 WORSHIP - GUEST PREACHER, MICHAEL GINGERICH - Michael Gingerich and his wife Kathy are the parents of three sons and the grandparents of three girls and two boys. Michael is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, having last served for 10 years at First UMC, Hershey, Pennsylvania. He is currently a Co-Founder of the nonprofit Someone To Tell It To, which helps to create human connection through compassionate listening and educating people in the vital importance of good listening to form better human connections. In this role he has also co-authored four books, written scores of blogs, and co-leads a podcast of over 100 episodes, with his mission partner Tom Kaden. You do not want to miss this special Sunday of tapping in to Michael's insights on the scripture!

SEEKING A GRACE FAMILY PROMISE COORDINATOR - At least 5 weeks out of the year, Grace hosts families who are unhoused for overnights a week at a time in our church building. If you are interested in serving as the connector between Grace and the Family Promise nonprofit, helping to coordinate Safe Sanctuary-cleared servant hosts from Grace to welcome and help settle in new families that arrive to the apartment in Wesley House on Sunday evenings sporadically throughout the year, please contact Pastor Anna - aknox@gracehbg.org. Safe Sanctuaries clearances will be required for this role.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES - With winter now upon us, we wish to make you aware of Grace's inclement weather procedures. Please check these listings for closings/delays of worship or other special events: ABC27, our Facebook page, Instagram, and our website www.gracehbg.org.

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR THE NEW YEAR - Please take note that our new 2025 office hours are Mondays and Tuesdays from 9am to 2pm, and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7 am to 12 noon. The office is closed on Fridays. If you need assistance when the office is closed, please call, and leave a message (717-238-6739).

CHECK OUT GRACE ON TAP THIS WINTER - Grace on Tap is held the second Wednesday of every month at ZeroDay Brewing Company Taproom, 925 N. Third Street, Harrisburg. The open discussion format is led by Wayne Bender. Everyone is welcome. 5:30-7:00 pm. Parking is free on State Street after 5pm but not closer to ZeroDay. Upcoming Calendar: February 12, March 12, April 9.

MUCH MORE TO COME... STAY CONNECTED AND UP TO DATE! PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER.

It contains video links, as well as complete listings of all announcements and opportunities. **Go to gracehbg.org** to sign up or fill out a welcome form by clicking, Contact!



OUR MISSION: We celebrate human diversity and affirm God's gifts of love and grace for ALL persons. Each of us is created in the image of God and is a child of God. We invite you, no matter your age, race, ethnicity, family structure, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical ability, immigration status or economic situation, to be in ministry with us. We support the full participation of all persons in every phase of church life. We believe that at Grace Church you will experience a God who already knows you by name, loves you, and yearns to have an even closer relationship with you. As a Reconciling Congregation, our hearts, minds and doors are open, and we are blessed by your presence.

STAFF

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LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Class of 2025
Jessica Schneck, Chair
Don Reasoner, Vice-Chair
Lisa Bender, Secretary

Class of 2026
Rick Albright
Steve Drachler
Amy Hall

Class of 2027
Scott Harris, Facilities Team Lead
Eileen Young
Charlie Fetterhoff

Church Historian
Wayne Bender

Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator
Christie House



GIVE ONLINE: Give to Grace UMC Harrisburg online via PayPal. Please scan the QR code with the camera on your phone for a direct link to our PayPal or visit gracehbg.org. Please contact the church office for any questions at 717-238-6739.

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AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
BOLD IN CHRIST • ABOUNDING IN LOVE • GROUNDED IN FAITH



BAPTISM OF THE LORD
SUNDAY

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