

Grace United Church of Christ



**First Sunday of Christmas
The Feast of St. Stephen
Sunday, December 26th, 2021
Worship Service**

We Gather

10:45am Pre Live Stream Video Loop

Prelude “Good King Wenceslas”, from *Piae Cantiones*
(1582), arr. James Pethel

(During our prelude, please take your seat and enjoy the music as we center ourselves for worship and invite God’s presence into our hearts.)

Welcome

Ringling of the Bell

Preparing our Hearts for Worship

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 147)

L: Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

P: The LORD builds up Jerusalem and gathers the outcasts of Israel. God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

L: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; whose understanding is beyond measure.

P: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

L: The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear God, in those who hope in God’s steadfast love.

All: Praise the LORD!

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
As you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

2 Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of Nations;
guided by Christ's natal star: [Refrain]

4 Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly, your prayers attending,
Christ beside you shall appear. [Refrain]

*Opening Prayer

* Passing the Peace

(Let us pass the peace with a Covid-Friendly smile, wave or some other sign of Christ's love)

Special Music	“Listen to the Angels”, arr. Mark Hayes	
First Reading	Acts 7: 54-60	
Sequence Hymn	Away in a Manger	#124

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; protect me, I pray,
and stay by my side until night turns to day.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Gospel	John 1: 1-18
--------	--------------

Children’s Sermon

Sermon	Everybody Must Get Stoned!
--------	----------------------------

We Respond

Pastoral 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

Closing Prayer

Blessing

Closing Hymn

Angels we Have Heard on High

#125

(See Next Page for Lyrics)

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee,
God, our world now entering. [Refrain]

4 See the babe in manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angles praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise. [Refrain]

Dismissal

Postlude

“Fanfare-Postlude on ‘All My Heart This Night Rejoices’”,
Johann George Ebeling, arr. Matthew McConnell (b. 1980)

~~~~~

*Grace goes LIVE!*

*Please know that today's service is being live-streamed for those who can not worship with us in person. **If you prefer NOT to be in the live stream video, please sit in pews behind the center pillars.***

~~~~~

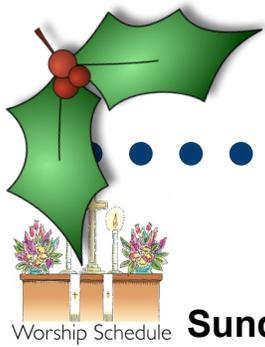
*The children's moment will be on camera as well.
If you would like your child NOT to be on camera,
please speak to our AV team or an usher.*

~~~~~

*(Note: Communion and the offering will NOT be live-streamed for privacy reasons.)*

~~~~~

*Today's Special Music was brought to you by
our Quartet Performers!
We Appreciate You!*



Grace UCC Updates



THIS WEEK AT GRACE:

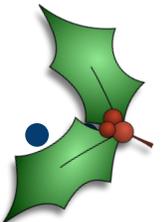
- Sunday 12/26:** 11:00 AM - Worship Service
- Wednesday 12/29:** 7:00 PM - Grace Book Club (Zoom)
- Friday 12/31:** New Years Eve
- Saturday 1/01:** New Years Day— Welcome 2022!
- Sunday 1/02:** 11:00 AM - Worship Service

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Children's Church stopped during the height of the pandemic, but its time to restart it for kids grades 1-5. Videos, Music, Bible Lessons and snacks are a great way to spend time during the service. Kids leave after the children's moment and return for the closing hymn. Its about 25-30 minutes each week. We need YOU to help take turns leading this important ministry. It will hopefully not be more than once every 4-5 weeks. All the resources are



provided. Talk to Kelly or Pastor Rob to know more!
(Personal Note: We are trying very hard to grow the children's ministry, but it can't happen without help. Please do consider being a part of this important ministry!)





Grace Youth Group Snow Tubing!!



On **Monday, January 17th**, (Martin Luther King Day) we will be going tubing at Liberty Mountain! All Youth grades 6-12 are invited to join us! Price is \$35 per person. Invite a friend to join us! RSVP to admin@grucc.com so we have enough tickets.

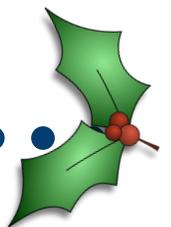
Come Join us!



A huge thanks to Tony Hemler and Careen Walker who spent so much time decorating around Church this Advent. The Sanctuary looks amazing as usual and even the upstairs is decorated!



Many thanks to those who gave money and gift cards for the San Mar Family Services Christmas Drive We raised \$350.00 and that money will go to buy gift cards for kids in need. Awesome!





GRACE UCC ANNUAL COAT & SOCK DRIVE

We will begin collecting new warm socks and new, or gently used, winter coats!! The coats & socks will be collected in our Collection Boxes and provide them for the homeless community.



Grace United Church of Christ

Winter
Mission Project



Coats

& Socks

DRIVE



Please donate:

- * **New or gently used men's and women's coats**
- * **New socks (unisex, white or black)**
- * **Other warm articles of clothing**



Collection box will be outside on Sunday mornings and
M-F: 10AM to 3PM at the west-side door (left side of church).

Questions? Contact admin@grucc.com.

~Thank you for your continued generosity!



Grace United Church of Christ



An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701

301-662-3312 ~ Office Hours: 9AM-3PM/M-F

Admin@grucc.com ~ www.grucc.com

Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor, Pastor

Pastorrob@grucc.com

Jonas Dawson, Director of Music

Music@grucc.com

James Taylor, Bell Choir Director

Bells@grucc.com

Choir Section Leaders: James Taylor, Taylor Whidden,

Jennie Huntoon, & Donald Toms

Joan Princler, Nursery Attendant

Joan.dancer@comcast.net

Mat Lutman, Caretaker

Trainhouse13@gmail.com

Careen Walker, Church Admin

Admin@grucc.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 11:00 AM — Virtual

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgist: Leo DeValoes

Children's Message: Pastor Rob

Children's Church: N/A

Altar Guild: N/A

*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**

