

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
December 14, 2025



Thought for Meditation

"Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again-rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon."
Philippians 4:4-5 (NLT)

— GATHERING —

Prelude

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Haan

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

***Call To Worship**

Psalms 146: 5-10

Terri Ludwig

Leader: Blessed is the one whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

People: He is the Maker of heaven and earth, and He remains faithful forever.

Leader: The Lord feeds the hungry, frees prisoners, and gives sight to the blind.

People: We gather to worship God who lifts the brokenhearted and cares for the needy.

Leader: Let us praise the Lord, who reigns forever, our God through all generations.

All: Amen! Let us worship together!

*** Hymn of Praise**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

271

***Prayer of Confession:**

Matthew 3:6

Confessing their sins, they were baptized by Him in the Jordan River. Friends, let us go before God, seeking forgiveness and peace.

Advent God, we confess that we often stray from your light, choosing selfishness and doubt. We neglect to love our neighbors and overlook their suffering. In fear, we let despair take root, forgetting your promises. Forgive us for losing hope and failing to act with compassion. Help us seek the good of others and give us courage to be prophets of your love, welcoming all in your Son, Jesus Christ, who teaches us to live in love and faith. Amen. *Silent Prayer of Confession...*

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Colossians 3:12

L: As God's own people, be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind. Be always ready to forgive as freely as God has forgiven you. And, above everything else, be loving, and never forget to be thankful for what Christ has done for you. Friends believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**P: In Christ Jesus we are redeemed, forgiven, renewed and sent!
Amen!**

*** Passing of the Peace** *Romans 5:1*

L: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you all.

P: And also, with you.

Please pass the peace of Christ to your neighbors in the pews and introduce yourself to those you do not know.

*** Gloria Patri**

#813

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, a world without end.
Amen, Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES—Joy

Deacons

CONGREGATION: As we light our third Advent candle, we pray for hope, peace and joy. Come now O child of Mary, Come now, O Prince of Peace.

Anthem

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Chancel Choir

Children's Sermon

Linda Johnson

— THE WORD —

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sermon "From Despair to Delight of Joy"

***Hymn of Response** “Rejoice, the Lord is King” (v.1) #370

Sharing Joys and Concerns and the Lord's Prayer

Tithes and Offerings 2 Peter 3:8–15

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation. Let us offer our lives and tithes to the Lord.”

Offertory	“Unto Us a Child is Born”	LeBegue
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*** Doxology** #815

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all Creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

* Prayer of Dedication

— SENDING —

*** Hymn of Dedication** “ Joy To The World ” (v.1-2) #270

*** Charge and Benediction** *1 Timothy 1:17*

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honored and glorified forever. **Amen!**

*** Congregational Response** “Joy To The World ” (v.3)

#270

***Postlude**

“Wake, Awake, a Voice is Calling”

Walther

***PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**

Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church

We extend a warm welcome to all worshipping with us today and we hope that you will return.
Please join us for Coffee Fellowship in Cana Hall (located downstairs) following today’s worship service.



Rev. Dr. Ojulu (Pastor Owar) is available anytime if you have any concerns, want to schedule a meeting, or if you need a prayer. You can contact him at the office @ 724-339-9661 or his cell 507-304-5958.



Help fill shoeboxes all year long! Samaritan’s Purse recommends prayer for the month of December for Operation Christmas Child. Donations may be placed in the OCC box in the Narthex. Thank you.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 3	Todd Taylor	December 21	Dee Shaffer
December 6	Linda Johnson	December 29	Carl Dolon
December 7	Gary Chickerella	December 31	Aubrie Newcomb
December 15	Sue Pish		

If your name does not appear, or if the listed information is incorrect, please contact the church office so that the records can be updated.

This Week's Calendar

December 14– December 20, 2025

Today	Reach Out Meeting	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Coffee Fellowship	11:00am
	Adult Sunday School	11:00am
	Boy Scouts	6:00pm
Thursday	Ladies Group	6:30pm
	Knead Café	8am–12p
Saturday	Community Kids Event (Polar Express)	11am–1p

Looking Ahead

December 21, 2025– December 27, 2025

Dec 21	Deacons	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Coffee Fellowship	11:00am
	Adult Sunday School	11:00am
	Christmas Eve Service	7:30pm
Dec 24		
Dec 25	Merry Christmas– Christ is Born!!	

Sermon Notes:

For Sunday __/__/__

Scripture Reference _____

What spoke to my heart from today's sermon:

Prayer Concerns for this week:



Grace Community Presbyterian Church
2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068
(724) 339-9661
Website: www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Worship Service is at 10:00am

Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Owar O. Ojulu
pastorowar@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Secretary: Kellie Newcomb
secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Christian Ed: Bill Ludwig
Organist: Kenneth McGeary
Treasurer: Ray Zerjav
Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zunich

Elders

Dave Briscoe
Bonnie Carroll
Cathy Christoforetti
Michael Cochenour
Henry Kedzierski
Valerie Lester
Glenn Nordmark
Todd Taylor
Jack Trinclisti
Steph Tutka

Deacons

Margie Bistline
Sheri Cieslinski
Kerri Colaianne
Lisa Edwards
Heidi Hacker
Cindy Irvin
Linda Johnson
Terri Ludwig
Marcia Sackett
Rich Sackett
Dee Shaffer
Shirley Trinclisti