

# Nurture Good News

"For all of you share in God's grace." (Philippians 1:7)



# INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN

THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE



## FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

*December 29, 2024*



*Census at Bethlehem*

C.J. Briggs, Music Director      Nancy Jermann, Deacon

*Christmas in heaven, what do they do? They come down to earth to spend it with you.  
So save them a seat, just one empty chair. You may not see them, but they will be there.*

## ~ GATHERING TOGETHER ~

### CHRISTMAS BLESSING (*Luke 2:17, Philippians 1:7, Kate Bowler*)

They made known what had been told them about this child;  
**For all of you share in God's grace.**

### LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

#### PRELUDE

*Write hymn requests on the bottom of the insert. During the prelude, someone will come and collect all requests. Jake will shout out the hymn number before playing.*

### LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

The grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to all.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

For a child has been born for us,  
a Son has been given to us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

To us is born in the city of David a Savior,  
the Messiah, the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

Christ is born! Give him glory!

Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!

**Glory to God in the highest!**

In the light of Christ, come, let us give glory to God!

## POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen. [*Silent Confession*]

### \*RESPONSE

O LORD, HAVE MERCY

GTG #578

Guarani melody

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ our Savior gave himself for us,  
that he might redeem us from our sin and claim us as his own people.  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.**

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE (*from Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow*)

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

### STORY

MORTIMER'S CHRISTMAS MANGER by Karma Wilson

Illustrated by Jane Chapman

## ~ *SHARING IN THE GOSPEL* ~

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

#### HEBREW BIBLE

ISAIAH 52:7-10

*Pew Bible p.642(OT)*

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.  
**For all of us share in God's grace.**

#### HYMN

[*Hymn Request: See Insert*]

GTG #108 - #152

#### GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 2:41-52

*Pew Bible p.55(NT)*

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.  
**For all of us share in God's grace.**

**CHRISTMAS STORY**      **GIFTS FROM THEIR HEARTS**  
by Charlene Elizabeth Baltimore

**HYMN**                                      *[Hymn Request: See Insert]*                                      GTG #108 - #152

**~ TENDING THE GOOD NEWS ~**

**\*FOR CHRISTMAS**

Let us bless this Christmas...

**Blessed are we when we see love, at long last, in every small and tender thing, stealing into our world to change us all. Amen.**

**\*INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**\*RESPONSE**                                      **GLORIA A DIOS**                                      **GTG #585**  
Peruvian melody                                      MACHU-PICHU

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**~ GOING FORTH TO NURTURE ~**

**\*HYMN**                                      *[Hymn Request: See Insert]*                                      GTG #108 - #152

**\*BENEDICTION**

They made known what had been told them about this child;  
**may our love flourish more and more.**

**POSTLUDE**



*Next Week: Epiphany (Observed)*

<b>GTG</b>	<b>Hymn Name</b>
108	Of the Father's Love Begotten
109	Blest be the God of Israel
110	Love Has Come
111	From Heaven Above
112	On Christmas Night All Christians Sing
113	Angels We Have Heard on High
114 115	Away in a Manger
116	The Snow Lay on the Ground
117 118	While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
119	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
120	Where Shepherds Lately Knelt
121	O Little Town of Bethlehem
122	Silent Night, Holy Night!
123	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
124	Still, Still, Still
125	Before the Marvel of This Night
126	Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child
127	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
128	Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
129	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
130	Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
131	In the Heavens Shone a Star
132	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
133	O Come, All Ye Faithful
134	Joy to the World

135	Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow
136	Go Tell It on the Mountain
137	He Came Down
138	Who Would Think That What Was Needed
139	That Boy-Child of Mary
140	Once in Royal David's City
141	On This Day Earth Shall Ring
142	'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime
143	Angels, from the Realms of Glory
144	In the Bleak Midwinter
145	What Child Is This
146	Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
147	The First Nowell
148	Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple
149	All Hail to God's Anointed
150	As with Gladness Men of Old
151	We Three Kings of Orient Are
152	What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

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**Hymn Request:**

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