



**Third Week of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 15, 2024**  
**at 10:30am**

**WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD**

**Welcome** Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman  
 Director of Music

The Lord be with you!  
**And also with you.**

**Prelude** "Toccatina on Angels We Have Heard on High"  
 Richard Elliott

**\* Call to Worship**

One: During Advent we listen for the wonder of God's Word.

**All: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

One: During Advent, we reach beyond the noise and distractions of this world.

**All: Speak to us, O Lord for our hearts are open.**

One: During Advent we ponder the good news that is our great joy.

**All: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

One: During Advent we speak words of hope to those engaged in life's struggles.

**All: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

One: During Advent we offer words of peace to those overcome by life's fears.

**All: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

**\* Congregational Hymn**

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem No. 179

**Scripture** "The Foretelling of Christ's Birth" Isaiah 7:14, 40:1-5

**Anthem** "O Come, Emmanuel" Elaine Hagenberg

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 And ransom captive Israel,  
 That mourns in lonely exile here  
 Until the Son of God appear;  
 O come thou Dayspring come and cheer  
 Our spirits by Thine Advent here,  
 And drive away the shades of night,  
 And pierce the clouds and bring us light!  
 Rejoice! Rejoice Emmanuel, shall come to Thee O Israel.  
 O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind;  
 Bid envy strife and quarrels cease,  
 And fill the world with Heaven's peace  
 Rejoice! Rejoice Emmanuel Shall come to Thee, o Israel.*

**Scripture** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

**Anthem** "For Unto Us a Child is Born (from Messiah)" G.F. Handel

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given  
 And the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called  
 Wonderful, Counselor,  
 The mighty God the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*

**Scripture** "The Angel Gabriel Salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary"  
 Luke 1:26-38

**Anthem** "The Rose" Ola Gjeilo

*The lily has a smooth stalk,  
 Will never hurt your hand;  
 But the rose upon her brier  
 Is lady of the land.  
 There's a sweetness in an apple tree,  
 And profit in the corn;  
 But lady of all beauty  
 Is a rose upon a thorn.  
 When with moss and honey  
 She tips her bending brier,  
 And half unfolds her glowing heart,  
 She sets the world on fire.  
 (Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894)*

**Scripture** "St. Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus" Luke 2:1-7

**Anthem** "Ecce Novum" Ola Gjeilo

*Behold, a new joy, Behold, a new wonder!  
 A Virgin, who knew not a man,  
 Bears a son.  
 She knew not a man, but as the pear-tree bears the pear,  
 The flourishing papyrus brings the lily from the soil.  
 See how nature changes her laws!  
 A pure virgin bears the son of God.*

**Scripture** Luke 2:8-14

**Anthem** "Gloria" Antonio Vivaldi

**Scripture** Luke 2:15-21

**\* Congregational Hymn**

Love Came Down at Christmas Pg. 242

**Scripture** "Magi Are Led by the Star to Jesus" Matthew 2:7-11

**Anthem** "New Star" James Ward

*There's a new star, a new star, a new star shining in the east.  
 Children follow, children follow, children follow that star.  
 It will lead you to the Prince of Peace!  
 It moves at the Father's command, a mighty part of the royal plan -  
 Shining brightly into the night leading seekers to the One True Light.  
 There's a Babe mid the cattle and sheep, a Holy Child in a manger sleeps.  
 The starlight leading the way to the stable where the Savior lay.  
 The host from the heavens rejoice! Each angel sings with a glorious voice,  
 Sharing music near and far, in the brightness of that holy star!*

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

**Moment of Gratitude for the Musicians & Announcements -**

Rev. Anna Layman Knox

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer** Pg. 895

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

**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** "Arioso" Albert Travis

**\* Offertory Response**

In the Bleak Midwinter No. 221

**\* Offertory Prayer**

*This November, our congregation began writing prayers for our church and the wider community, as part of our intentional offering. These prayers are shared weekly during our worship time of giving.*

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

**Scripture** "St. John Unfolds the Great Mystery of the Incarnation"  
 John 1:1-5, 9-14

**\* Congregational Response** "Hallelujah" (from "Messiah") G.F. Handel  
*Please join in singing!*

**\* Benediction**

**Postlude** "Let Earth Receive Her King" Richard Elliott

*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 SHARE GRATITUDE TODAY FOR...**

**Instrumentalists:** Alaina Gawel & Morgan Hackett - violin, Anthony Scheuerman - viola & Sarah Herb Topping - cello

**The Grace Church Choir:** Nick Keeney, AJ Keeney, Randal Stahlman, Xavier Bates, Wayne Bender, Rick Albright, Jeff Cartwright, Hilary Holmes, Rebecca Lyons, Lisa Bender, Rebecca Cherry, Brookye Keeney, Mel Eyer, & Pastor Anna Layman Knox

**Guest Singers:** Mary Lemons, Scott Ramirez & Jacob Nguyen

**Guest Conductor:** Special thanks to Brenda Rodrigues for inviting the Grace Church Choir to participate in her final degree recital to complete her Master's Degree in Conducting at Messiah University.

**Grace Director of Music:** We share deep gratitude for Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, who works tirelessly each year to share with us a joyous Sunday of sacred, inspiring, and beautiful Christmas music.

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

**Sound Board & Video** - Jessica Schneck  
**Director of Music** - Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman  
**Guest Singers** - Katy Naimoli, Cindy Neumayer, Deborah Santiago  
**Sunday Facility Steward** - Wayne Bender  
**Welcome Team** - Lori Adams and Bob Janecko  
**Pastor** - Rev. Anna Layman Knox

**PRAYER CHAIN**

**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 lift up Larry Coleman**, now in the hospital with a lung infection after a year of intensive treatment for other medical concerns. We pray for respite and recovery for Larry. - 11/8

**We renew our specific prayers for Michael Kains**, as he celebrated a wedding anniversary last week but is frail from fighting cancer and appreciates our prayers - 11/10

**We pray for Jennifer**, young, away from home, and on hospice. May she know Christ's peace and presence. - 11/11



**Please keep the following in your prayers:**

Bryleigh Hoover & 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

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL & ANTICIPATED SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE MEETING - Tuesday, December 17 - 6:30pm in Beggs Chapel** - All Leadership Council meetings are open to the congregation. Our next meeting will be in person in Beggs Chapel on Tuesday, December 17th following what we anticipate will be a brief Special Church Conference Meeting to elect a new Leadership Council Chair for 2025. If you are unable to attend in person and desire the zoom link, please contact Council Chair, Rick Albright, by Monday, December 16th - r.s.albright@icloud.com.

**COOKIES & CAROLING AROUND DOWNTOWN FOR 3RD IN THE BURG! - Friday, December 20 - 6:30pm.** Come out for a festive evening of caroling around Downtown Harrisburg. We'll meet in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm, spend an hour (or until we get too cold) caroling in the blocks around the church, and end with cookies and hot cocoa in Fellowship Hall with the Overnight Shelter guests. We'll be delivering cheery invitations to worship at Grace with gifts of hot cocoa for neighborhood residents. All are welcome who love making a joyful noise - bring a friend!

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - Tuesday, December 24, 7:30pm.** We hope you'll consider coming and bringing a friend for Grace's annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Hear familiar music and a familiar story, but come prepared to have your heart warmed freshly by traditions and a word from God that continue to speak powerfully of the coming of light, grace, and joy into the world.

### CHRISTMAS DAY VOLUNTEERING AT THE OVERNIGHT SHELTER

This year, we are planning together with CCU for the overnight shelter to be open all day for Christmas. If you would be willing to assist with a hot breakfast and/or lunch, please contact Kendall, the shelter manager, ASAP (kbeverly@ccuhbg.org). Currently, someone is already scheduled to prepare Christmas dinner and bring it to the shelter. The Shelter is also looking for volunteers to assist with staffing on Christmas day the following shifts: 7am- 11am, 11am-3pm, 3pm-7pm, and 7pm-11pm. You must have Safe Sanctuary clearances to volunteer, but please contact Kendall, if interested!

**CELEBRATING GOD'S GRACE** - *Celebrating God's Grace* is the title of the new history of Grace Church written by Wayne Bender over the past two years. Using Grace's exhaustive collection of artifacts, scrapbooks and historical documents, Wayne has compiled a 180-page history of the church including nearly 300 historical photographs of the church, including every pastor since 1834. The book will soon be published as a 8.5x11" soft-bound book. The limited run print will have 125 copies available for sale at \$25 per book. All proceeds will benefit the church. Pre Orders are being taken, so please call the church office or email office@gracehbg.org to reserve a copy. Payment will be due upon receipt. Payment can be made by check to Grace United Methodist Church or by paying online. For mail orders, please add \$5.00 for shipping. Books will arrive in January although there is a possibility that the printer may have them before Christmas.

**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](http://gracehbg.org) to sign up or fill out a welcome form.



**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 together. 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

Rev. Anna E. Layman Knox  
**Pastor**  
aknox@gracehbg.org

Heather Ruoss  
**Church Operations Manager**  
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Thomas Moran  
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Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman  
**Director of Music**  
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Hannah Reasoner  
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**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](http://gracehbg.org). Please contact the church office for any questions at 717-238-6739.

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### LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

**Class of 2024**  
Barb Janecko  
Sue Kompare  
Lisa Bender

**Class of 2025**  
Don Reasoner, Vice-Chair  
Jim Flesher  
Jessica Schneck

**Class of 2026**  
Rick Albright, Chair  
Steve Drachler  
Amy Hall

**Non-voting Secretary**  
Joy Makin

**Facilities Team Liaison  
& Church Historian**  
Wayne Bender

**Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator**  
Christie House

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

**3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
*Christmas Music Sunday*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

**GRACE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH