

Grace United Church of Christ



Sunday, December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent
11:00 a.m.

Call to Worship
Sunday, December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent
God with Us

Welcome! It is a pleasure to have you with us this morning.

This morning we will use the New Century Hymnal (NCH) and the green Worship & Song hymnal (W&S)

We Gather

Prelude "Variations on 'Winchester New'" Jonas Dawson
Bartholomäus Crassellius

Welcome *Please sign the red Friendship Book in your pew.*

Call of the Engelbrecht Memorial Bell

Choir Introit "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Grace Choir
Plainsong, adapt. Thomas Helmore (1854), arr. Lloyd Larson

*Call to Worship

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**P: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Israel.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

L: Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see;

P: Have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.

L: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

*Opening Hymn "Lo How a Rose Eer Blooming" NCH # 127

*Opening Prayer

Passing the Peace

Lighting the Advent Candle

L: We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace

P: May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

L: May the peace of Christ reign in our hearts and minds

P: We eagerly await the arrival of the King of Glory.

(Light the Candle)

Sung Response:

“We Light the Advent Candles”
(verse 4)

Insert

Choral Anthem

"We Await You"
Ruth Elaine Schram

Grace Choir

We Listen

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

John Brehmer

*Sequence Hymn

“Wait for the Lord”

W&S # 3049

*Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Rev. Rob Apgar-Taylor

Children’s Message

Carol Garrison

Following the Children’s Message, Kindergarten through 5th graders are invited to the fellowship hall for Children’s Church; a time of Bible lessons, crafts, songs and fun activities. For children 5 years and younger, our Nursery is available during the worship service.

Sermon

“Accident or Surprise”

Rev. Rob Apgar-Taylor

We Respond

Prayers of the People

Call for Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"Greensleeves", arr. Chip Davis

Jonas Dawson

*Offertory Prayer

* The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

We are Sent

Announcements

*A Closing Christmas Prayer by Laurence Hull Stookey (in unison)

**Eternal God,
by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world.
Grant that, being born in our hearts,
he may save us from all our sins,
and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator,
to whom be everlasting praise and glory,
world without end. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

"Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear"

NCH #105

*Benediction

Ringing of the Engelbrecht Memorial Bell

*Choral Benediction

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Grace Choir

Plainsong, adapt. Thomas Helmore (1854), arr. Lloyd Larson

*Postlude

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"
Swedish Melody, arr. Lani Smith

Jonas Dawson

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The yellow rose on the altar is presented by the Altar Guild in memory of deceased war veterans and in honor of those who have served our country, as well as those currently on active duty.

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**WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!**

We are delighted that you joined us for worship this morning. Please be sure to sign the red Friendship Book in your pew. If you have any difficulty hearing the service, one of our ushers can provide you with a hearing assistance device. We also have large print bulletins and hymnals available.

Children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us for Children's Church - a time of Bible lessons, crafts, songs and other fun activities. We leave the Sanctuary following the Children's Message. For children 5 years and younger, our Nursery is available during the worship service. Following the worship service, please join us for fellowship.

***Welcome to Grace Church!***

## GRACE UCC WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

God with Us

9:45 AM Christian Educ.

11:00 AM Worship

7:00 PM Advent/Christmas  
Service in German



\*Monday, December 23

\*Tuesday, December 24 — 7:30PM  
*Christmas Eve Service*

\*Wednesday, December 25  
*Christmas Day*

\*Thursday, December 26 — 4-9PM  
*2019 Candlelight Tour of  
Historic Houses of Worship*

\*Friday, December 27

Saturday, December 28

### Sunday, December 29

First Sunday of Christmas

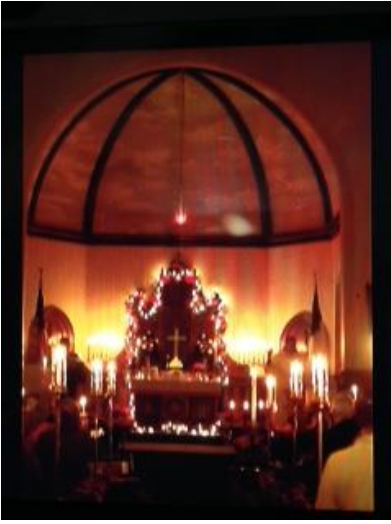
Cosmic Praise

9:45 AM Christian Educ.

11:00 AM Worship

Following Worship: December Birthday Celebration

**\*The Church Office will be closed from mid-day Monday, Dec 23 through Wednes, Jan 1. Church Office will re-open on Thurs, Jan 2.**



Thursday, December 26 — 4-9PM

*2019 Candlelight Tour of  
Historic Houses of Worship*

*Grace Church will once more open its doors to the public as part of this year's annual Candlelight Church Tour. This year's Tour will feature the Terry Sparks Studio Candlelight Recital, the One God*

*~ One Voice Community Choir, and the Grace UCC Choir!*

- 4-5 PM Terry Sparks Studio Candlelight Recital
- 5-6 PM One God ~ One Voice Community Choir
- 6:15 PM Caroling from the Grace UCC Choir
- 7:15 PM Caroling from the Grace UCC Choir
- 8-9 PM Hymn Sing led by members of Grace UCC Choir



## Daily Bible Reading



### **Sunday, December 22, 2019:**

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

### **Monday, December 23, 2019:**

Luke 1:46b-55; 2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29;  
Galatians 3:6-14

### **Tuesday, December 24 & 25, 2019:**

Nativity of the Lord - Proper I  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

### **Tuesday, December 24 & 25, 2019:**

Nativity of the Lord - Proper II  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

### **Tuesday, December 24 & 25, 2019:**

Nativity of the Lord - Proper III  
Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)

John 1:1-14

### **Thursday, December 26, 2019:**

Psalm 148; Wisdom 4:7-15; Acts 7:59-8:8

### **Friday, December 27, 2019:**

Psalm 148; Proverbs 8:22-31; 1 John 5:1-12

### **Saturday, December 28, 2019:**

Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:13-23; Matthew 18:1-14

### **Sunday, December 29, 2019:**

First Sunday after Christmas Day  
Isaiah 63:7-9  
Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

### **Monday, December 30, 2019:**

Psalm 20; Isaiah 26:1-9; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

### **Tuesday, December 31, 2019:**

Psalm 20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19



## The Christmas Fund Special Offering

Collected throughout December



This December, please consider donating to The Christmas Fund, a special offering being collected during the holiday season. This annual offering provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers, lay employees, and their surviving spouses. Funds donated to The Christmas Fund are used for pension and health insurance premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas “Thank You” checks.

(Christmas Fund purple offering envelopes are available in bulletins, pews, and narthex.)



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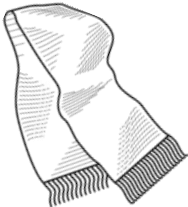
## CARING & SHARING PRAYER LIST

The following are members and friends of our church family who are currently ill, hospitalized, or home-bound. ***Please keep them in your prayers and perhaps send a note or a card.*** If you know of anyone who should be added to this list, please contact the church office at [admin@crucc.com](mailto:admin@crucc.com)

|                  |                                                                              |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Millie Davis     | 801 Pine Ave., Frederick, MD 21701                                           |
| Joe Free         | Citizens Nursing & Rehab Center                                              |
| Miriam Himes     | Edenton, Orchard Terrace, 5905 Edenton Court, Room #705, Frederick, MD 21702 |
| Charlotte Hoover | 7404 Willow Road, Nursing at Meadows, Frederick, MD 21702                    |
| Pam Kehne        | 1632 Wall Dr., Pasadena, MD 21122                                            |
| Betty Linton     | Sunrise Senior Living 990 Waterford Dr., Unit 206, Frederick, MD 21702       |

*Please note that hospitals are no longer permitted to contact churches on behalf of their patients. If you know of a church member who is hospitalized, please inform the church office. If you or a family member is hospitalized in an emergency situation, please call Pastor Rob at 240-217-2767.*

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### Do you get a little chilly in church?

Please know that there are hand-made shawls available for you to use as you need. They are spread throughout the sanctuary. Please ask an usher if you don't see one near you. Many thanks to Pam Marshall for this idea and for making the shawls!



## DID YOU KNOW...

***Grace UCC has a YouTube channel!***



**Watch our Sermons and Choir on**

**YouTube @ *GraceLiveFrederick***

Videos are normally posted weekly and ready to view by Sunday Evening.

View our sermons and choir anthems on YouTube.

Just search on Youtube or on Google for GraceLiveFrederick.

**Please take time to subscribe!**

***Join the GraceLiveFrederick Team!***

**When we reach 100 subscribers we get additional features.**



### **Sanctuary Audio/Video Project Update**

We continue our work towards completing our AV system installation the goal of being able to provide in-service projection on the wall, and live streaming to the internet.

At the moment **ONLY** the sermon and the anthems are being posted on the internet. Any change in this will be clearly

communicated.

### **Please consider joining the Grace AV Team!**

We need both system operators and individuals to discuss privacy and policy, and to help brainstorm ideas to grow our digital footprint!

If you are interested please speak with Mark Edwards or mail [mse103@mac.com](mailto:mse103@mac.com)



## *Grace United Church of Christ*

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
25 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701  
301-662-3312 ~ Office Hours: 9AM-3PM/M-F  
[admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com) ~ [www.grucc.com](http://www.grucc.com)

Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor, Pastor

[pastorrob@grucc.com](mailto:pastorrob@grucc.com)

Jessica Townsley, Youth Minister

[jessica.townsley@ctschicago.edu](mailto:jessica.townsley@ctschicago.edu)

Jonas Dawson, Director of Music

[music@grucc.com](mailto:music@grucc.com)

James Taylor, Bell Choir Director

[bells@grucc.com](mailto:bells@grucc.com)

Taylor Whidden, Nicola Sussman, Donald Toms & James Taylor,  
Choir Section Leaders

Tammy Eyler, Nursery Attendant

[eyler32@gmail.com](mailto:eyler32@gmail.com)

Mat Lutman, Caretaker

[trainhouse13@gmail.com](mailto:trainhouse13@gmail.com)

Sarah Petermann, Church Admin

[admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com)

### SUNDAY WORSHIP – 11:00 AM

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

#### **Sunday, December 22, 2019**

Scripture Reader: John Brehmer

Children's Message: Carol Garrison

Children's Church: Colleen Street

Altar Guild: Elizabeth Damazo

#### **Sunday, December 29, 2019**

Scripture Reader: Vonnie Crum

Children's Message: Pastor Rob

Children's Church:

Altar Guild: Karen Kehoe

*If you would like to serve as a greeter, or host fellowship time after worship,  
please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Good Shepherd Room.*

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

