

Grace Devotion

Week of December 7, 2025

The Peaceful Kingdom

*11 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow[a] out of his roots.*

*2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

*He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,*

*4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*

*5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.*

*6 The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed[b] together,
and a little child shall lead them.*

*7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

*8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.*

*9 They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.*

(Isaiah 11:1-9 NRSVUE)

Peace: “Rest for the Weary”

Greetings of Peace,

This season always feels so rushed to me. Even if my own life doesn't feel hurried, the people around me always seem to be racing off to different events and carrying themselves with a sense of urgency (images of the white rabbit from Alice in Wonderland always comes to mind during this time). As our anticipation and plans quicken as we move through the month of December, it is more important now to find small pauses in our days. Peace slips away when we feel pulled in so many directions. So, we must intentionally make space for peace in our day. It could be a deep breath that calms and centers you when times are feeling just a little too much. Maybe it looks like taking time to intentionally share a meal with someone—forcing time to slow. Maybe it is a quiet prayer—finding peace in the chaos of the day to draw nearer to God. I hope each of you can find peace in your day. I hope that it is an intentional practice that carries over long after Advent. Find a moment in your day, in your routines, and make space for peace. Make it intentional. Move to a different location. Feel peace wash over you that you. Remember that you are not alone. Remember that God's presence is steady and sure. Remember most, that peace is possible, right here and right now.

Prayer:

God of Peace, In a world that moves too fast, help us slow down to notice You. Quiet our racing thoughts and steady our anxious hearts. Let Your peace fill the parts of us that are filled with worry. Remind us that even in the rush of life, You are near. Teach us to carry that peace everywhere we go so that through us, others can also feel Your calm and steady presence. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy



December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome/Announcements
Westminster Chimes and Prelude

**+“Joseph’s Lullaby”

#22

** Call to Worship

Lector: Our days are filled with the hustle and bustle of the season.

Congregation: Our calendars are filled with events, meetings, and deadlines.

Lector: Help us to find peace in the busyness.

Congregation: Make space within us for Your peace, that our weariness may find its rest in You.

Lector: Quiet our minds and steady our hearts.

Congregation: Let us pause, breathe, and find Your peace in the stillness.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

God of Peace, in the busyness of the holiday season, help us to find peace. As we wait in anticipation to celebrate Jesus’s birth, help quiet the noise within us and around us. Hold in the places where we feel stretched thin. Remind us that peace is found in Your presence. Be with us now, and all the moments that follow. Amen

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Peace)

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

**° Hymn: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” # 124

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord’s Prayer

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response: “Doxology”

** Prayer of Dedication

#625

Advent Statement of Faith

° Hymn: “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

#127

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 3:1-12

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Peace” Rest for the Weary

**+“Glory (Let There Be Peace)”

#23

** Final Blessing

** “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

** Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder

° Blue hymnal

Announcements

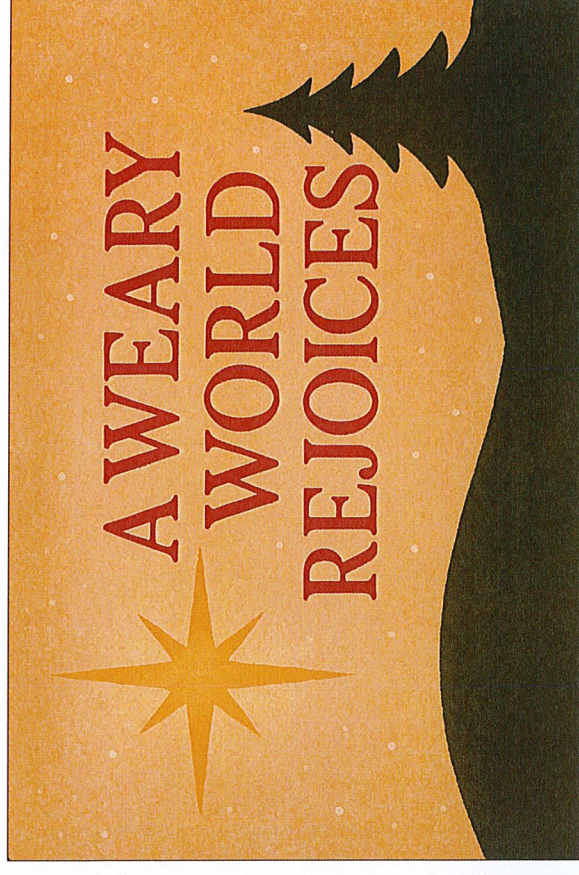
- The church will be open on Wednesdays from 11am-12pm if you would like to stop by for a quiet opportunity for prayer or stillness in the sanctuary. Pastor Amy will be available for a word of prayer or just someone to sit with in the silence.
- We will be having two Christmas Eve Services, 1st one is at 1:00 PM and the 2nd one is at 7:00 PM
- We are selling poinsettias at cost to add to the Christmas Eve decorations. The cost is \$13 for red flowers and can be In Memory or Honor of someone or for yourself or friend. The flowers may be picked up on 3 different days: December 23 at 10:00 in the Gathering Place, December 24 after the 1:00 or 7:00 Christmas Eve services, and December 28 after Sunday service. Thank you!
- Thank you for the Donations to God's Meal Barrel on Thanksgiving Eve. We raised \$312.00.
- Mitten & Hat tree in the Gathering Place. Place new gloves and hats on the tree.
- Longest Night service, Saturday Dec 20th at 7pm (For those grieving and struggling with this holiday season)

Upcoming Events

- Bible Study Group & Movie – December 10th @ 12:30 PM
- Monthly Movie – December 12th @ 3:00 PM
- Women's Ministry – Zoom Meeting on December 10th @ 7:00 PM
- Second Saturday Shares: Caroling & Cookies 1pm on Dec 13th
- Women's Ministry – December 17th @ 7:00 PM in person

Upcoming Meetings

- Consistory Meeting – December 8th @ 6:00 PM
- Staff Meeting – December 15th @ 4:30 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

Isaiah 11

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

THERE
 SHALL
 JUDGE
 REPROVE
 LOINS
 DOWN
 BEAR
 CHILD

DESTROY
 REST
 PATHROS
 EARTH
 EPHRAIM
 OBEY
 OVER
 LAND



PEOPLE WENT OUT TO HIM
FROM JERUSALEM AND
ALL JUDEA AND THE
WHOLE REGION AROUND
THE JORDAN.

- MATTHEW 3:5

Matthew 3

- WILDERNESS
- KINGDOM
- THAT
- WILD
- JERUSALEM
- JORDAN
- COME
- REPENTANCE
- RAISE
- ALSO
- BEAR
- GARNER
- UNTO
- THEE
- SUFFERED
- WATER
- FROM

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