

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*indicates that the congregation will stand

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Joe Stroup

Prelude: "Realms of Glory" Graystone Bells
Arr. Matthew Compton

Prayer of Invocation

Choral Introit: "God With Us, Emmanuel" Chancel Choir
Joel Raney

Maker of the stars of night, of the sun by day,
Rise in us and bring your light; burn our shadows away.
In the darkness where we dwell,
we await the light of God, Emmanuel.

*Responsive Litany: He Will Be Called Everlasting Father
Leader: During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Everlasting Father.
People: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.
Leader: During Advent we look to the One who knows our deepest thoughts.
People: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.
Leader: During Advent we look to the One who cares for our deepest needs.
People: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.
Leader: During Advent we look to the One who knows our most pressing concerns.
People: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.
Leader: During Advent we look to the One who knows our innermost being.
People: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Advent Candle Lighting

Congregational Response:

God with Us, Emmanuel

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

Ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther, Prince of Peace,

Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Al - might - y God.

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el. God with

us, Em - man - u - el.

*Hymn: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" Hymn 176

*Prayer of Christmas Praise
Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*Response of Praise: "Gloria Patri" Hymn 670

*Passing of the Peace

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy king-
dom 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 de-
liver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and
the glory forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
Offertory: Chancel Choir, Worship Team,
Bell Choir & Celebration Choir
"Christmastime"
Michael E. Smith and Joanna Carolson, Arr. Joseph M. Martin

*Doxology (Hymn 668)

*Prayer of Dedication

Message: Pastor Rob Sparr
"Jesus, the Messiah Is Born:
The Shepherds Bowed to Pray in Worship"

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

*Hymn: "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" Hymn 181

*Benediction

Postlude *Please stand if you are able.

SERMON NOTES:
"Jesus, the Messiah Is Born:
The Shepherds Bowed to Pray in Worship"
Luke 2:8-20

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME - We are pleased to have you join us today. If you would like to meet with one of our pastors please call the church office (724-349-5556) or email Pastor Rob (rsparr@graystonepc.org) or Pastor Joe (jstroup@graystonepc.org) to set up an appointment.

Join Us As We Celebrate

Christmas Eve Services

6:00 P.M.

Informal Christmas Eve Service

9:30 P.M.

Classical Christmas Eve Service

NEW YEAR’S EVE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31. Combined Service at 10:00 a.m.

THE TREE AND GREENS are shared in memory of Sara (Sadie) and Francis Smith, for the celebration of the birth of the Lamb of God. The family of David Smith is thankful for all who helped make wreathes, decorate the church, and clean in preparation for the worship of our God, who reigns forever and ever. Graystone thanks the Smith Family for their generous donation of the tree and greens.

NURSERY HELP STILL NEEDED: We are still looking for a few more people to step in and join the monthly rotation to serve in the nursery. We need 2 more to join the rotation during Sunday School hour and 2 more to join the 11am Service rotation as well. For more information or to let us know you’d like to help, reach out to Pastor Joe after services or email at jstroup@graystonepc.org.

CONNECT WITH GRAYSTONE As we announced in worship, we want to be a church family that gets together and connects with each other more than just during a worship service on Sunday mornings. Our elders want to lead the way in making that happen, by getting to know you and your family over a meal either out or in our homes. In a church of our size that can be tricky when you don’t know everyone so we plan to help streamline the process and help set this up. If you would like one of our elders to reach out, let us know that you want to take part by filling out the yellow forms in the pews.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGINGS: January 7th – Feb 11th we’ll have two classes offered during the 9:45am Sunday School hour during this new season. This is a great time to jump in and connect with others and grow in some meaningful ways.

- **How to Read Your Bible:** meeting in Main Level Meeting Room 2 and taught by Heather Ashe this class on studying the Bible.
- **WITH:** meeting in the Gathering Place and taught by Pastor Joe, this class comes from the book “With” using content from Right Now Media. This class will focus on the different ways we can try to relate to God as opposed to simply being WITH Him, which is what He desires.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY will begin on Tuesday, January 9th at 10am or 6:30pm. We will be studying "The Gospel on the Ground," by Kristi Mclelland. In this 7 session study we will look at the book of Acts. "Along the way you'll learn that the kingdom of God is always on the move, offering purpose and joy to those longing for true fulfillment. And you'll come to understand the part you are meant to play in the redemptive story God continues to write through your life today." This is open to all women. Contact the church office to sign up. Contact Heather Sparr (heathersparr@gmail.com) if you have questions.

CALENDAR

Happening today
Nursery is open during worship service for children under 5
10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service
6:00 p.m. Informal Christmas Eve Service
9:30 p.m. Classical Christmas Eve Service

Happening this week
Monday, December 25—Wednesday, December 27
Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Thursday, December 28
7:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

Friday, December 29
Office Closed for New Year’s Holiday

Saturday, December 30
7:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study—Perkins

Sunday, December 31
10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service

Office Closed Monday, January 1 for the New Year’s Holiday.

December 24, 2023 10:00 a.m.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
“Jesus the Messiah Is Born:
The Shepherds Bowed to
Pray in Worship”

ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR WEEKLY EMAILS? If not, please sign up in the back of the sanctuary or in the Welcome Center by giving us your email address. Feel free to update your email address as well.

LOOKING AHEAD: Acts 2:14-36