

Grace

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Grace United Church of Christ

January 2, 2022

Rev. Joyce Wealand, Minister

Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Epiphany Sunday

* When a portion of the service is preceded with an *, you are invited to stand in body and/or spirit.

Words printed in bold are an invitation for you to join in the spoken or sung response.

PRELUDE

In His Time - Ball

CHURCH FAMILY UPDATES

***WORDS OF WELCOME**

Leader: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

People: **In this safe space, may God grant us the vision to see the Holy in each other and the Holy in ourselves.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Children are precious to God.
The child Samuel grew in God's favor and the child Jesus grew likewise.

People: For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all!

Leader: Older adults and elders are precious to God. Young and old together praise God's name.

People: For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all!

Leader: Creation is precious to God:
cedars, mountains, snow & frost, shining stars.

People: For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all!

***GATHERING PRAYER**

People: Creator God, you are worthy to be
praised.

You have created

“Rulers of the earth and all peoples,
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!”

You made them to be together
in a good creation that provides for
them, a world covered in

“Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!”

All of life is connected by your design.

We give you thanks for creating all of
us, invaluable. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

People: God's Word came to God's own people,
and the people did not accept the Word.

Leader: We do not accept you, our Sovereign
Christ.

We cannot abide by your commandments.
We do not know how to love you, our
neighbors, or ourselves.

People: **God's Word came to God's own people,
and the people did not accept the Word.**

Leader: We do not accept you, Ruler of Peace.
We wage war on the most vulnerable.
In ourselves we wage war on vulnerability
itself.

People: **God's Word came to God's own people,
and the people did not accept the Word.**

Leader: We do not accept you, Light of the World.
We block your light shining in us, putting
barriers between us: - racism,
sexism, ableism, ageism.
We are caught in systems beyond our
control.

People: **Holy Word of God, call us to yourself
once again.**

(Moment of silence and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF BLESSING

A GIFT OF MUSIC Boy Jesus in the Temple - DeFrango

SACRED TEXT Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 NRSV

CENTERING HYMN

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

SACRED TEXT Luke 2:41-52 NRSV

REFLECTION

SUNG RESPONSE

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,**

**We your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever, Now and evermore.**

INVITATION TO FAITHFUL SHARING

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

***DEDICATION OF GIFTS**

**People: Just as you, Holy God, crossed every
conceivable barrier by taking on flesh
and teaching on behalf of the outcast
and poor, we are called to respond in
kind by your grace. May the gifts
offered today truly aid your work of
reconciliation and peace in our world.
Amen.**

MORNING PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

**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. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN O God of Love, O God of Peace**

***WORDS OF SENDING AND PEACE**

***SENDING RESPONSE**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing #76 v1 TNCH
Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith
confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
The fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
To work for God's realm and to answer the call.

POSTLUDE

I Love Your Grace - Founds

Portions of the service have been adapted from: from Life In Liturgy, **Love has no Bounds: Prayers for the First Sunday after Christmas**, and **Grace Upon Grace: Prayers for the Second Sunday after Christmas** - written by Stephanie Dorsey, chaplain resident at York Hospital in York, PA



Live stream can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/gracetown/live>

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday:	7pm	Catching Our Spiritual Breath on Zoom
Tuesday:	9am-noon	Tuesday Crew meets here to do work on our building and grounds. You are welcome to join in!
Wednesday:	9am-noon	Office Hours
	10am	Yoga in the Family Activity Center
Friday	9am-noon	Office Hours
Sunday	9:15am	Adult Sunday School
		Café Conversations with Pastor Joyce in HeBrews Café

WORSHIP LEADERS

Our acolyte this morning is **Robyn Melvin** and **Linda Skeggs** is helping lead worship as our liturgist.

Dave Forman, Mike Pirogowicz, Paul Sodergren, and **Jim Lynn** serve as our Livestream and Sanctuary Technicians and **Tom DeFrange** serves as musician and accompanist.