

**Gran-Park-Rollag Parish and Living Grace Lutheran Church**  
***In ministry partnership since 2017***

***Gran-Park-Rollag Parish***

*3 Churches – 1 Ministry: Energized by God  
To celebrate, share & show God's love*  
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***Living Grace Lutheran Church***

*A worshipping community of the ELCA focused on  
making known God's love and grace by:  
Welcoming Everyone, Sharing Jesus' story,  
Growing in faith and Serving beyond ourselves.*  
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***Thursday, December 24, 2020***  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight**  
**Holy Communion Service**

***Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher, Pr. Jim Greene, and  
Andrea Keene; Music Provided by: Pam Aakre,  
Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute;  
Sam Helgeson, Trumpet; Olivia Peterson, Piano;  
and Greta Brager, Guitar and Voice***



Welcome to the Living Grace and GPR Parish  
Christmas Eve Holy Communion Worship Service. We invite you to gather communion  
elements (bread/crackers, wine/juice) and a candle or Advent Wreath to light during the  
service.

**Prelude: *Once in Royal David's City***

**Pam Aakre, Piano**

**Welcome/Announcements**

• ***Notes about today's service:***

- *A Large print bulletin is available on our websites for you to use during worship.*
- *During our service, we have the following supplies reading:*
  - *Bread/crackers and wine/juice available for partaking in Virtual Holy Communion.*
  - *A candle or five candles – to represent the four Sundays of Advent and the Christ Candle (which will be lit on Christmas Eve/Day).*
- *Music provided by Pam Aakre and Pr. Hope Deutscher; Sam Helgeson, Trumpet; Olivia Peterson, Piano; and Greta Brager, Voice and Guitar*

**Opening Dialogue and Lighting of the Christ Candle Litany**

On this holy night, we light the Christ Candle in our Advent wreath as we come to behold the Christ Child, born of Mary.

We come to see God's promises fulfilled: the Savior, who is the Son of God.  
Because Christ has been born, people who walked in darkness now live in great light.  
Because Christ has been born, we respond in wonder:  
with the angels, we sing glory to God; with the shepherds, we share the good news; with  
Mary, we ponder the words of this night; and the Word that has come into the world:  
Immanuel, God with us.

*The four Advent candles representing Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace are lit.  
In addition, we also light the Christ Candle.*

Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the world!  
For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.  
In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.  
Rejoice, for God is with us – Emmanuel.  
In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.  
In this indescribable gift, God gives us hope, love, joy and peace.  
God is truly with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

**Hymn: *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW #283 / LBW #45)**

**Pam Aakre, Piano; Sam Helgeson, Trumpet**

**Verse 1:** *Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him Born the King of angels.*

**Refrain:** *Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

**Verse 3:** Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: REFRAIN

**Verse 4:** Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: REFRAIN

**Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, quiet our minds from our wrestling thoughts. Help us to focus on the light  
which shines through our darkness and despair to show us a better way. Guide us from the  
manger through the empty tomb and into a life of compassion for all people. Amen.

**Children's Message**

**Andrea Keene**

*(All lights are dimmed – DARKNESS except altar candles,  
Christmas tree and Advent wreath candles.)*

**THE PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH**

**Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

**Reader: Pr. Jim Greene**

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of  
David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**John 1:1-2, 4-5****Reader: Pr. Jim Greene**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**THE COMING OF JESUS IS ANNOUNCED TO MARY AND JOSEPH****Luke 1: 26-38****Reader: Pr. Hope Deutscher**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>[c]</sup> will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Matthew 1:18-25****Reader: Pastor Hope Deutscher**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;<sup>[b]</sup> and he named him Jesus.

*(The Gabriel large yellow jar candle --- Mary and Joseph blue candles are lighted as the scripture is read.)*

**THE PREPARATION FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS****Luke 2:1-5****Reader: Brent Helgeson**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

**Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem ( ELW 279 / LBW 41)**

**Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute**

**Verse 1:**     *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.*

**JESUS IS BORN**

**Luke 2:6-7**

**Reader: Jeramie Peterson**

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Hymn: Away in a Manger (ELW 277 / LBW 67)     Olivia Peterson, Piano**

**Verse 1:**     *Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.*

(While congregation sings, the Baby Jesus white votive candle is lighted.)

**JESUS' BIRTH IS ANNOUNCED TO THE SHEPHERDS**

**Luke 2:9-14**

**Reader: Jeramie Peterson**

<sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**Hymn: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (ELW 282 / LBW 54)**

**Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute**

**Verse 1:**     *It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav'ns all gracious king.  
The world is solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.*

(While the congregation sings, the angel remaining yellow candles are lighted.)

**Hymn: The First Noel (ELW 300 / LBW 56)**

**Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute**

**Verse 1:**     *The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

(While the congregation sings, the shepherd green candles are lighted.)

## THE SHEPHERDS FIND THE BABY JESUS

Reader: Sam Helgeson

### Luke 2:15-18

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

## THE WISE MEN BRING THEIR GIFTS TO JESUS

Reader: Brent Helgeson

### Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

### Hymn: *We Three Kings* (WOV 646)

Sam Helgeson, Trumpet

**Verse 1:** *We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

**Refrain:** *Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

(While the congregation sings, the wise men purple candles are lighted.)

### Meditation: Pr. Jim Greene

## WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

### *Offertory: O Holy Night Pam Aakre, Piano*

*Thank you for remembering the importance of continuing to Tithe your financial gifts. You can mail your offering to your church or give through [Tithe.ly](http://Tithe.ly) online (mobile and online option) or by mail. Visit [livinggracehawley.org](http://livinggracehawley.org) or [qprparish.org](http://qprparish.org) for specific information.*

### Offering Prayer

Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**Hymn: *What Child Is This?* (ELW 296 / LBW 40)**

**Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute**

**Verse 3:** So, bring him incense, gold and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation bring; 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!

**Virtual Holy Communion**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in the remembrance of me.

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.

**Communion Music: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270 / LBW 60)**

**Pam Aakre, Piano; Sam Helgeson, Trumpet**

*During the hymn we invite you to share in Holy Communion with the members of your household.*

**Verse 1:** *Hark! The Herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

**Refrain:** *Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

**Verse 3:** *Hail the heav'n 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 we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. REFRAIN*

**TRANSITION TO THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT**

**John 1:1-5**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**John 14:1-6 – *Jesus the Way to the Father***

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

## **Matthew 28:16-20 – The Commissioning of the Disciples**

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

### **PASSING OF THE LIGHT**

**Hymn: *Silent Night* (ELW 281 / LBW 65)**

**Greta Brager, Voice and Guitar**

- Verse 1:**     *Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*
- Verse 2:**     *Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at this sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly host sign Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!*
- Verse 3:**     *Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

### **BENEDICTION**

**Hymn: *Go Tell It On The Mountain* (ELW 290 / LBW 70)**

**Pam Aakre, Piano; Sam Helgeson, Trumpet**

- Refrain:**     *Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'ry-where;  
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!*
- Verse 1:**     *While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. REFRAIN*
- Verse 2:**     *The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. REFRAIN*
- Verse 3:**     *Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. REFRAIN*