



# GRACE

PRESBYTERIAN

# CHURCH

Sunday, December 10, 2023

**Welcome & Preparation:**

Mark Dodd

**Song of Worship:**

**Angels from the Realms of Glory**

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light;  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star;  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Saints, before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear;  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear.  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King!

**Prayer of Adoration:**

(Concluded by all saying the Lord's Prayer)

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**Silent Praise & Thanksgiving:**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Call to Worship:**

From Psalm 146

Leader: Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

**All: Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord his God, the maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them: the Lord, who remains faithful forever.**

Leader: He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those that are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous.

**All: The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. The Lord reigns forever. Praise the Lord!**

**Songs of Worship:****Joy Has Dawned**

Joy has dawned upon the world, Promised from creation—  
God's salvation now unfurled, Hope for ev'ry nation.  
Not with fanfares from above, Not with scenes of glory,  
But a humble gift of love— Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky With the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of Life Shelters in a stable.  
Hands that set each star in place, Shaped the earth in darkness,  
Cling now to a mother's breast, Vuln'erable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, Gazing at the glory;  
Gifts of men from distant lands Prophecy the story.  
Gold—a King is born today, Incense—God is with us,  
Myrrh—His death will make a way, And by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heav'n, Given as a ransom;  
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!  
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious myst'ry!  
Once a babe in Bethlehem, Now the Lord of hist'ry.

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth;  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord, Emmanuel.

**Advent Candle Lighting:** The Friedman Family (David, Maxine, Asher, Simone)

**New Members:** The Duggal Family (Michael, Mollie, Christian, and John)

**Children's Dismissal & Announcements:** Fill out our [Connection Card. www.gracehamptons.org/connect](http://www.gracehamptons.org/connect)

- **Congregational Meeting.** TODAY, December 10th, after the worship service.
- **Ladies Bible Study.** Tuesdays, 9AM-11AM. For more information, contact Lesley Middlekauff ([lesley@gracehamptons.org](mailto:lesley@gracehamptons.org))
- **GraceYouth Group Gathering.** Wednesdays, 6:30PM-8PM. We will gather at the church for some fun times and good Bible conversations. For more information, contact Lesley Middlekauff ([lesley@gracehamptons.org](mailto:lesley@gracehamptons.org)).
- **Christmas Party at the Middlekauffs'!** Saturday, December 16th, 5PM. You are invited to a Christmas Dinner Party at the Middlekauffs'! Come enjoy a wonderful meal, great company, and lots of Christmas cheer! You can come for the whole night or just stop in for a bit. Bring your spouse, friend and neighbor!
- **Christmas Carol Bingo.** Sunday, December 17th, 1:45-3PM. Come join us for a fun visit as we lead Christmas Carol Bingo for the Hamptons Center Nursing Home residents. For more information, contact Lesley Middlekauff ([lesley@gracehamptons.org](mailto:lesley@gracehamptons.org)).
- **The Retreat's Adopt-a-Family.** We are partnering with The Retreat again this year in their Adopt-a-Family program. We will be raising money to buy gift cards for families so they can purchase gifts and necessities for their families. Please consider giving to this important work. We will be collecting money until December 17th. You can give online: [gracehamptons.org/giving](http://gracehamptons.org/giving). Click "Donate", then choose "2023 Adopt-A-Family" as your fund. You can also give cash or a check with "The Retreat" on the memo line or envelope.
- **Christmas Eve Service.** Sunday, December 24th, 5PM. Join us for a special service of joy and singing!
- **The Great Escape.** Friday, January 19th to Sunday, January 21st 2024 at Lake Champion. The GraceYouth Group will be venturing off to a YoungLife Retreat Center for an amazing weekend! For more information and registration, visit [gracehamptons.org/greatescape](http://gracehamptons.org/greatescape).

**Offertory:** *To give via text, text the word "GIVE" to 833-892-6212. First time givers will have to fill out a short form with billing information. After the initial setup, giving is as easy as sending a text message.*

**Prayer of Confession:**

All: God of Grace, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. By our actions and our attitudes we praise what you condemn. Help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

**Private Confession:**

**Words of Encouragement:** Psalm 32:3-5

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.  
Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**Prayer of the People:** Dianne Henderson

**Sermon Text:** Philippians 2:1-11 Page 980

<sup>1</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Sermon:** *The Mind of Christ* Rev. Micah Bragg

**The Lord's Supper:**

**Hymn of Response:****To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born**

To us a Child of hope is born,  
To us a Son is giv'n,  
Him shall the tribes of earth obey,  
Him all the hosts of heav'n.

His Name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
Forevermore adorned,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The great and mighty Lord.

His pow'r, increasing, still shall spread,  
His reign no end shall know,  
And justice guard His throne above,  
And peace abound below.

To us a Child of hope is born,  
To us a Son is giv'n,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The mighty Lord of heav'n.

**Benediction:**

2 Peter 1:2

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

**Dismissal:**

Minister: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ.

**All: Hallelujah, Amen!**

Micah serves as the Campus Minister for RUF-I (Reformed University Fellowship International) at Columbia University where his week largely consists of meeting with skeptical international students as they explore the claims of Christianity for the first time. Micah graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary's NYC campus in 2023. He loves a good fiction book, views from tall buildings, and morning workouts at light to medium intensity level. Micah and his wife, Leila, moved to NYC in 2019 where they welcomed their own little New Yorker, Augustine, this Fall.