



[www/cambridge-news.co.uk](http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk)

MERRY, MERRY, QUITE CONTRARY

Vision

Transforming lives through God's grace

Mission

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we grow disciples of Jesus Christ to love our neighbours and effect social change.

Minister

The Rev. Dr. M. Jean Morris
Associate Minister, Pastoral Care

Musicians

Susan Woodward, Music Director
Donna Holoboff, Organist



Grace Presbyterian Church
Transforming lives through God's grace

Order of Worship

* *Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude Christmas Carols *Diane Valentine, violin; Jeff Plotnick, violin;
Theresa Plotnick, viola; Danise Ferguson, cello*
Variations on D'où viens-tu, bergère R.H. Haan

*Entry of the Bible *Henrietta Van Huigenbos*

*Introit On Christmas Night English Carol, arr. R. V. Williams

*Call to Worship

***Processional Hymn 166, Once in Royal David's City**

Prayer

Isaiah 9:2-7

Zoe Say

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Luke 1:46-53

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

Hymn 139, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (seated)

Isaiah 11:1-6

Bruce Cameron

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

Matthew 1:18-25

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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

***Hymn 155, 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime**

Micah 5:2-5

Kelly Christopher

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

Anthem Christmas Joy!

Traditional Carols, arr. P. Kern

Natalie DeJong, trumpet; Mary Sullivan, flute; Douglas Umana, French horn

Lighting of the Christ Candle (*see insert*)

Andy, Harle, and Lexie Burnett

Hymn 149, Away in a Manger (*seated*)

Isaiah 52:6-7

Caro Smith

Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore on that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.

Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

***Hymn 157, The Snow Lay On the Ground**

Numbers 24:17-19

Ngath Diok

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near—a star shall come out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the borderlands of Moab, and the territory of all the Shethites. Edom will become a possession, Seir a possession of its enemies, while Israel does valiantly. One out of Jacob shall rule, and destroy the survivors of Ir.’

Matthew 2:1-2

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.’

***Hymn 173, We Three Kings**

Sermon **MERRY, MERRY, QUITE CONTRARY**

Anthem **Glory to God in the Highest**

G.B. Pergolesi

Soloists: Mariko Johnson and Heather-Rose Locken

Offering (envelope in box on pew in front)

Altes Weihnachtslied

F. Liszt

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: HYMN 161, What Child Is This, verse 3**

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.

*Offertory Prayer

Rob McDonald

A Christmas Prayer

Roberto DeSandoli

***Hymn 153, Joy To The World**

Genesis 1:1-4

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

***Hymn 154, Silent Night**

*Benediction

Postlude Christmas, Rejoice

G.F. Handel/W.I. Nevins; arr. J. Innes

Welcome to Grace Church

To Visitors with Children

We are thankful for the presence of infants and children in our sanctuary, though if you wish, nursery care is available for children age 3 and younger. An usher can lead you to the Nursery at any time.

Grace Church is seeking a Nursery Caregiver Supervisor to ensure loving care for children through to age 3 on Sunday mornings. This is a paid position and interested candidates should contact Cindy Stephenson at cindys@gracecalgary.org.

2018 Offering Envelopes are available in the Family Room following today's worship service. If you require custom envelopes, please contact Cindi Banman in the church office at cindib@gracecalgary.org or 403.244.5861.

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, December 31

10:30 am

Preaching: Roberto DeSandoli

Trio: Mariko Johnson, Heather-Rose Locken, Dan Pyper

Sunday, January 7, 2018

10:30 am

Preaching: Jean Morris

7:00 pm

Preaching: Roberto DeSandoli

Phone: 403-244-5861

Website: www.gracechurchcalgary.com

Email: office@gracecalgary.org

Twitter/Facebook: @calgarygrace