

# GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

## Why Did God Become Man?

Jesus comes to us as our brother to be our great high priest, to carry on his loving heart the joys, the sorrows, the prayers, the conflicts of all his creatures, to reconcile all things to God, and to intercede for all nations as our eternal mediator and advocate. He comes to stand in for us in the presence of the Father, when in our failure and bewilderment we do not know how to pray as we ought to, or forget to pray altogether. By his Spirit he helps us in our infirmities.

James B. Torrance  
~ *Worship, Community  
and the God of Grace*

DECEMBER 29, 2024  
FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMASTIDE

# WELCOME

We are glad you decided to come and worship our God and Father through his Son Jesus Christ by His Spirit with us today! We are a mission church of the Presbyterian Church in America, with deep roots in the reformed catholic<sup>1</sup> tradition. Our mission is to glorify and enjoy God through faithful worship and proclamation of the Gospel, and our goal is to embody the love of God in Christ through our words and deeds, including practical, generous acts of love and service.

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We want you to feel welcome, and we've prepared this guide to help you enter body and soul into worship. We deeply believe that worship is not just watching and listening; we are called to be active and engaged in the dialog between the covenant God who speaks and his people who respond. Please note:

- the words of Scripture are in *italics*,
  - **boldface type** indicates congregational participation,
  - words in *red* are guides to what's happening, and
  - the † symbol means everyone stands, as able.
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We have coffee and snacks in the fellowship hall following worship. We hope you will stay for a while so that we can get to know one another a little bit.

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If you would like to seek prayer or physical help for any need; if you have questions about anything you have heard or about

- who Jesus is,
- what he has done, or
- why that matters;

or if you would simply like to connect with our pastor, feel free to reach out after the service, or email Pastor Frank at [gracepreswt@gmail.com](mailto:gracepreswt@gmail.com).

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**[gracepcawatertown.org](http://gracepcawatertown.org)**

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<sup>1</sup>We are catholic Christians because we are in communion with that Church from which the Gospel is spread throughout the world (St. Augustine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Homily on 1 John).

# LORD'S DAY DIVINE SERVICE

## The Welcome and Announcements

*In love God predestined us for adoption to himself  
as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.  
~ Ephesians 1:4*

## The Prelude

*Take a moment to prepare in silence for worship  
and to pray for God's assistance to worship him rightly.*

GOD CALLS US | WE GATHER TOGETHER AND PRAISE HIM

## The Apostolic Greeting

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!*

## † The Call to Worship

*Romans 8:37-39; Luke 2:14*

*In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,*

***Amen!***

*The LORD be with you!*

***And with your spirit!***

*In all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

***Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!***

*Christ is born, glorify him. Christ from heaven, go out to meet him. Christ on earth; be exalted. Sing unto the Lord all the whole earth. O come, let us adore him.*

## † The Hymn of Praise, p. 10

O Come, All Ye Faithful

† Please stand, as able

## †The Opening Prayer

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Father, from everlasting to everlasting, you are good and kind and wise. We bless you for your Word who was from the beginning, the Word who was always with you, the Word who shares your divinity, the Word made flesh who dwelt among us. Grant that in him we might see your glory, that in him we might hear you speak, that in him we might speak to you and meet with you, the only God, full of grace and truth.

**To the name of Christ, and to you, God our Father and to the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever, be all praise, honor, glory, and thanks. AMEN and AMEN!**

## †The Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

## GOD CLEANSSES US | WE CONFESS OUR SINS

### The Call to Confession

*Isaiah 6:5*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us lift up our prayers and humbly confess our sins to God our Father, seeking and imploring his grace through Jesus Christ our Mediator.

*Woe is me! For I am undone;*

*for my lips are contaminated by sin, and I live among people whose lips are contaminated by sin.*

### The Confession of Sin, *in unison*

We humbly confess, Lord our Father, that we have been wayward and unprofitable servants. We have forgotten your precepts, misused your gifts, wasted our time, and grieved your Holy and Loving Spirit. Merciful Father, you have proclaimed forgiveness to all who repent, and though our sins be great, your mercy is greater still. Your goodness is boundless and your steadfast love endures forever. For Jesus' sake, pardon all our past faults and errors. Cleanse us of the dregs of our sin, and grant us the help of the Holy Spirit, so that, from now on, we may walk before you with a pure conscience, clean of offense. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN.

*Take a moment of silence to confess your particular sins to God through Jesus Christ our Advocate and Shield who sits at the God's right hand.*

## **The Proclamation of Forgiveness**

*Luke 1:68, 74-75*

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people... that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*

## **The Prayer for Grace, *in unison* Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the U.S.**

*Let us lift up our hearts to God in heaven.*

***To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.***

Let us pray together to the Lord:

**Most merciful God, who so loved the world that you gave your only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. Grant us, we humbly pray, the precious gift of faith, whereby we may know that the Son of God has come, and being always rooted and grounded in the mystery of the Word made flesh, may have power to overcome the world, and gain the blessed immortality of heaven. Through the merits of this same incarnate Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. AMEN.**

GOD CONSECRATES US | WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND OFFERING

## **The Offering Prayer and Collection of Tithes and Offerings**

### **The Offertory**

GOD SPEAKS TO US | WE HEAR IN FAITH

### **The Scripture Readings for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Christmastide**

The Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

The Epistle Reading: *Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

†The Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:25-40*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**The Hymn, p.11**

**Good Christian Men, Rejoice**

**The Sermon Text: Galatians 4:4, 5**

*...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.*

**The Prayer for Illumination**

**The Sermon**

**GOD COMMUNES WITH US | WE EAT AND DRINK  
WITH THE LORD AND ONE ANOTHER**

**The Invitation to the Meal and Fencing of the Table**

**†The Hymn of Preparation, p. 12**

**The First Noel**

**†The Confession of Our Faith, p. 13, *in unison***

**The Nicene Creed**

**†The Passing of the Peace**

*1 Corinthians 6:11; Romans 5:1*

*You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

**And also with you.**

**†The Words of Institution**

*1 Corinthians 11:23-27*

† **The Prayer of Humble Access**, *in unison* *The Book of Common Prayer, 1552*

We do not presume to come to this your table, O Merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your many and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord who ever loves to show mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his cup, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. AMEN.

**The Prayer of Consecration** *The Savoy Liturgy of Richard Baxter (1661)*

**The Serving of the Elements**

*Brothers and sisters, lift your eyes from the visible elements and lift up your heart to heaven, where Christ is now, seated at the right hand of the Father, from where he will come again to complete our redemption. In him alone are all the promises of God fulfilled and all Spiritual blessings found.*

*Come to the Table now in joy of heart, in Spirit-wrought unity, in holy love, and partake of the Feast of Christ, giving thanks for the great love that God has shown us.*

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

† **The Hymn of Response**, p. 14 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

**The Prayer of Intercession**

**The Lord's Prayer**, *in unison*

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.*

GOD COMMISSIONS AND BLESSES US | WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD

†Closing Hymn, p. 14

May the Grace of Christ our Savior

†The Song of Simeon, p. 14, *in unison*

*Luke 2:29-32*

†The Commission

*Matthew 28:18-20*

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

†The Benediction and the People's Amen

*Hebrews 13:20-21*

*Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. AMEN.*

## Sermon Notes

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,  
2. God of God, Light of Light;  
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

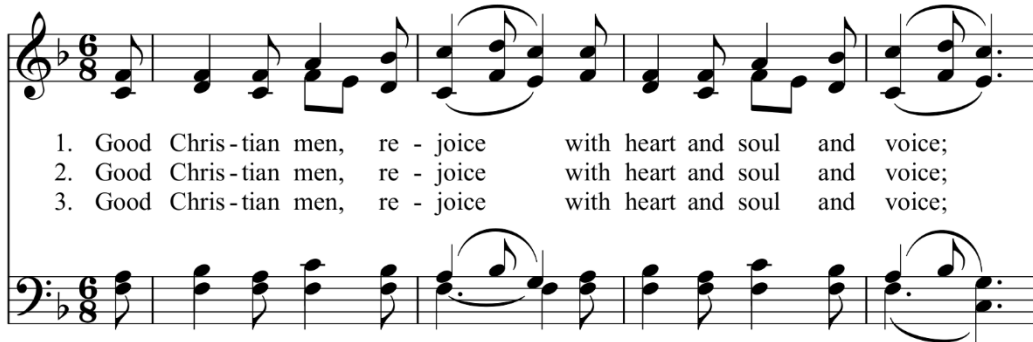
O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him  
lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb; ver - y God, be -  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God, all  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels;  
got - ten not cre - at - ed; O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
glo - ry in the high - est;  
late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

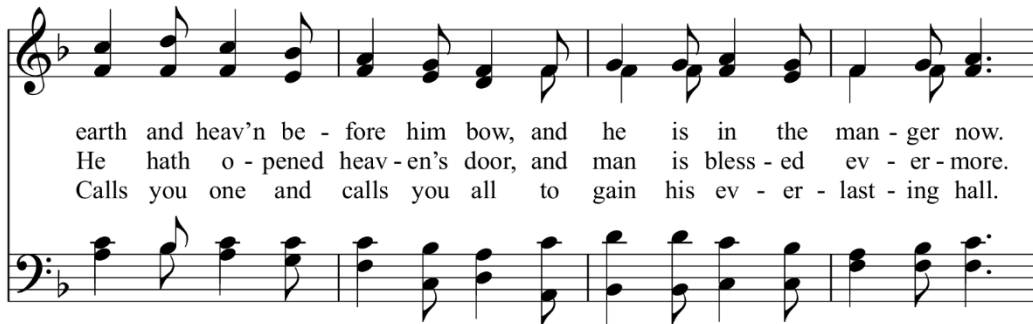
## Good Christian Men, Rejoice



1. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He hath o - pened heav - en's door, and man is bless - ed ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## The First Noel

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to cer - tain poor  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the  
 3. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es

shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay a - keep - ing their  
 east be - yond them far, And to the earth it gave great  
 to our heav - en - ly Lord, That hath made heaven and earth of

REFRAIN

sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No - el, No -  
 nought, And with His blood man - kind hath bought.

el, No - el, No - el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el. A - MEN.

## The Nicene Creed

WE BELIEVE IN one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible.

AND IN one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;

Who for us, and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

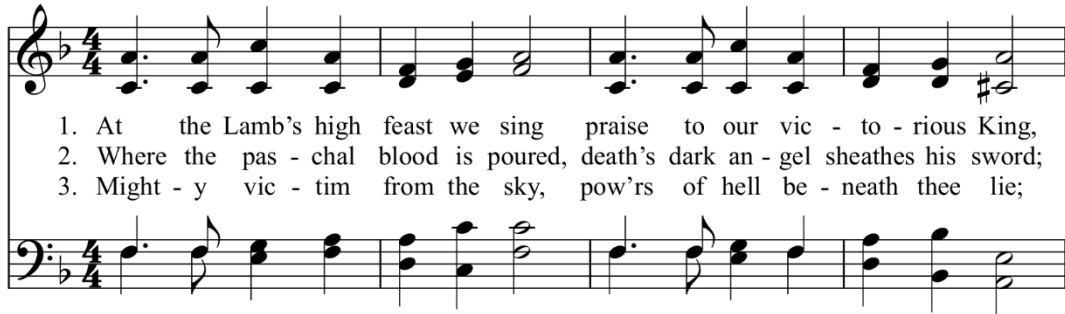
And he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

AND WE BELIEVE IN the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son  
together is worshipped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;

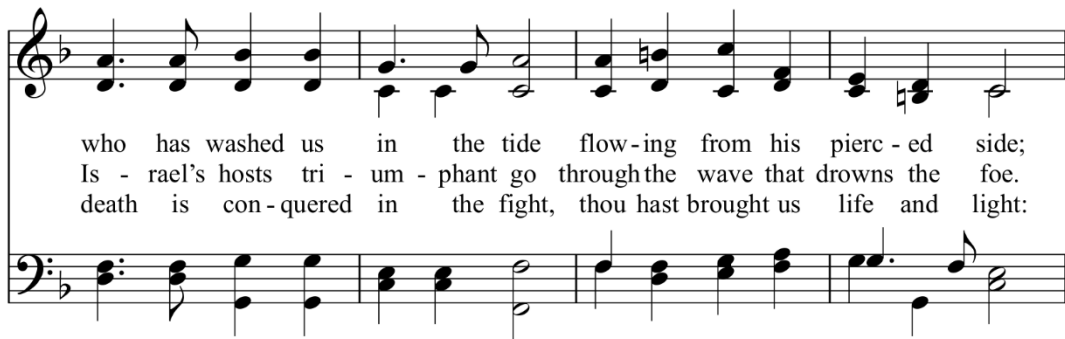
AND WE BELIEVE IN one holy catholic and apostolic Church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;

AND WE LOOK for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

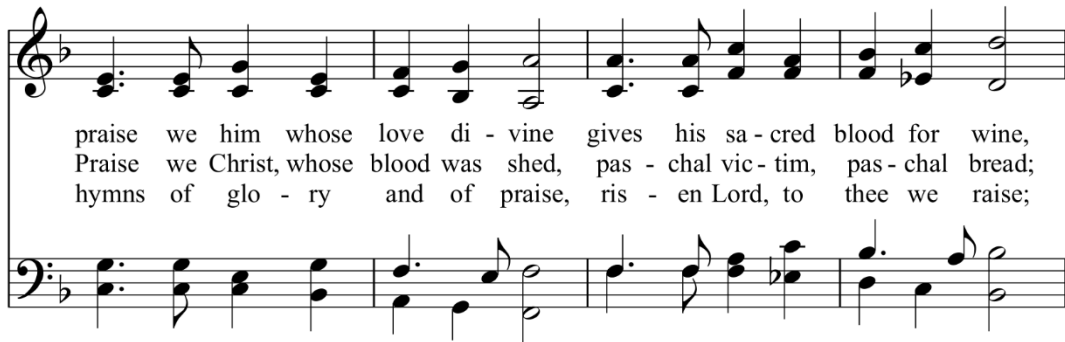
## At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



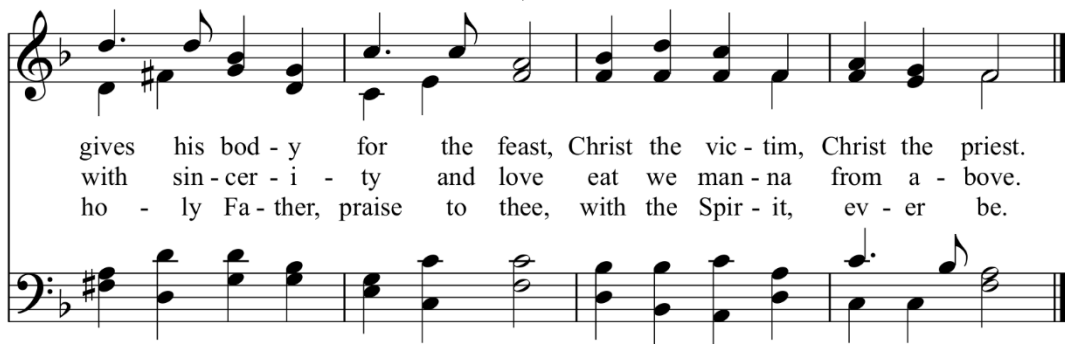
1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,  
2. Where the pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;  
3. Might - y vic - tim from the sky, pow'rs of hell be - neath thee lie;



who has washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;  
Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.  
death is con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:



praise we him whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred blood for wine,  
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal vic - tim, pas - chal bread;  
hymns of glo - ry and of praise, ris - en Lord, to thee we raise;



gives his bod - y for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.  
with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.  
ho - ly Fa - ther, praise to thee, with the Spir - it, ev - er be.

## May the Grace of Christ our Savior

1. May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior and the  
2. Thus may we a - bide in un - ion with each

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in G major and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics provided below the notes.

Fa - ther's bound - less love, with the Ho - ly Spir - it's  
oth - er and the Lord, and pos - sess, in sweet com -

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are split across two lines of text.

fa - vor, rest up - on us from a - bove.  
mun - ion, joys which earth can - not af - ford. A - men.

The third system concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are split across two lines of text.

## The Song of Simeon – Luke 2:29-32

*Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. AMEN.*

*We are God's people.  
We proclaim Christ,  
who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.  
In him we are  
Taught by the Truth and  
Liberated by the Life to  
Walk in the Way.  
The goal of our instruction is love  
for God and neighbor  
that flows from a pure heart and  
a clear conscience and  
a sincere faith.*



**GRACE**  
Presbyterian Church  
Watertown, New York



*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America*

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