

# Grace Devotion

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Week of December 28, 2025

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*  
(O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

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Greetings of Song,

This Sunday, we are having a Christmas song hymn sing. The familiar words and music often carry us through this season. Many of the Christmas hymns we sing have been with us for centuries—shaped by faith, longing, and hope in very different times and places. When we sing them, we join the voices of all those who have gone before us.

Some of our oldest Christmas hymns were written in times of uncertainty and struggle. “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” comes from prayers of a people who were waiting for rescue and justice. That longing still holds true today—part of why this hymn feels so necessary this Christmas season.

Other hymns grew out of times of great joy. “Joy to the World” wasn’t originally written just for Christmas. It was a celebration of Christ’s reign over all of creation. When we sing it now, we sing it not only celebrate the birth of Jesus, but also in the promise that God is still at work in our world.

Some hymns were written by ordinary pastors and congregation members. “Silent Night” was first sung in a small village church, with only a guitar (because the organ was broken). This song reminds us that holy moments don’t have to be perfect—we just need to feel God’s presence.

Then, there are hymns like “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” that are filled with theology set to music. This song teaches us as we sing in a way that words alone cannot.

When we sing these familiar songs, we don’t just remember the Christmas story. We are living it! We are adding our voices to generations who sang together, trusting that light would come to even the darkest nights.

*Joy to the world!  
The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing. (Joy to the World)*

*Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace (Silent Night)*

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King" (Hark the Herald Angels Sing)*

**Prayer:** Loving God, We come to You today with our hearts full of song. Thank You for the hymns that carry us in faith, hope and joy. As we sing, remind us that You are near—still bringing light into our world and into our lives. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy



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**December 28, 2025**

# Westminster Chimes and Prelude

“Joy to the World” (v1&4)

# #125

God of love and mercy, We come today to sing our praises at the birth of Jesus. Christmas Day has come and gone, but the story is still fresh, the light is still shining, and our hearts are still a little softer because of it. As we sing today, let these hymns be our prayers—our gratitude, our hope, and our wonder. Remind us that Emmanuel—God with us—isn't just for one day, but for every day. Keep us grounded in the joy You've given us through Jesus. Amen.

# Lighting of the Christ Candle

## \*\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (v1&3)

# Joys and Concerns Praying for Others Lord's Prayer

# #123

## Celebration of Our Gifts

° Blue hymnal

+ Black contemporary folder

### Announcements

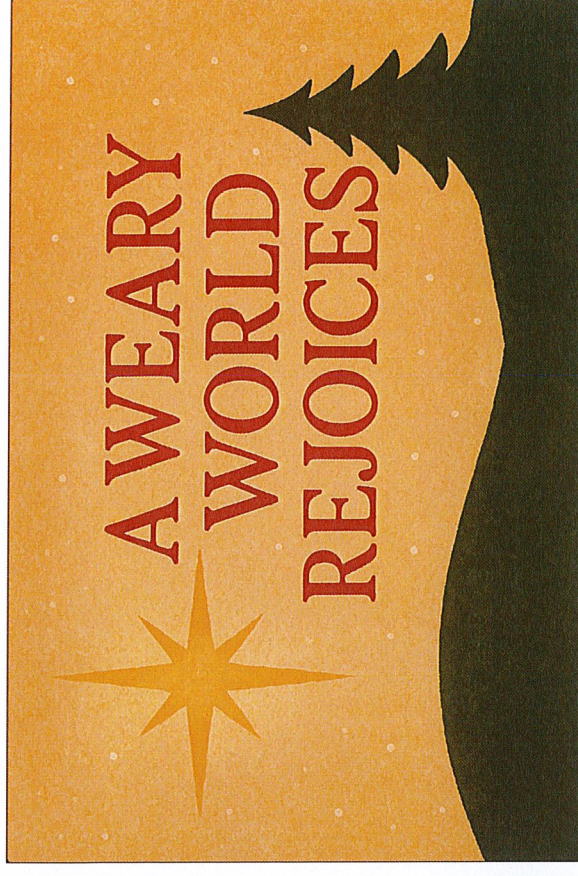
- The church will be open on Wednesdays from 11am-12pm if you would like to stop by for a quiet opportunity for prayer or stillness in the sanctuary. Pastor Amy will be available for a word of prayer or just someone to sit with in the silence.
- Mitten & Hat tree in the Gathering Place. Place new gloves and hats on the tree.

### Upcoming Events

- Monthly Movie – January 9<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM
- Bible Study Group & Movie – January 14<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30
- Women's Ministry – January 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM – **Zoom**
- Women's Ministry – January 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM – **In Person**
- PAL – Grace UCC Helpers – January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM

### Upcoming Meetings

- Finance Committee Meeting – January 5<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 PM
- Consistory Meeting – January 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM
- Worship & Music – January 26<sup>th</sup> @ 4:45 PM
- Faith Formation – January 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Prayer Line: 717-632-1146 LINE 3

**Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:**

Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector -

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Craig Bixler & Vickie Arnold

## Psalm 148

P W T U L C Y L E X S D M R  
 E R M C E D A R S T E O T L  
 K I A X X V I A S D R K D T  
 B T I I Q K Q O N F N E N E  
 A L D Q S S H A I F L L J U  
 Y V E V R E M S H T J T C P  
 G D N L L M C A T A Q F X Y  
 O R S U O D R A G O N S G R  
 Z M V C L X C Y T M R R U G  
 P O U M B V K T H A T M A J  
 D O H E A V E N C L L M Y Z  
 H N Y E V E R W D S C H X B  
 C L L C A S H I K D X Y U L  
 Z Y G N C C P E O P L E W W

- FROM
- HOSTS
- MOON
- THAT
- COMMANDED
- EVER
- DRAGONS
- STORMY
- CEDARS
- CATTLE
- PEOPLE
- MAIDENS
- HEAVEN
- PRAISE

PLEASE USE THE WORDS ABOVE TO FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW.

- Praise ye the LORD.  
Praise ye the LORD  
\_\_\_\_\_ the heavens:  
praise him in the heights.
- Praise ye him, all his  
angels: praise ye him, all  
his \_\_\_\_\_.
- Praise ye him, sun and  
\_\_\_\_\_: praise him,  
all ye stars of light.
- Praise him, ye heavens of  
heavens, and ye waters  
\_\_\_\_\_ be above the  
heavens.
- Let them praise the name  
of the LORD: for he  
\_\_\_\_\_, and they  
were created.
- He hath also stablished  
them for ever and  
\_\_\_\_\_: he hath made  
a decree which shall not  
pass.
- Praise the LORD from the  
earth, ye \_\_\_\_\_, and  
all deeps:
- Fire, and hail; snow, and  
vapours; \_\_\_\_\_ wind  
fulfilling his word:
- Mountains, and all hills;  
fruitful trees, and all  
\_\_\_\_\_:
- Beasts, and all \_\_\_\_\_;  
creeping things, and flying  
fowl:
- Kings of the earth, and all  
\_\_\_\_\_; princes, and all judges  
of the earth:
- Both young men, and \_\_\_\_\_;  
old men, and children:
- Let them praise the name of the  
LORD: for his name alone is  
excellent; his glory is above the  
earth and \_\_\_\_\_.
- He also exalteth the horn of his  
people, the \_\_\_\_\_ of all his  
saints; even of the children of  
Israel, a people near unto him.  
Praise ye the LORD.



# New Year's Eve Word Search

E	M	F	Y	M	U	S	I	C	U	I	F	S	N
I	A	N	I	I	A	I	E	Y	S	O	E	E	O
A	I	E	O	R	I	D	O	A	I	C	S	G	I
E	T	W	C	T	E	E	G	S	T	T	T	N	T
S	T	Y	M	E	D	C	H	A	H	M	I	I	C
R	E	E	A	U	L	O	R	G	O	N	V	C	E
E	F	A	S	W	L	E	I	A	A	U	I	N	L
M	N	R	K	I	N	N	B	E	C	H	T	A	F
A	O	M	D	I	D	E	T	R	C	K	I	D	E
E	C	A	O	I	T	H	H	C	A	A	E	I	R
R	Y	R	M	S	R	E	E	H	C	T	S	R	E
T	A	N	W	O	D	T	N	U	O	C	E	S	E
S	F	W	O	I	Y	T	R	A	P	O	E	B	E
E	I	R	B	A	L	L	O	O	N	S	T	N	S

FIRECRACKER  
 CHEERS  
 DANCING  
 STREAMERS  
 CONFETTI  
 REFLECTION  
 CELEBRATE  
 MIDNIGHT  
 BALLOONS  
 COUNTDOWN  
 MUSIC  
 NEW YEAR  
 HOLIDAY  
 PARTY  
 MASK  
 FESTIVITIES

