



Sunday Morning Service December 21, 2025

Angels We Have Heard on High
Edward Shippen Barnes and James Chadwick
Public Domain

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains

Chorus
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 heavenly song

Chorus

Come to Bethlehem and see, Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord the newborn King

Chorus

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Welcome & Announcements

Confession of Faith

The Belgic Confession - Article 18: The Incarnation

So then we confess that God fulfilled the promise which He had made to the early fathers by the mouth of His holy prophets when He sent his only and eternal Son into the world at the time set by Him. The Son took the “form of a servant” and was made in the “likeness of man,” truly assuming a real human nature, with all its weaknesses, except for sin; being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, without male participation. And He not only assumed human nature as far as the body is concerned but also a real human soul, in order that He might be a real human being. For since the soul had been lost as well as the body, He had to assume them both to save them both together.

Memory Verse

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Call to Worship & Prayer

Psalms 27

You have said, “Seek My face.” My heart says to You, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.” One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock. I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (Trinity)

English carol

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

Refrain
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

Refrain

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan’s pow’r and might.”

Refrain

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.

Refrain

Corporate and Silent Confession

I John 1:5-6, 8

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

I John 1:9, 7

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Polish carol; paraphrase by Edith E. M. Reed

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all! Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new.
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ, the Babe, was born for you! Christ, the Babe, was born for you!

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts*, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**sins/trespasses*

Sermon

"...my eyes have seen Your salvation..." Luke 2:22-32

Rev. Adam Shields

Go Tell It On The Mountain

John W. Work
Public Domain

(Chorus)

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

Chorus

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth

Chorus

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

Chorus x2

* **Benediction**

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

The Doxology
Thomas Ken, 1709

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN GOD’S GRACE

Sunday
9:00 a.m.....Sunday School
(Sunday School classes resume on 1/18.)
10:15 a.m.....Worship Service
6:00-7:30 p.m.....Youth Group

December 21 - Youth Girls Christmas Event
We will make Christmas crafts at Alice Circle followed by snacks, cocoa, and watching *Little Women* at Joy’s house. Bring \$10-15 if you would like to make a craft at Alice Circle.
Drop off: 2pm at Alice Circle, Downtown Fort Payne
Pick up: 6pm at Joy Faircloth’s home, 3405 Citadel Rock Rd.
RSVP to Joy (423-760-5426) if you would like to attend! I would like to make sure we have enough seats to transport everyone from Alice Circle to my home.

Church Officer Ordination and Installation
Our new church officers – Elders: Phil Dudd, Brad Hood, Brent Halderman and Mike Harper and Deacons: Jeff Graves and Matt Sharp - will be ordained and installed on Sunday, January 11, 2026, in conjunction with our worship service. Please pray for our new officers as they take up their callings of shepherding and service to our congregation. May the Lord bless them and our congregation through them.

ROOTs 2025 is coming up soon! All students 6th-12th grades are invited to our annual Presbytery-wide youth retreat held January 23-25! See Pastor Matt if you need the signup link and for more details.

Wednesdays
December 24, 5:30 p.m.....Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
January 14, 5:30 p.m.....Fellowship Dinner
January 21, 5:30 p.m.....Dinner & Classes for all ages (nursery provided)

Save The Date! Men of Heart Retreat at Camp Skyline – Saturday, February 7th from 8-5

Women’s Ministry Events:
January 18, Game Night at the Church 4:00-6:00
February 12, Craft Night at Alice Circle 5:30-7:00
March 13-14 Overnight Retreat Camp Skyline in Mentone, AL

Women's Bible Study begins Tuesday, January 27, with a morning study at 9:00 am at the church and a Tuesday Evening study at 6:00 pm at Diane Chavers’ home. We will be studying "You Are a Theologian" by Jen Wilkin and J.T. English.

Deacon of the Month: Phillip Smith (December); Eddie Davis (January)
Please see the deacon of the month for thermostat changes outside of office hours.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.

GRACE CHURCH DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR		
<i>DAY</i>	<i>CHURCH FAMILY</i>	<i>MISSIONARY / MINISTRY</i>
SUNDAY	Lynne & John Crow	Ayao & Wungnaoting Konghar <i>PEF Missions, Manipur, India</i>
MONDAY	Jennifer & Tyler Dart James & Ella Ruth	Maddie Lebeter <i>Campus Outreach, Thailand</i>
TUESDAY	Eddie Davis	Andrea & Ben Lewis <i>Navigators, Dearborn, MI</i>
WEDNESDAY	Jose DeSocarraz	Katie & Tyler Majors <i>RUF at JSU</i>
THURSDAY	Kelly & Josh Dixon Michael, Sarah Kate, Luke, David, Hannah & Joseph	Whitney & Kirby McMunn <i>World Gospel Mission, Czech</i>
FRIDAY	Candace Dorsett Olivia, Coleman, Mitchell & Noah	Marked for Life Ministries <i>Fort Payne, AL</i>
SATURDAY	Tony Dorsett	Kathy & Carl Most <i>Caribbean Ministries, Cuba</i>

Prayer Concerns

John Mathieu – healing & recovery
Martha Baba (AmyLaura Duraski’s grandmother) – mental strength and healing
Anne Duraski (Matt’s mother) – back surgeries on January 27 and 29
Josh Goss (Jana Sharp’s brother) – continued treatment of hand injury
Matt Duraski – transition to new job
Brandy Smith – transition to new job

Various Cancer Treatments

Leanne Burkett Weatherford, Roy Brittain, Rhonda Stewart, Rachel Davis, John Harris

2025 Projected Missions Expenditures: \$157,100.00 **2025 Faith Promise Giving: \$92,053.50**

2025 Faith Promise Commitment: \$94,700.00

2025 General Fund Giving: \$345,949.22