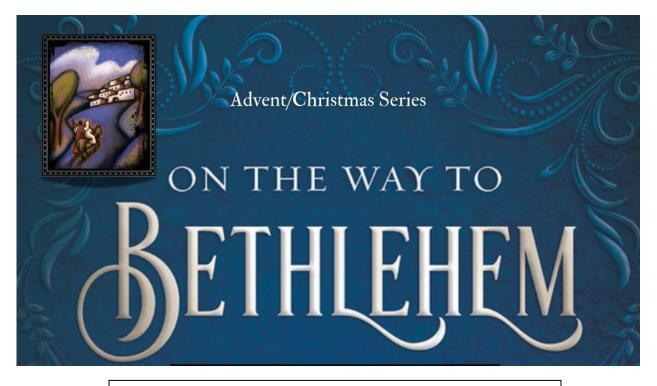
# WELCOME to Worship at Grove Church December 22, 2024 Advent Week 4- LOVE Bethlehem: A Place of Humility



### **Assisting in Worship**

Liturgist – Betty Traver

Candle Lighters – Penny Arndt, Joan Cross and Paige Wolters.

Greaters – Pam Abata and Toddy Campbell

Greeters – Pam Abate and Teddy Campbell
Ushers – Brad Hanford & Jim Schmidt
Grove Stream Team

Bill and Linda Seybold have donated to the Emergency Food Program in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ.

#### **GROVE KIDS**

Kids of all ages are welcome in worship!

We welcome families with children to use our *Grace Space* in the front of the sanctuary. This purposely designed area allows space for children to fully participate in worship without being confined to a pew. There is ample seating for parents to be nearby to connect with their children as needed.

We also have a Nursery available for infants and toddlers.

# We Set Off (Gathering)

PRELUDE Angels from the Realms of Glory

> 1. arr. Anna Laura Page 2. arr. Kenneth D. Varner

#### PASTORAL GREETING & WELCOME

ORGAN VOLUNTARY Introit on The First Noel arr. Neil Harmon

- You are invited to spend this time preparing your heart for worship

#### LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

> We're on our way We're on our way Dream of the day When love holds sway

> > With all the earth In all our hearts We're on our way This is the day.

Leader: The journey continues, and this candle will help light our way.

Congregation: We are on our way to more love.

Leader: So many are in need of grace, in need of loving acceptance. Congregation: We are a people who can bring Good News.

Leader: Stories of generosity are the markers and signs that goodness is the nature of God.

Congregation: God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

\*OPENING HYMN: Love Came Down at Christmas **UMH No. 242** 

# The Place and Its Message

(Proclaiming)

ANTHEM "Unto Us" Heather Sorenson

Tabernacle Choir

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Romans 13:8-11

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

A MESSAGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

(Children of all ages are invited to come to the front)

Pastor Eva

**GOSPEL READING** Luke 2:1-14

**SERMON** Bethlehem: A Place of Humility

What We See Changes Us

(Responding)

**HYMN** Take My Life, and Let It Be UMH No. 399

MORNING PRAYER with THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING "As Lately We Watched" Barbara B. Kinyon

Handbell Choir

DOXOLOGY (Sung to the tune of 'Away in a Manger')

Praise God for these gifts that we offer today and bless them for good in the world, this we pray. Praise Jesus, the Christ-Child, our Hope and our Stay, the Spirit, our Keeper, our Guide on the Way.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP

# Moving On (Sending Forth)

## WE SET OFF: A Proclamation for the Continued Journey

\*CLOSING HYMN Angels We Have Heard on High UMH No. 238

\*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING SONG "We're On Our Way"

POSTLUDE Hark, the Herald Angels Sing arr. Gordon Young

We invite you to remain for this final act of worship

\*-please stand in body or in spirit

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If you have been moved by your experience in worship today and would like to learn more about faith in Christ or get connected at Grove, our Pastors would love to talk with you. Please call the church office to schedule a meeting or email PastorStacy@GroveChurch.org.



Scan the QR Code to go to our **Grove Connect Page**. Here you can fill out a connect form, submit prayer requests, give online, and see all of the events and activities coming up here at Grove Church!

A United Methodist Congregation

office@grovechurch.org Office Hours Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

www.grovechurch.org (610) 696-2663

The Rev. Stacy Gonzalez, Lead Pastor
The Rev. Eva Johnson, Director of Faith Formation
Tom Marsden, Director Traditional Music
Mike Hardie, Director of Youth Ministries
Pam Humphreys, Director, Grove Preschool
Layne Martin, Nursery Attendant

The Rev. Marilyn Schneider, Deacon Robert W. Johns, Organist Chris Yarnall, Director of Rooted Worship Brenda Lewis, Communications Coordinator Amy McCorkle, Office Administrator Bob Higgins, Building Maintenance Coordinator