Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!

To glorify God, to grow in faith,
to give in service, together in Christ

gracelutheranhatfield.org

The 2nd Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021
8 and 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor
Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

Asterisks denote those parts of the service in which the congregation is invited to stand.*

Prelude: Let us Break Bread Together **Arr. by Larry Clark**
Piano and Flute, Beth Krout

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross as the presiding minister begins.

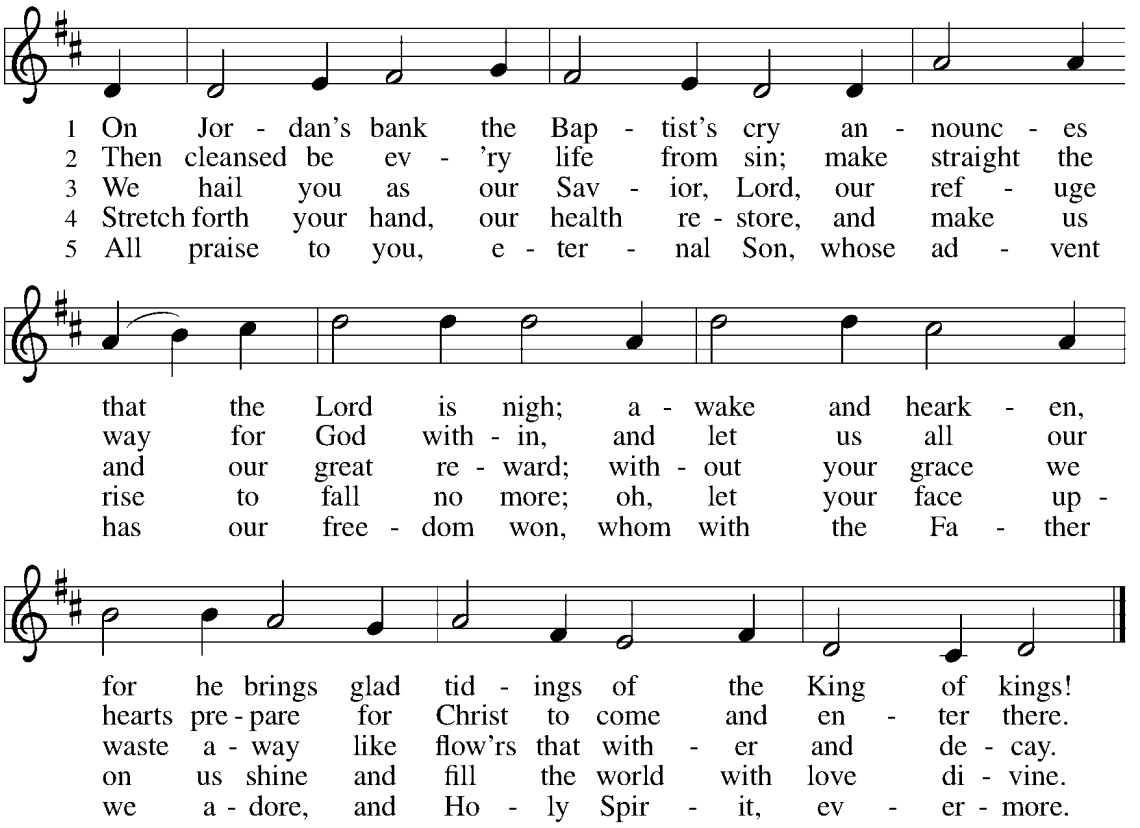
In the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry ELW 249**



***Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***"My Soul in Stillness Waits" (stanza 2)**

The first and second candles on the Advent wreath are lit.

Refrain: All

Cantor:
O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits;
our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word.
Come, make us whole; be comfort to our hearts.

Refrain: All

***Prayer of the Day**
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

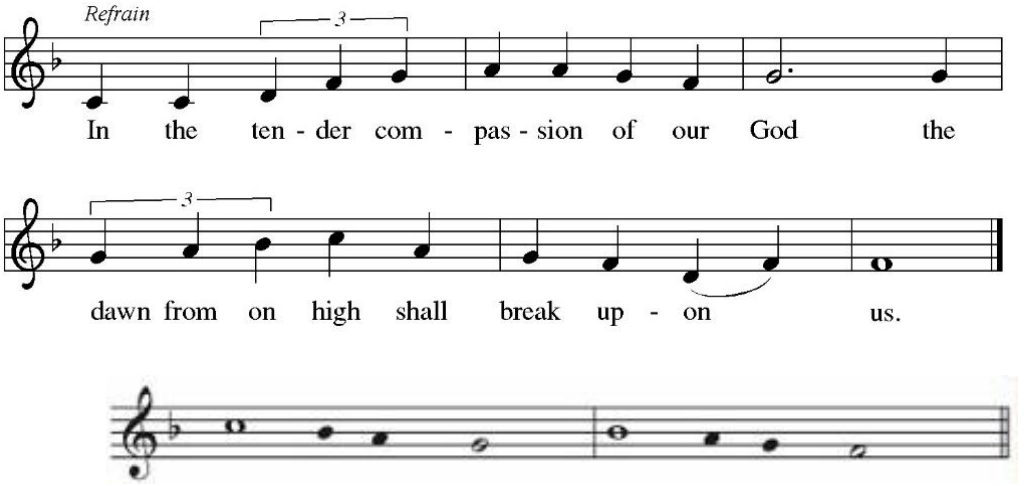
First reading: Malachi 3:1-4
[1]See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. [2]But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; [3]he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. [4]Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

Refrain (all):



68Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,
you have come to your people and | set them free.
69**You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,**
born of the house of your | servant David. R
70Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies,
71from the hands of | all who hate us,
72**to show mercy | to our forebears,**
and to remember your | holy covenant.
73This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:
74to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,
free to worship you | without fear,
75**holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life. R**
76And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,
77**to give God's people knowledge | of salvation**
by the forgiveness | of their sins.
78In the tender compassion | of our God
the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,
79**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death,**
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace. R

Psalm prayer

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

3I thank my God every time I remember you, 4constantly praying with joy in every
one of my prayers for all of you, 5because of your sharing in the gospel from the first
day until now. 6I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among
you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7It is right for me to think
this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in
God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation
of the gospel. 8For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion
of Christ Jesus. 9And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more
with knowledge and full insight 10to help you to determine what is best, so that in the
day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11having produced the harvest of
righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

***Gospel: Luke 3:1-6**

The Gospel of the Lord, according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

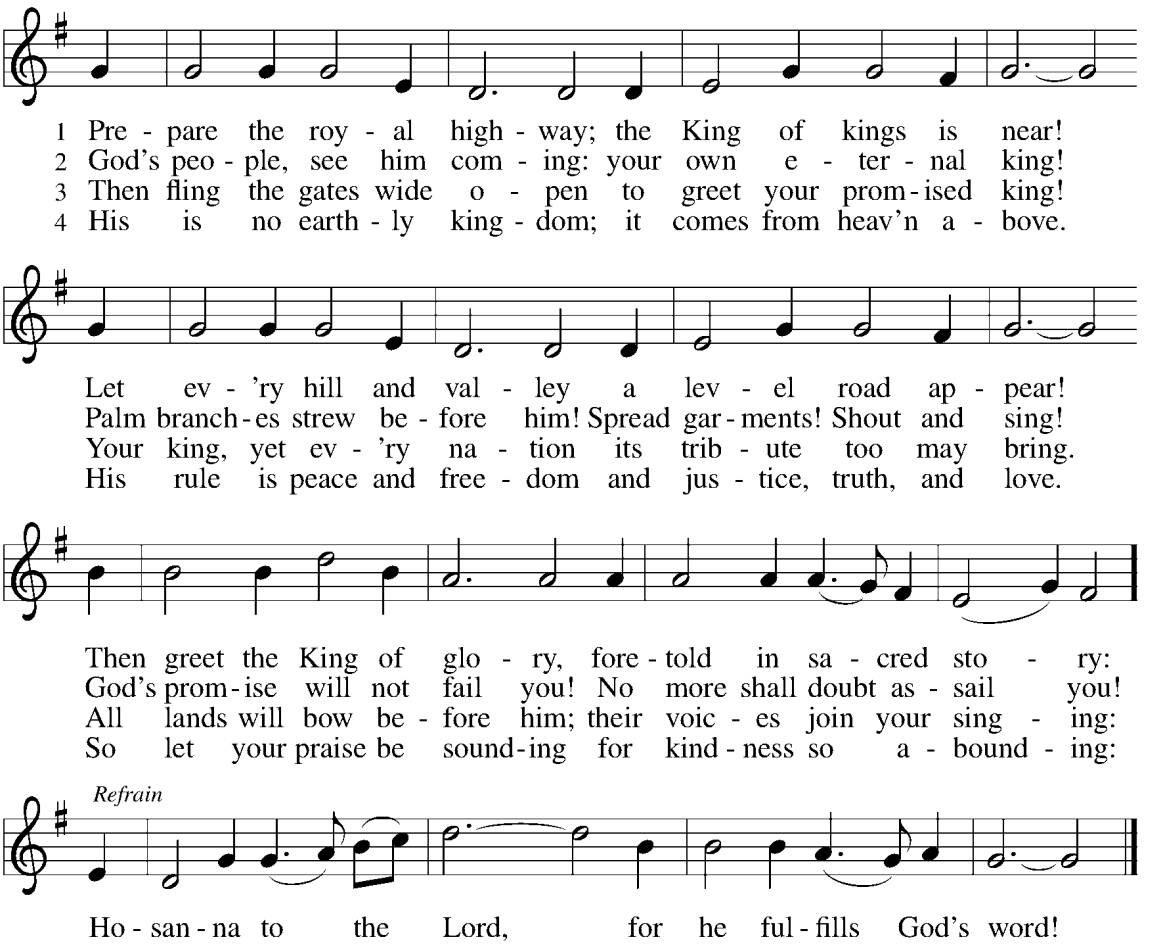
1In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was
governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the
region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2during the high
priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah
in the wilderness. 3He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a
baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4as it is written in the book of the

words of the prophet Isaiah,
"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
5Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
6and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "Good News in Unlikely Places" Pastor Nancy Raabe

***HYMN of the DAY: Prepare the Royal Highway** **ELW 264**



Liturgy of Baptism (please see insert)

We are delighted to be welcoming Luca John Plawa, Embrey Lynn Edgar, and Eila Marie Edgar into membership here at Grace through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

***PRAYERS**
To the petition "Hear us, O God" please respond, "Your mercy is great."

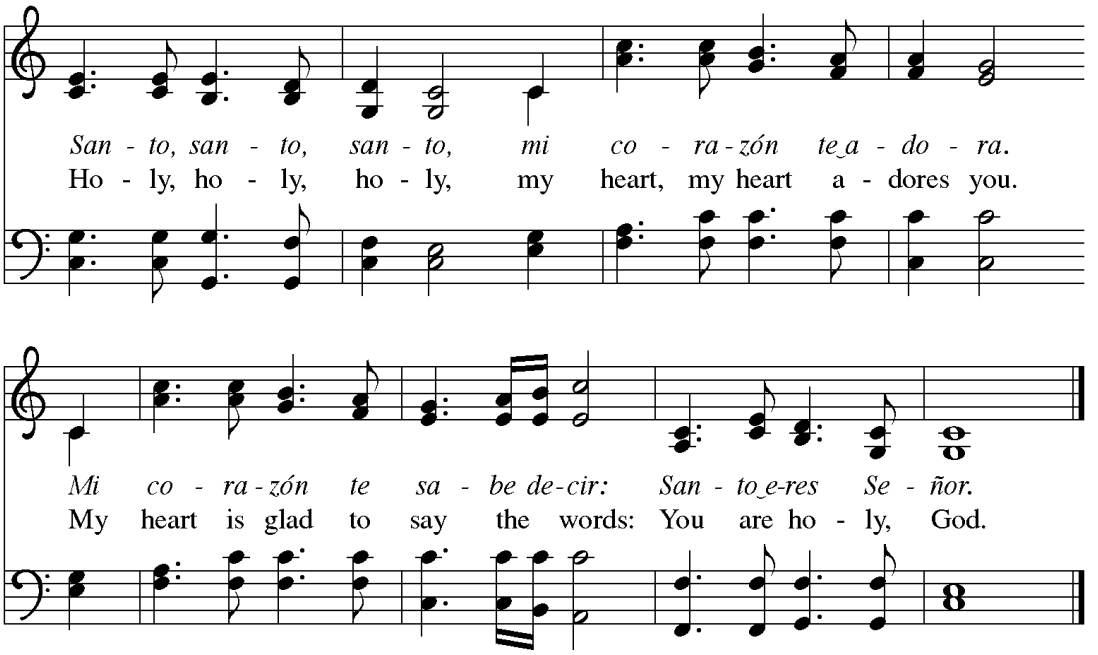
***GREETING OF THE PEACE**
You are invited to greet those around you but we request that you refrain from shaking hands.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church, gathered today.

***OFFERING PRAYER**
God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy….we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Sung twice

In the night in which he was betrayed…

***LORD'S PRAYER**

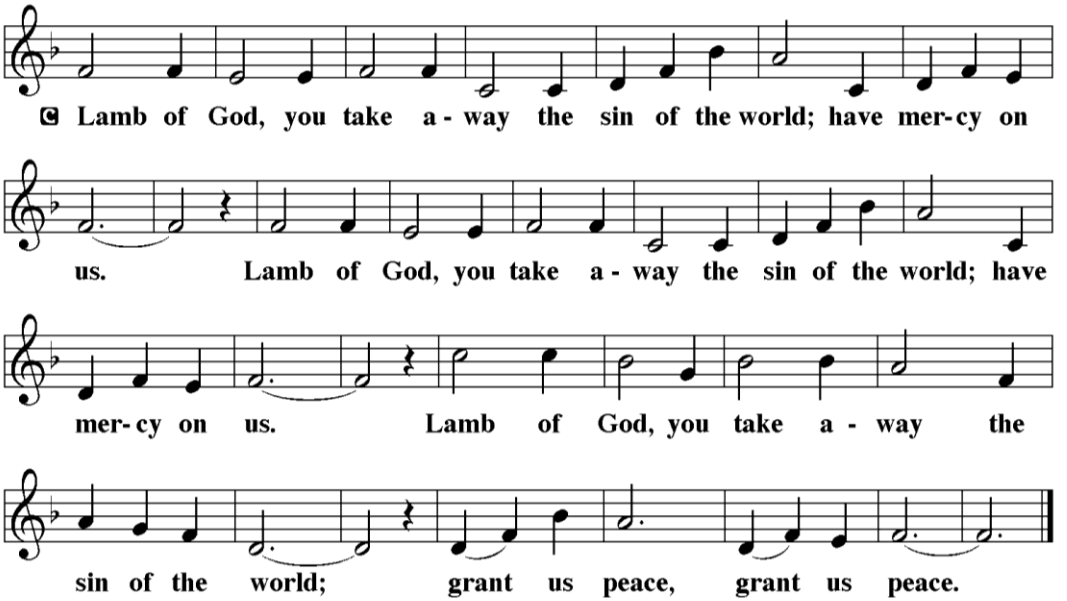
Lord, remember us in your
kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven….

Invitation to Communion
All who hunger and thirst, come.
The table is ready.

Communion will be received in your seat. We now offer gluten-free wafers; please indicate to Pastor Raabe if you would prefer this option.

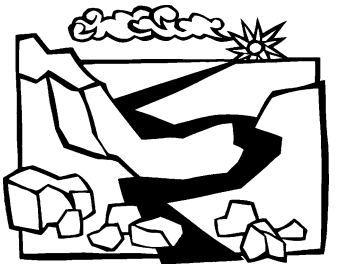
LAMB OF GOD



"Prepare the Way" **by Michael Bedford**

Grace Choir

Prepare a way for the Lord! Get ready, get ready, he's coming soon!
We light the advent candles, we light them one by one;
We light the advent candles, for God's own Son!
We light the advent candles and then we join to say,
"Make room in your hearts for Jesus who comes on Christmas Day!"



***Prayer after Communion**

Lord of life,
in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Announcements

***BLESSING**
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor ☩ and give you peace.
Amen.

***DISMISSAL**
Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Prepare the Royal Highway **Arr. by Kevin Freaney**

Serving today
Preacher and presider, Rev. Nancy M. Raabe
Organist, Kevin Freaney
Lector, 8:00 am-Bruce Schmidt; 10:30 am-Richard Badman
Ushers, 8:00 am-Peggy Schmidt and Don Capanear
10:30 am-Kathy Stawasz and Jeff Krout
Communion Assistant, 8:00 am-Bruce Schmidt; 10:30 am-Jaime Snyder
Altar Guild, 8:00 am-Wendy Walter; 10:30 am-Kay Stone and Tami Sarm
Acolyte, 10:30 am-Elijah Krout
Video Recorder, 10:30 am-Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

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Please spread the word in our community about the
Emmanuel EC Food Cupboard, 100 S. Main Street, Hatfield, PA

(215) 855-2540 (leave message)
Email: **foodcupboard@Yahoo.com**
Service Area: Hatfield Borough, Hatfield Township

Distribution Times:
First and Third Tuesday of the month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Second and Fourth Tuesday from 1-2 p.m.

- Clients may visit the food pantry once a month.
- To sign-up, pantry clients must bring a photo ID and current utility bill (with address)

With strong COVID protocols in place (masks are mandatory and clients are spaced safely apart), clients are once again coming into the building to shop!

While the food cupboard is continuing to experience a high volume of clients, it is so nice that those clients are able to select their own items. Thank you for all of your generous donations that are continuously filling up our Grace food cupboard bins.

Those donations don't stay long on the shelves once they are brought to the EEC as there are many people in our community that have food insecurity. Please know that your donations are a HUGE blessing to so many!

Upcoming distribution dates & times:
Tuesdays 5:30 -6:30 pm: Dec 7 & 21
Tuesdays 1 –2 pm: Dec 14 & 28

Volunteers are still NEEDED! There is so much that needs to be done, but, please know that if you can spare an hour or two each month to help out, social distancing measures and strong COVID protocols are in place for everyone's protection. All volunteers wear masks, use hand sanitizer regularly, and wipe down surfaces with disinfectant.

Volunteers can choose to do any of the following: Help clients shop, weigh items, bring groceries to clients' cars, or just stock the shelves.

The food cupboard is open to all Hatfield borough residents, so please reach out if you, or someone you know, would benefit from receiving supplemental food pantry items. Messages for Janet Hague can be left at 215-855-2540, or **foodcupboard@yahoo.com**. You can also call/email Carol MacDonald @ 215-872-0472 or **macdonald125@comcast.net** for more information.

Prepare the Way!

E	H	E	Y	L	H	T	R	A	E	Y	P	E	P
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FORETOLD
FULFILLS
PRAISE
HIGHWAY
LOVE
HOSANNA
TRUTH
GLORY
FREEDOM
ETERNAL
GARMENTS
EARTHLY
PREPARE
BRANCHES
KINGDOM
PROMISED
JUSTICE

Play this puzzle online at : https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3058697/

Grace Lutheran Church
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Pastor: pastorgracehatfield@gmail.com
Office: graceassistant40@gmail.com
Stepping Stones: steppingstonesoffice@verizon.net, 215-368-2052

We rely on your gifts to sustain Grace and all its ministries! Please leave your offering in the basket at the rear of the sanctuary, or sign up for electronic giving on the new online giving page at gracelutheranhatfield.org/give-to-grace. If you do not yet have offering envelopes and would like them, please ask.

If you are in need of pastoral care or need a helping hand for any reason, please contact Pastor Raabe by email; in the office at 215-855-4676; or anytime on her cell phone, 614.214.2639 (texting is good!). Talk with her about prayer requests, illnesses and hospital stays, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and joyful events in your life.

Coming up at Grace:

- **Sunday School** resumes at 9:15 (note new time) today.
- **Two services return:** Starting today, we will return to our worship schedule for Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 am with communion on the first and third Sundays.
- **"Blue Christmas"** – contemplative worship Thursday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m.
- Start your morning with Pastor Raabe's "Advent God Minute" podcast weekdays during Advent. Find the link under the Worship area of our website.

Next week's readings (3rd Sunday of Advent):
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18