

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2, 2007

8:45 a.m.



GATHERING PRAISE

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Cristaldawn Perry & the Youth of Grace

Leader: Now the season of hope begins to unfold; today, we light the first Advent candle as a symbol of our faith and trust in God's promises.

People: **We gather as a people of hope; even in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we have great hope.**

Leader: This one candle casts its light into the darkness. It reminds us to stay awake, for the Promised One will come to us at an unexpected hour!

Lighting of the Candle of Hope

All: **Holy God, guide us from the night of our hopelessness and lead us with joy toward the dawning of your New Day. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

BOWING BEFORE GOD IN 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; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Romans 13:8-14

SERMON

"Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?"

CELEBRATION SONG

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

The Lord's Supper

BLESSING

DEPARTING IN FAITH AND HOPE

All songs projected by permission: CCLI # 945944

Today we use *The Presbyterian Hymnal (blue)*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CHIMES

The Congregation Stands

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Watch! Wait! The day of God is at hand!

People: God's possibilities are about to blossom!

Leader: Stay awake! The reign of God is very near!

People: Let us wake from sleep to welcome our salvation.

Leader: Let us watch for the One who makes all things new.

All: Come, let us worship the God of Light and Love!

GLORIA #579

GREATOREX

The Congregation is Seated

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

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Lighting of the Candle of Hope

All: Holy God, guide us from the night of our hopelessness and lead us with joy toward the dawning of your New Day. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

*Choir: Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: O God, you call us to wake from our spiritual slumber and live in the light of your love;

People: But we'd rather stay asleep.

Leader: You call us to open our eyes to all you are doing around us;

People: But we close our eyes and wonder where you are.

Leader: Forgive us, Most Holy God, forgive us.

People: Forgive us, O Lord Christ, forgive us.

One: Wake us to the dawning of your new day and clothe us in the radiance of your Bright and Morning Star.

All: Amen.

A Time for Silent Prayers of Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Rejoice and be glad, for God comes to us!
In the name of Emmanuel, God-with-us, I declare to you
that our sins are forgiven.

All: **Our sins are forgiven! Our future is bright with hope.
Alleluia! Amen.**

The Congregation Stands

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

GLORIA

(To the tune of "Angels We Have Heard On High")

**Sing Hosanna all the earth,
God will come on earth to live.
Praise the One whose coming birth
heals all wounds and will forgive.
Glo--ria, in excelsis Deo.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

(The people greet fellow worshippers with the peace of Christ)

The Congregation is Seated

GATHERING HYMN #2 (stanza 1)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

CHILDREN IN THE CHANCEL

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 2:1-5

ANTHEM

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Romans 13:8-14

SERMON "Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?"

The Congregation Stands

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed (traditional, hymnal, p. 14)

The Congregation is Seated

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Offertory

The Congregation Stands

Doxology #592

OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication

The Congregation is Seated

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Minister: It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for even when the whole earth is thrown into chaos your tenderness and lasting love are our sure hope.

People: You created the heavens and the earth, and though even they will pass away, the words you have spoken to us are an everlasting covenant of promise.

Minister: The words of your son, Jesus Christ, shook the earth and opened our eyes to your coming reign. He led us in the paths of your truth and taught us your ways of faithful love.

People: He was crucified by the enemies of justice, but you raised him to new life and sent his Spirit to restore and strengthen our faith as the day of redemption draws near.

Minister: Your promise will be fulfilled in coming days when Christ comes on the clouds to establish your reign of justice and righteousness forever.

People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ! By dying you destroyed our death, by rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory!

Minister: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place.

Holy Lord, in the multitude of your mercies, hear our prayers for..... Grant them wholeness in body, mind and spirit. Comfort those who grieve. May your peace and reconciliation triumph over bitterness and hatred – both in this place and in every place.

People: Renew us in hope that we may be awake and alert, ever watching for the glorious return of Jesus, our Lord.

Minister: Holy Lord Christ, hear the prayers that we offer in your name and hear us now as we pray the prayer you taught your first disciples:

People: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PARTAKING OF THE BREAD

(Worshippers will be served at their places in the congregation. You may pass the bread to your neighbor with the words: "The bread of heaven." Please hold the bread so that we may eat together.)

Minister: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life: those who come to me will never be hungry."

People: Lord, give us this bread forever. Amen.

PARTAKING OF THE WINE

(When the cup is passed you may drink when served, then place the empty cup in the holder in the chair in front of you. You may pass the wine to your neighbor with the words, "The cup of salvation.")

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (UNISON)

Most Holy God, we thank you for feeding us with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Grant that by this holy meal we may be nourished into hope, strengthened in faith, so that we may ever watch for that blessed day when Christ will come in glory to judge the earth. We pray in the name of the One who has come and yet is coming, Amen.

The Congregation Stands

RECESSIONAL HYMN #9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: There will be a Congregational Meeting today at 10:45 am for the purpose of approving the call of the Reverend Larry Turner as Minister of Word and Sacrament to Grace Presbyterian Church. The session encourages all active members to be present for this very important event in the life of the congregation.

ATTENTION CONGREGATION: Should the congregation vote today to approve the pastoral call of Rev. Larry Turner we will have a "Meet and Greet" on Thursday evening December 6, 2007 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Church. Light refreshments will be served during that time and you can meet Larry and his wife, Beth. Mark your calendar for this exciting event.

WELCOME VISITORS: In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to worship today. Please sign the fellowship pad during the announcements so that we may have a record of your presence.

SALT SHAKER DINNERS: Don't forget to sign up for these dinners. We enjoy wonderful food and great fellowship. Deadline is December 30.

FROM THE KITCHEN: Many of our kitchen towels are missing. If you have taken them home to wash please return them as soon as possible. Thanks, Jane McGoldrick

OFFICE HOURS CHANGE: Attention anyone contacting the Church should be aware that not only has Betsy Lewis been on vacation for the last week and will not be back until Monday, but also that her hours have been changed and she will now only be working 3 days a week. (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday) Emily Lewis is working Tuesday through Friday from 1pm until 5pm and is the person to contact for everything except for financial concerns.

POINSETTIAS: In order to have the poinsettias available for the Christmas Program on December 9th we will be ordering Poinsettias earlier this year. You can call Emily as late as December 5th with your order information but we would appreciate your order as soon as possible. Thanks Katherine

Fitzgerald, Flower Chairperson.

COOKIE EXCHANGE AND LUNCH: The Holidays are quickly approaching. Need a little quiet time before all the running around. Please join the Presbyterian Women for some fun. Bring a box lunch and then a homemade cookie exchange on December 15th. You will get a great assortment of cookies for the holidays. Sign up will be November 25th to December 2nd. You will need to bring some type of container to carry your cookies in. If you can't make it for lunch and want to participate in the cookie exchange let me know and I will let you know what time to arrive. The time will be 11:30am to 1:00pm. (no children please) Any questions please call Susan Smith 251-4510

FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE: The exterior doors of the main building will be re-keyed to match the exterior doors of the new addition shortly after January 1. The Committee is presently in the process of issuing new keys to the Elders, Church Staff, School personnel, and designated Church committee members. If you are not one of the above listed groups and would like to have a key, please leave a note in the Property Committee box located in the Church office. To offset the cost of obtaining duplicate keys, there will be a small fee charged for the new keys. This fee will be waived if you have Church duties that require you to have entry to the buildings. Present key holders are advised to retain their old key since it provides access to several other areas in the building.

DECEMBER PW GATHERING: December 10, 2007 at 6:30 pm will be the annual December PW pot luck gathering at the Church. We will have our December Bible Study, Nursery Shower with gifts from the circles plus Secret Pal revealing and gift exchange. If you did not participate in the Secret Pal exchange this year you may bring a Christmas gift to exchange. If you need a ride to and from the Church please call Jan Evans (386-4672) who will arrange to have a ride for you. Please come and enjoy the fun and fellowship of this very happy event.

Dossett and I would like to thank everyone for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and food after my knee replacement surgery. Our congregation is truly a caring family of believers. I am making good progress and looking forward to being actively involved once again at Church.

In Christ's Love,
Linda Foster