

Greendale Ecumenical Group

Central MA partners in ministry



Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day

December 25th, 2022

10:00 AM Bethel

All are welcome here!

These churches and altars belong to God, and not to us. All people are welcome to participate in every aspect of our worship, including our open table for the Eucharist. We are honored by your presence this day and hope you find peace and refreshment as we celebrate the extravagant love of God, as followers of the Way of Jesus.

There is a place for you, here!

We Gather

The Holy Spirit calls us in community as people of the Way.

PRELUDE

The congregation stands

GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you! **And also with you.**

KYRIE ELEISON *(Lord, have mercy)*

Larry Olson (from: *Worship and Praise*)

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie eleison, every day. REFRAIN

- 1) **For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; For this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.**
- 2) **That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.**
- 3) **For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.**
- 4) **For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.**

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Let us pray; Almighty God, You have given us Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again through baptism and made Your children by adoption and Grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen!

GATHERING HYMN

O come, all ye faithful

ELW (red book) 283

The congregation is seated

We listen to God's Word

God speaks to us in poetry, creative writing, scripture, preaching & song.

A READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE (*Tanakh*): Isaiah 62:6-12 from the NRSVUE* translation

The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until God reestablishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD, A City Not Forsaken.

⁶ Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, ⁷ and give [the Lord] no rest until [Jerusalem is established and it is] renowned throughout the earth.

⁸ The LORD has sworn by [right hand and mighty arm]: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored, ⁹ but those who harvest it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹ The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "Look, your savior comes; his reward is with him and his recompense before him."

¹² They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD," and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Response This is the Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

BELL ANTHEM

Angels we have heard on high

The Lord is King!

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT LM

Words: Josiah Conder (1789–1855)
Music: James William Elliott (1833–1915)

Capo 3(G)

The Lord is King! lift up thy voice, O

earth, and all ye heavens re-joice; from world to world the

joy shall ring, 'The Lord om - ni - po - tent is King!'

1 The Lord is King! lift up thy voice,
O earth, and all ye heavens rejoice;
from world to world the joy shall ring,
'The Lord omnipotent is King!'

2 The Lord is King! who then shall dare
resist His will, distrust His care,
or murmur at His wise decrees,
or doubt His royal promises?

3 The Lord is King! Child of the dust,
the Judge of all the earth is just;
holy and true are all His ways:
let every creature speak His praise.

4 He reigns! ye saints, exalt your strains;
your God is King, your Father reigns;
and He is at the Father's side,
the man of love, the crucified.

5 One Lord, one empire, all secures;
He reigns, and life and death are yours,
through earth and heaven one song shall ring,
'The Lord omnipotent is King!'

A READING FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE: Titus 3:4-7 from the *NRSVUE** translation

God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵[our God] saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit [God] poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by [this] Grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Response This is the Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

The assembly stands to welcome the resurrected and ascended Christ!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Angels we have heard on high

ELW 289

Preface Hear the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ! **Glory to you, O Lord!**

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPELS: Luke 2:1-20 from the *NRSVUE** translation

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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 in the guest room.

⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Response The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

COLLECT

Let us pray; Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship You, our Savior and our eternal God. **Amen!**

The congregation is seated

MESSAGE

Grace, Gratitude & Guardianship

Pastors Mark, Aaron & Andrew

HYMN OF THE DAY

Of the Father's Love begotten

ELW 295

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald Your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

In Christ we have beheld Your glory, full of Grace and Truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

The congregation stands

THE PEACE

Let us greet our sisters and brothers in the name of Christ!

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith. Heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you!**

GATHERING OF GIFTS

The snow lay on the ground

Combined Choirs

OFFERTORY

The first noel (verse 5)

ELW 300

As the gifts of bread, wine, and currency are brought forward, the assembly stands.

**Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of Your Grace upon Grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

We go out to serve God

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation stands

BLESSING

God bless us and keep us, ✠ Jesus grant us Grace and Truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon our hearts, now and forever. **Amen!**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Joy to the world

ELW 267

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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*Scripture translations are in the public domain and sourced through <http://www.biblegateway.com>

**Join us for refreshments in Voosen Hall
following the service this morning!**

Music for December 25, 2022

Prelude: "A Lovely Rose Has Sprung" by Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)

Postlude: "Good news from Heaven" by Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Anthem: "The Snow Lay on the Ground" *Venite adoremus*

Greendale Ecumenical Group sponsors & participants:

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester (UUA)

Salem Covenant Church (TECC)

The Rev. Aaron Payson, **Minister**

The Rev. Mark Nilson, **Pastor**

Brad Hendrickson, **Director of Music**

Grace Ministries, Bethel & Zion Lutheran (ELCA)



Ministries Yoked Communities of faith & service

MISSION STATEMENT

"To boldly share God's Love and Grace universally in and through our communities."

VISION STATEMENT

Modeling the welcoming nature of God, we are humbly called and driven by the Spirit to witness, engage and walk with each other authentically, as Jesus' hands and feet, providing spiritual, emotional and physical nourishment.

Through evolving partnerships with ecumenical and other social service organizations we affirm justice and wholeness under the "agency of Grace" that feed the needs and hope of all.

The Rev. Andrew H. Borden, Pastor

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bethelauburn@verizon.net

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Randy Bloom, – Minister of Music

Lois Toeppner, Deacon – Minister of Music Emeritus

Bell Director – **Adam Hanks**

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BethelAuburnELCA.org



ENDHUNGERNE



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America



RECONCILING IN CHRIST

Grace Ministries Cafe'

Wednesdays, Zion Lutheran @ Noon
Free Meals, those 50+



COLLABORATIVE
for Christ's sake

NST
Refugee Accompaniment