

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.

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The Place and Its Message
(Proclaiming)

ANTHEM

"Unto Us"
Tabernacle Choir

Heather Sorenson

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"
Handbell Choir

Barbara B. Kinyon

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

Permission to use, record, and project hymns and songs:

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Worship Series created by Worship Design Studio, inspired by *On the Way to Bethlehem* by Rob Fuquay

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