

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – December 26, 2021
First Sunday of Christmas
Livestream on YouTube and Church in person at 11:00 a.m.



Opening Music

“In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 608”

J.S. Bach

Welcome

Please register your attendance with the QR code on the back of the bulletin, or with the online link, or on paper in the church Gathering Space. Need help? Ask any usher.

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

(Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord, all the earth, from the highest heights to the deepest depths!

Let everything sing and shout praise to the Creator!

Praise the Lord, all the heavens and starry host!

May praise to God abound!

Come, let us joyfully praise God!

Let us live our praise in deeds of loving kindness.

Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

Hymn [*stand*]

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

Glory to God #141

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession [*responsive*]

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
forgive us, Lord.

When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,
have mercy on us, O God.

When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing
and hearing and touching the needs of others,
let your grace consume us, O God.

When the wars around us are of no concern,
**forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion
for those who suffer.**

When our caring is not extended to action,
move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.

We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other.

**Remove all barriers that divide us,
and let there be no obstacle to our love for you
and for one another. Amen.**

[Silence for Personal Prayer]

Assurance of Pardon

Sung Response [*seated*]

Glory to God #141

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” verses 1 & 4

We Listen to God’s Word

Children’s Message

Mary Maldarelli, Grace Maldarelli

Children and youth stay in worship today. Let’s learn a new song together.

Hymn [*stand*]

“Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple”

Glory to God #148

Scripture

Luke 2:21–40

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;^[a] this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.^[b] ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon^[c] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon^[d] took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant^[e] in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon^[f] blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna^[g] the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child^[h] to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

After the Shepherds

Elder Kris Maldarelli

We Respond to God's Grace

Carol [*stand*]

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Glory to God #130

Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offertory [*seated*] “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” *verses 1 and 3* Glory to God #129

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer [*together*]

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.

We Depart for Service

Announcements

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Closing Hymn

“Joy to the World”

Glory to God #134

Benediction

Postlude

“Postlude on ‘Mendelssohn’”

David Willcocks

+

Participating in the service:

Elder Kris Obom Maldarelli
Dr. Grace Maldarelli
Dr. Mary Maldarelli, Guest Organist
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence



Please sign the guest book by using your smartphone camera to scan the QR code (gpchurch.org/guestbook)