

Grace Community Presbyterian Church

December 7, 2025



Thought for Meditation

Jeremiah 31:31-34— “A New Covenant”

“Jeremiah’s emphasis in this passage is on a new covenant. “Covenant” is not a synonym for “law,” though the two are clearly connected. When Jeremiah refers to the covenant, he means the Sinai covenant, the formalized agreement—or treaty or contract—that the Lord made with the Hebrew people after bringing them up out of Egypt. The law codes found in Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy form stipulations of this covenant, but the covenant itself is a sign of the fullness of relationship between the Lord and the people.”

Kristin J. Wendland

—GATHERING —

Prelude “Creator of the Stars of Night” Plainsong arr. by G. Martin

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

*Call To Worship¹

Cathy Brady

Leader: In the beginning before time, before people, before the world began,

ALL: God was.

Leader: Here and now among us, beside us,

enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven,

ALL: God is.

Leader: In the future, when we have turned to dust

and all we know has found its fulfilment,

ALL: God will be.

Leader: Not denying the world, but delighting in it, not condemning the world,

but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

ALL: God was, God is, God will be.

*** Hymn of Praise**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#245

***Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon (Responsively) ² 1 John 2:1-2**

“If anyone sins, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf—Jesus Christ, The righteous one. And Christ himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but also the sins of the whole world.”

Friends, let us confess our sins before God and one another responsively.

¹ *A Wee Worship Book, Fourth Incarnation, Morning Liturgy A.* 1999.)

² *Written by Joann Harderer*

Leader: Holy One, we long to be faithful stewards of your abundant grace.

People: To serve each other in love and humility.

To serve your world with wisdom and energy.

Leader: Forgive us when we stumble over pride, when our words and actions are not guided by love.

People: Turn our hearts when we act in folly.

Restore our energy when it is gone.

Leader: Sometimes, many times, O God, our efforts fail.

People: But your abundant grace is strong and eternal,

All: And forgiveness is ours through Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*** Passing of the Peace** *Philippians 4:6-7*

L: May God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus. 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, world without end.

Amen, Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES - PEACE-

The Gott Family

CONGREGATION: As we light our second Advent candle, we pray for the peace of God. Come now, O child of Mary, Come now, O Prince of Peace. Prepare your hearts for the arrival of our Savior.

Anthem

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

Chancel Choir

— THE WORD —

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

Sermon "God's Legacy of Love"
John 1:1-5

***Hymns of Response** “I Love to Tell the Story” (vs. 3&4) #444

Sharing Joys and Concerns and the Lord's Prayer

Tithes and Offerings Luke 6:38

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Grace Church, Let us worship God with our tithes and offerings.

Offertory “Savior of the Nations, Come” J. Buttstedt

*** 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** “We Give Thee But Thine Own ” (v. 1) #816

*** Charge and Benediction** *Numbers 26:22-26*

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”. Amen

Congregational Response “We Give Thee But Thine Own ” (v.2)

#816

*** Postlude**

“O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. W. Held

***PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**

We welcome Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley to the pulpit this morning. Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley serves as the Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation covering the Allegheny and Chesapeake Region. She works with congregations to create a culture of generosity, offers seminars and workshops, develops gifts and fundraising plans for ministries, and provides coaching to finance, stewardship and endowment committees.

Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church

There is no coffee fellowship this morning because of the Christmas dinner this evening.



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 7- December 13, 2025

Today	Worship(Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley)	10:00am
	Adult Sunday School	11:00am
	Christmas Dinner	5:00pm
Monday	Boys Scouts Committee Mtg.	6:00pm
Thursday	Boy Scouts	6:00pm

Looking Ahead

December 14, 2025- December 20, 2025

December 14	Reach Out Meeting	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Coffee Fellowship	11:00am
	Adult Sunday School	11:00am
December 18	Boy Scouts	6:00pm
	Ladies Group	6:30pm
December 20	Knead Café'	8am-12p
	Kids Community Event	11am-1pm

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 Zurich

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