



Christ • Community

gracefallschurch.org



GraceFallsChurchVA



gracelutheranchurchva



Grace Falls Church

December 20, 2020

WELCOME

“JOY TO THE WORLD (UNSPEAKABLE JOY)”

**[Verse 1]**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her king  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven and nature sing

**[Verse 2]**

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns  
That all their songs employ  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

**[Chorus]**

Joy, unspeakable joy  
An overflowing well  
No tongue can tell  
Joy, unspeakable joy  
Rises in my soul, never let's me go

**[Verse 3]**

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love

**[Chorus]**

CCLI #5607039 | Ed Cash, Matt Gilder,  
George Frederic Handel, Chris Tomlin, and Isaac Watts  
© Vamos Publishing, Allotrop Music, and Ryan House

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

Worship Leader: On Christmas we like to give gifts. We wrap them up just to tear them open again and watch the joy spread across another's face. I remember a time when the look I saw on another's face was not joy, but rather disappointment. This can also easily happen with the gifts God has given us. We may question why God blessed us this way, but didn't bless us another way. We may envy for another's gifts and talents. We may even be callous or show disdain for gifts we take for granted. Going to church—whether online or in-person—becomes an obligation. Yet, God continues, and will continue, to bless us. He pours out grace upon grace, even though we sin and struggle with our sinful nature this side of heaven. And so let us confess our sins to God, and receive the assurance of his forgiveness:

**Congregation: Loving Lord, you have given me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, my mind and all my abilities. You have richly and daily provided all I need to support my body and life. Yet with all these blessings I have continued to sin—in thought, word, and deed. Lord, I pray that you have mercy on me. Not because I have earned it or deserved it, but because of your unfailing love and your Son Jesus. Remove my sin as far as the East is from the West. Take away my guilt and grant me strength. Assure me of your love for me. Renew me to live so others may come to know your Son—the Light of Life.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

WL: God, our heavenly Father, is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in faithful love. He sees you are blameless and holy because of the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Every sin you have ever committed has been wiped away. He remembers your sins no more and has made you alive in Christ. Go in peace knowing that your sins are forgiven. May the God of hope richly preserve you in faith through his Word and strengthen you to live your life sharing what Christ has done until you are called home. Amen.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:8-16

“Now then, tell my servant David,  
‘This is what the Lord Almighty says:

‘I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you.

‘Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed.

‘Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup> When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

<sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.

<sup>15</sup> But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

## SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

<sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

“The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

<sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.”

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

**"LITTLE BETHLEHEM"**

**[Verse 1]**

Little Bethlehem,  
though the least of Judah,  
from you has come forth a King.  
From your manger bed  
cried the infant voice  
of one older than everything.  
From the quiet and small  
came a mighty call  
that still echoes though the years.  
From the least of all came a champion  
who has dashed away all out fears.

**[Chorus]**

Come and behold him,  
born the King of angels.  
Glo-o-o-oria in excelsis De-o  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

**[Verse 2]**

We are Bethlehem.  
Small and young we humble  
ourselves neath God's mighty plan.  
But when we speak God's Word,  
though with children's voice,  
it accomplishes what He's planned.  
Neither wise or strong,  
but the angel's song,  
we can shout across the skies,  
and it won't be long 'till the last are first  
and least get heav'n's greatest prize.

**[Chorus]**

Come and behold him,  
born the King of angels.  
Glo-o-o-oria in excelsis De-o  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

**[Verse 3]**

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.

**[Chorus]**

Come and behold him, born the King of angels.  
Glo-o-o-oria in excelsis De-o!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

© 2013 CAMP PHILLIP USED BY PERMISSION

**MESSAGE:**



**ADVENT**  
*amid*  
**COVID-19**

***"WE'RE ALMOST THERE!"***  
*Today we continue with the message series for this Advent season—  
"Advent Amid COVID-19," with the particular focus of,  
"We're Almost There!"*

**GALATIANS 4:4-5**

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son,  
born of a woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law,  
that we might receive adoption to sonship.

## PRAYER

*Vicar David will offer the Prayer. Following the prayer:*

**All: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## "LIVING HOPE"

### **[Verse 1]**

How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness  
Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished the end is written  
Jesus Christ my living hope

### **[Verse 2]**

Who could imagine so great a mercy  
What heart could fathom such  
boundless grace  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken I am forgiven  
The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever  
Jesus Christ my living hope

### **[Chorus] x2**

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ my living hope

### **[Verse 3] x2**

Then came the morning  
that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me

---

### **2nd time:**

Jesus, yours is the victory!

### **[Chorus]x2**

Jesus Christ, my living hope  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

CCLI # 7106807 © 2017 Phil Wickham | Brian Johnson  
© 2017 Bethel Music Publishing

## WANT TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE MUSIC?

**\*-\*UPDATED\*-\*** If you would like to know the songs that we are planning on using during the this series, and listen to them on your own, in the car while commuting, or with your family, you can follow our playlist on Spotify. This playlist will be updated throughout the series.

----- *“Grace CREWW – Advent / Christmas 2020”* -----

You can search for it there or you can scan this code in the app. To scan a Spotify Code, go to the search bar, tap the search bar and you will see a camera icon, tap the camera and then hover the camera over this code:



## WANT TO LISTEN TO MORE?

This playlist contains nearly every one of the songs that we use for contemporary worship over the year:

*\*Also, feel free to send song suggestions or recommendations to Staff Minister Kyle Heise. 😊*



---

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Bible readings: Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.