



GRACE

PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Welcome & Preparation: Mark Dodd

Songs of Worship: **What Child is This?**

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping.
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, This is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and an-gels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding.
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is plea-ding.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, Hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
Of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
News, glad tiding of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end;
By His life he brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Call to Worship:

Psalm 86

Leader: We will praise you, O Lord our God, with our whole hearts; we will glorify your name forever.
For you have delivered us from the power of death.

All: Bring joy to your servants, O Lord, for to you we lift up our souls. There is none like you; no deeds can compare with yours.

Leader: All the nations you have made will come and worship before you. They will bring glory to your name, for you alone are God.

All: Teach us now your way, O Lord, and we will live in your truth. Give us undivided hearts that we may fear and praise your great name.

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:

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5

Aimee Astarita

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Songs of Worship: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
An angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.
"Fear not," said he for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind,
To you and all mankind."

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

"To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
"The heav'nly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All simply wrapped in swaddling clothes and in a manger laid,
And in a manger laid."

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:
"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
To those on whom his favor rests goodwill shall never cease,
Goodwill shall never cease."

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Advent Candle Lighting:

Thursday Night Men's 201 GraceGroup (David Bennett, Nate Burns,
Rob Gallo, Joshua Huizing, Alden Kinder, Jim Kinnier, Nathan Ludlow,
Kevin Ryndfleisz, Greg Tietjen)

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

- **Christmas Party at the Middlekauffs'!** TODAY, 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! 14 Ocean View Parkway, Southampton, NY 11968
- **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 16th. You can give online: gracehamptons.org/giving. Click "Donate", then choose "2024 Adopt-A-Family" as your fund. You can also give cash or a check with "The Retreat" on the memo line or envelope.

- **GraceYouth Senior High Gatherings.** The 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 7PM. High school students are invited to the Middlekauff home for some great times and Bible discussion. For more information, contact Lesley Middlekauff (lesleym@gracehamptons.org).
- **Ladies Bible Study.** Tuesdays, 9AM. Dive into God's Word and enjoy weekly fellowship! For more information, contact Lesley Middlekauff (lesleym@gracehamptons.org).
- **GraceYouth Group Gathering: White Elephant Exchange Party.** Wednesday, December 18th, 6:30PM-8PM. Bring a gift to exchange wrapped up or in a bag. It can be silly, cute, useful, fun, whatever! For more information, contact Lesley Middlekauff (lesleym@gracehamptons.org).
- **Christmas Celebration Service.** Sunday, December 22nd, 10AM. Share in the joy as we celebrate Christmas together!
- **Christmas Eve Service.** Tuesday, December 24th, 5PM. Join us for a special service of joy and singing!
- **Little Free Pantry.** Our LFP gets regular and consistent use and so our supplies are once again severely depleted. Please consider donating items to help us regularly re-stock the pantry. Visit gracehamptons.org/LFP to find our [Amazon link](#) to order supplies and have them shipped straight to Grace Church!
- **End-of-Year Giving Goal.** As of December 10th, we have received \$22,770 towards our year end goal of \$142,000. We are 16% of the way there. We have a little more than two weeks left to reach our goal before the end of the year! You can give online by visiting gracehamptons.org/giving or texting "give" to 833-892-6212. If you wish to support Grace Church with gifts of stock or other securities, email Adriana Pariz (adriana@gracehamptons.org).

Offertory: *To give via text, text the word "GIVE" to [833-892-6212](tel: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:

Gracious Lord, we confess that we dishonor you in our words, thoughts and deeds. Depending on our strength, we stumble. Glorifying in our own righteousness, we reject you. Turning our faces from you, we desire the things of this world to satisfy us.

We pray now, Lord, for you to forgive all of our many sins; to cleanse the darkness from our lives, and to turn our faces and our hearts back towards you. We pray these things in the name of your most precious son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Private Confession:

Words of Encouragement: Psalm 130:3-4

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

Prayer of the People: Silvia Mendez

Sermon Series: *1 Corinthians: Christ's Church Alive in the Gospel*

¹² “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³ “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Sermon:

Glorifying God in Our Bodies

Rev. Mark Middlekauff

The Lord’s Supper:

Hymn of Response:

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’rable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
 Gazing at the glory;
 Gifts of men from distant lands
 Prophesy 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.

Benediction:

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!
Amen.

Dismissal:

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

All: Hallelujah, Amen!