



The Carol of the Shepherds
QUEMPAS



Serving the Portland Area with the Means of Grace and as a family of believers for over 110 years... as a church, school, preschool, mission, and ministry.

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Christmas Eve – December 24th, 2021

Welcome!

Grace ~ “I am not ashamed of the gospel...”



When it comes to the truth of Scripture, there is no room for compromise. The Bible is the book we live by... for life now and for life forever. We accept the Bible as the pure Word of God. We believe that our only Savior is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, who was crucified, died, and was buried but rose again to open the door to heaven for everyone who believes in him.

Grace ~ “These are written that you may believe...”



Grace Lutheran Church has served the Portland area for over 100 years by faithfully preaching and teaching the timeless truth of God’s Word. We believe that God uses the timeless message of Word and Sacraments to bring souls into his care. This is a message that we share here and around the world through our affiliation with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

Grace ~ “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”



Grace Lutheran Church exists to win souls by joyfully proclaiming the truth of God’s grace through Christ, to nurture believers in growing in faith and lives of Christian service, and to join together in worship and praise. **“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen.” 2 Pt. 3:18**

Christmas Eve – December 24th, 2021

+ In Nomine Jesu +

The Christmas Bells

Süßer die Glocken nie Klingen

The Bells Ring Sweetly

Text / Tune: Friedrich Wilhelm Kritzinger, traditional Volkslied melody, 1860

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1. Süßer die Glocken nie klingen
als zu der Weihnachtszeit,
's ist, als ob Engelein singen
wieder von Frieden und Freud'.
| : Wie sie gesungen in seliger Nacht, : |
Glocken mit heiligem Klang,
klinget die Erde entlang!

1. The bells ring any sweeter
as at Christmas time,
it's as if angels are singing
again peace and of joy.
| : How they do sing in the blissful night, : |
Bells with the holy sound,
all ring throughout the earth!

2. O, wenn die Glocken erklingen,
schnell sie das Christkindlein hört:
Tut sich vom Himmel dann schwingen
eilig hernieder zur Erd'.
| : Segnet den Vater, die Mutter, das Kind, : |
Glocken mit heiligem Klang,
klinget die Erde entlang!

2. Oh, when the bells do sound,
quickly the Christ child hears them:
responds from heaven then swings
quickly descends to the earth.
| : Bless the father, the mother, the child, : |
Bells with the holy sound,
all ring throughout the earth!

3. Klinget mit lieblichem Schalle
über die Meere noch weit,
dass sich erfreuen doch alle
seliger Weihnachtszeit.
| : Alle aufjauchzen mit herrlichem Sang! : |
Glocken mit heiligem Klang,
klinget die Erde entlang!

3. Resound with the lovely sounds
across the seas and beyond,
that all are delighted nevertheless
the blessed Christmastime.
| : All shout for joy with the wonderful song! : |
Bells with holy the sound,
all ring throughout the earth!

Welcome

Invocation

John 1:1-5, 14, 18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵ The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

The Hymn:

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Christian Worship #54 (1-3)

*Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.*

*In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet newborn babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.*

*How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.*

Quempas Carol

“The Quempas goes ’round” is the expression that has been used for several hundred years to describe Quempas singing, a delightful custom that dates back to the Middle Ages. The name “Quempas” comes from the first two words of the carol in the original Latin language: “Quem Pastores.”

Though it can be performed in a variety of arrangements, much symbolism is involved in the celebration of Quempas. The light of the candles reminds us of the Light of the world, Christ our Savior. Traditionally, the light of the candles is carried to the four corners of the church as a reminder of our privilege and responsibility to carry God’s redeeming message to the “four corners of the earth.”

Hearing the message being sung from all four corners of the sanctuary reminds us that God’s love—and the Good News—is all around us. Like the shepherds of old listened to the angel’s message and then spoke that message to others, tonight we will do the same. During the stanzas of the Quempas Carol you are invited to listen and then join together in singing the refrain, “*God’s own Son is born a child! Is born a child! God the Father is reconciled! Is reconciled!*” The emphatic refrain, sung by all, reminds us of the oneness we have in Christ.

In many churches, the Quempas constituted the principal item of carol singing on Christmas Eve; in fact, the service was not considered complete without the singing of the Quempas. The refrain of the Quempas Carol announces the miracle of Christmas and reminds us of the reason for Christ’s birth.

The Hymn:

To Shepherds as They Watched By Night
Christian Worship #53 (1,2)

*To shepherds as they watched by night
Appeared a host of angels bright;
"Behold the tender babe," they said,
"In yonder lowly manger laid, "*

*At Bethlehem, in David's town,
As Micah did of old make known.
It is the Christ, your Lord and King,
Who will to all salvation bring."*

Congregation:

Luke 2:1-5

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Pastor:

Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Choir

"When I Kneel at the Manger Tonight"

Whom Shepherds Praised

Do you know who the shepherds were? Usually when a baby is born, all the important people hear about it first: grandmas and grandpas, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, friends and relatives. However, it's usually not a homeless person who you've never met before that first shows up to congratulate you. But, in a sense, that's who God chose to first announce the Savior's birth to, and these lowly shepherds who were living out in the fields were the first visitors to worship Jesus.

Congregation:

Luke 2:8-10

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

Pastor:

Luke 2:10-13

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Congregation:

Luke 2:14

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Christian Worship #61 (1-2)

*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 th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Pastor: You see; these men were more than “just shepherds” ... these were Bethlehemite shepherds. For centuries the hills of Bethlehem had been the place where the lambs used for sacrifice in the temple has been raised. During lambing season, the shepherds of Bethlehem would bring the temple sheep from the fields to what was known as the “tower of the flock” and use the lower level as the place where the ewes would give birth to their lambs. Once birthed, according to Jewish law, the shepherds would place the lambs in the hewn depression of rock known as *"the manger"* and *"wrap the newborn lambs in swaddling cloths (bands),"* to prevent them from thrashing about and harming themselves until they had calmed down. It was then that they could be inspected for the quality of being *"without blemish or*

defect". So, perhaps it is not a stretch to see the newborn Jesus in "the manger" of the birthing room of "the tower of flock" "wrapped in the swaddling cloths" using the same bands used on the lambs brought there for inspection before sacrifice. "See in yonder manger low, born for us on earth below, See --the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years." (Christian Worship Hymn 58 (vs.1)

The Christmas Hymn:

Quempas Carol

He whom joyous shepherds praised,
When the angel's song was raised
Bidding them be not amazed,
Heaven's all-glorious King is Born.

The glorious angels came today,
Aglow with light into the night of darkness deep,
To shepherds who by moon's bright ray
Did in the field o'er sheep their silent vigil keep.
"Joy, great joy and tidings glad we bring from heav'n resounding,
For you, for you, for you and all the world abounding."

Congregation joins the refrain:

God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;

God the Fa-ther is rec-on-ciled, is rec-on-ciled!

Whom Angels Praised and Shepherds Sought

Pastor: Close your eyes and open your ears. Can you imagine the sounds coming from Bethlehem the night Jesus was born? If you would have been near the inn that night, you probably would have heard people talking and laughing. Maybe you could have even heard a baby crying in a stable or cave out back. And if you had been with some shepherds out in the fields over-looking the little town that night, you would have heard a sound so beautiful that only a few people have ever been privileged to hear it. You would have lived the rest of your life never forgetting that one majestic song... the song of the angels!

The Hymn:

Angels We Have Heard On High
Christian Worship #63

*Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Pastor: After the angels had heralded their glorious message the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found everything exactly as the angels had told them. You see, it was all part of God's plan of salvation...

Congregation:

Luke 2:15-16

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

The Christmas Hymn:

Quempas Carol

Sing to Christ, the King who reigneth,
Yet of Mary manhood gaineth,
Born our God; let us adore him:
Glory be to God on high. Amen.

The wond'ring shepherds said: "Behold!
 Let us now go with all good speed to Bethlehem
 To see this thing the Lord has told;
 The sheep are safe; he will indeed take care of them."
 There they found the wonder babe, in lowly swaddling clothes lying,
 Though all the world with his free grace supplying.

Congregation joins the refrain:

God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;
 God the Fa-ther is rec-on-ciled, is rec-on-ciled!

Whom Jesus' Mother Praised

Pastor: Mary knew. We can be sure that Mary knew exactly who her son was. Mary had heard the prophecies of Isaiah and Micah. Mary had heard the announcement of the angel. Mary knew that this “child she would deliver would soon deliver her”. Mary knew that her baby boy was “the Lord of all Creation”, “would one day rule the nations”, “was heaven’s perfect Lamb”, and in fact was “the great I AM”. Mary knew that when she kissed her little baby, she was “kissing the face of God”. An amazing thought, but a wonderful thought.

SONG

Welcome to Our World

JJ Heller

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Pastor: What Mary didn’t know was *how all this could be*. What Mary couldn’t possibility have known or even begun to imagine was what all this truly meant. “*What does this mean?*” “*How can this be?*” Those were questions that Joseph and Mary asked when the angel Gabriel appeared to them and asked them to envision God’s plan of salvation. “*What does this mean?*” “*How can this be?*” Those were the questions that people asked for centuries as they read the prophecies where God “pictured” who the Savior was and what he was coming to do. “*What does this mean?*” “*How can this be?*” Those are the questions we still ponder when we read the centerpiece and cornerstone of Christmas prophecy.

Congregation:

Isaiah 7:14

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

Pastor: This is the great truth of Christmas. This is the miracle of the incarnation. This is the miracle of God taking on humanity. This is the miracle of our salvation.

Congregation:

Luke 2:17-20

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Christmas Hymn:

Quempas Carol

Now rejoice with Jesus' mother;
Praise her new-born song, our brother;
Angels vie with one another,
Praising him beyond the sky.

Then sang the angels this refrain:
“To God on high alone give praise and glory,
And peace on earth again shall reign.
Let all mankind with gladness heed this story
And rejoice in his goodwill.” The Savior came in meekness
For you, for you, for you, to bear your flesh in weakness.

Congregation joins the refrain:

God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;

God the Fa-ther is rec-on-ciled, is rec-on-ciled!

Whom Sages Came Westward Faring

Pastor: Do you know who the “Wise Men” were? You know, the Magi, the Three Kings of Orient who were, the Men of Old who with gladness beheld. What knowledge did these men possess that was so great that for thousands of years they have been called “Wise”? I don’t believe that their revered wisdom had anything to do with the quantity of their knowledge as much as the quality of what they knew. They knew the prophecies and now they knew the babe, the Son of Mary!

The Hymn:

What Child Is This?
Christian Worship #67

*What child is this who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!*

*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!*

Pastor: Artists often picture the Wise Men as worshipping the baby Jesus alongside the shepherds in the stable at Bethlehem on the night of Jesus’ birth. While this makes for a lovely picture and a complete nativity set, it really contradicts the facts Matthew has recorded for us. The visit of the Magi in fact took place as much as a year after Jesus’ birth when they arrived at a house in Bethlehem. Neither does scripture say how many there were. While we speak of three because there were three gifts mentioned we don’t really know how many Magi made this westward journey.

Congregation:

**“There were wise men from afar, directed by a glorious star.
And on they wandered night and day, until they came where Jesus lay.
And when they came unto that place, where our beloved Messiah lay,
they humbly cast them at his feet with gifts of gold and incense sweet.”**

-- The Wexford Carol

Pastor: The Magi had brought gifts for a king, but what they found was the gift that God had sent them, a Savior! They met the true God beautifully wrapped in true man... and they were in awe! This was their “little Christmas”! Gentiles had come to Bethlehem and God showed the world that Jesus was the Savior of all people.

Congregation:

Matthew 2:1-2,11

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

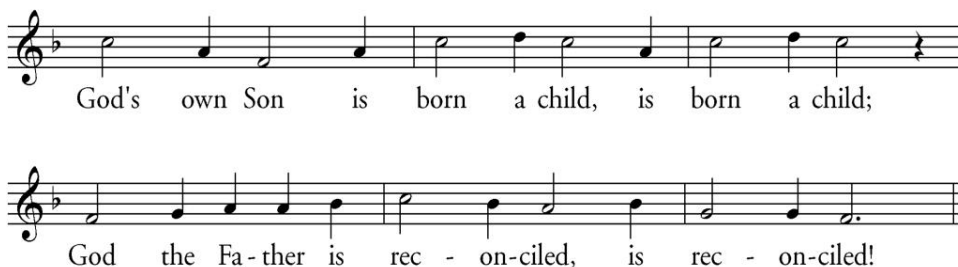
The Christmas Hymn:

Quempas Carol

He whom sages, westward faring,
Myrrh and gold and incense bearing,
Worshipped, bowing low before him,
Reigns as King this happy morn.

“God’s majesty has come to earth
And sent his only Son to you in humankind;
A chosen virgin gave him birth.
In David’s town the holy infant you will find,
Lying helpless in a manger, poor and bare and lowly,
To set you free from all your sorrow wholly.”

Congregation joins the refrain:



God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;
God the Fa-ther is rec - on-ciled, is rec - on-ciled!

The Offering

An opportunity to give online can also be used at
[Paypal.me/Grace Portland](https://www.paypal.me/GracePortland) or by utilizing this QR code:



The Prayer of the Church for Christmas Eve

M Heavenly Father, to whom glory is sung in the highest and peace is proclaimed to people on earth, give to Your Holy Church the peace of sins forgiven and Your continued favor and merciful good will. On Christmas night You sent the angels to preach the good news of Jesus' birth. Give to all pastors of our Church courage to lead us boldly to the Christ Child. Fill us with joy that we may each make known the glad tidings concerning this Child, that more may be given faith to confess Him as Lord.

Congregation sings: Away in A Manger (traditional tune)

***Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

M: Merciful God, we thank You for the joys of family and friends this season, together with the abundance of Your blessings. Open our hearts and homes that we may be Your instruments of love and charity. Remember, we pray, the homeless, hungry, and oppressed, and give them hope. Protect the lonely and homebound of our congregation. Grant peace and healing to the sick and suffering and those in the hospital. Guide the journeys of those who travel. Comfort those who mourn. Create a new and contrite heart in the erring and faith in those who have not heard the good news. Let Your glory dwell among us, and let mercy, truth, and justice prevail everywhere, that throughout our land people may come to know Jesus, our Immanuel.

Congregation sings: Away in A Manger (traditional tune)

***The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.***

M: Lord God, make a manger in the hearts of all who have gathered that they may treasure up and ponder the marvelous gift of salvation. We remember with thanksgiving all those who have died in the faith. In the birth of Your Son, O God, who have clothed us with eternal life. Unite our voices that we may join the heavenly song of angels.

Congregation sings: Away in A Manger (traditional tune)

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with you there.*

M For all these things and whatever else You would have us ask, we implore You to hear us gracious Father, through Jesus Christ our Savior, whom together with the Holy Spirit we praise, one God, now and forever.

The Lord's Prayer Sung

Cradle Song
Christian Worship #68

*Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.*

*The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.*

*For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.*

The Christmas Blessing

M: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C: **those who lived in deepest night, have seen a brilliant sight.**

M: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

C: **The greatness of his influence and of his peace will never end.**

M: Therefore, go out into the world with great joy,

C: **glorifying and praising God for all the things you have heard and seen.**

M: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child who God sent because he loved us dearly!

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with His favor and give you peace.

The Announcements / Christmas Greeting

Hymn 60 (Congregation and Children):

Silent Night/Stille Nacht

Text: Franz Mohr b. 1792 Tune: Franz Gruber b.1787

*Stille nacht! Heilige nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht,
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in Himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in Himmlischer Ruh!*

*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.*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

The Closing

Isaiah 9:6

Tune: Stille Nacht

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
TOMORROW MORNING at 10:00 AM

Christmas
isn't about presents
but
in *His*
presence

