

Grace Community Presbyterian Church  
December 21, 2025



*Thought for Meditation*

Love is a reflection of God's own character, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love" (1 John 4:8). This Advent, consider how love manifested through the proclamation and the willingness of Mary to accept God's plan. As we prepare for the Christmas season, we are reminded of the incredible love that God showed humanity by sending His Son into the world. Therefore, the Fourth Sunday of Advent encourages us to reflect on how we can embody love in our lives. This can take the form of acts of kindness, compassion for others, forgiveness, and selfless support for those in need—

You're called "Spread Love!"

— GATHERING —

Prelude

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Zachau

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

**\*Call To Worship**

*Psalm 80:1-7*

*Rev. Paul Milz*

Leader: Shepherd of Israel, you lead us with love and grace.

**People: We come before you, seeking your light to shine upon us.**

Leader: In our times of trouble and distress, we call on your power to save us.

**People: Strengthen us, O God, and let your love bring us hope.**

Leader: As we gather in your presence, we acknowledge our struggles and our tears.

**People: Yet we trust in your mercy, for you are our refuge and strength.**

Leader: Come, let us worship together, lifting our prayers in faith.

**All: Amen.**

**\* Hymn of Praise**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful (v.1-2)

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**\*Prayer of Confession:**

**Psalm 80:1**

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, You call us each by name and invite us to follow you.

But we—like sheep—do not heed your voice; we stray from your path. Now we call upon your name seeking forgiveness and peace.

**Gracious God,**

**Your love is good news for the oppressed, and You bind up the brokenhearted. Forgive us, when we think that Your good news is only for us. Forgive us, when we twist Your gospel into something that fits comfortably into our lives. By Your light, let us see You leading us beyond ourselves and into the world You love. By Your grace, forgive us and fill us with the unending joy of Your presence and blessings as we wait, and Your Son is born anew in us. Amen**

*Silent Prayer of Confession...*

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**      *Hebrews 4:15-16*

*“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

Friends, believe the God News of the Gospel.

**P: In Christ Jesus we are 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 of the Advent Wreath—      LOVE

The Ojulu Family

**As we light our fourth Advent candle, we rejoice with Mary, for LOVE has flesh.  
Come now, O child of Mary, Come now, O Prince of Peace.**

**Anthem**

“Still, Still, Still”

Chancel Choir

— THE WORD —

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Micah: 5:2-5

**Sermon**

“From Shadow to Light”

**\*Hymn of Response**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (v.1-2)

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## 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.”

<b>Offertory</b>	“The First Noel”	Ellsasser
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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**      “Canticle of the Turning”      (vs. 1-2)      Insert

**\* Charge and Benediction** *2 Corinthians 13:11*

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice!  
Strive for full restoration, encourage one another,  
be of one mind, live in peace.  
And the God of love and peace will be with you. **Amen!**

**\* Congregational Response**    “Canticle of the Turning” (vs. 3)                      Insert

<b>* Postlude</b>	<b>“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”</b>	Harmon
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\*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.

**Today's Music:** Our prelude is based on a Martin Luther Christmas chorale. Three of his twelve stanzas are:

From Heav'n above to Earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I will now say and sing:

Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes! Who is it in yon manger lies?  
Who is this child, so young and fair? The blessed Christ child lieth there.

Ah! Dearest Jesus, holy child, Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be a quiet chamber kept the thee.



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 21- December 27, 2025**

<b>Today</b>	<b>Deacons</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Merry Christmas- Christ is Born!</b>	

### Looking Ahead

**December 28, 2025- January 3, 2026**

<b>Dec 28</b>	<b>Worship -Light of Glory Service</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>	<b>11:00am</b>

## 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](http://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](mailto: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  
June Cicola