



Little Town of Bethlehem

# Today's Worship Service

---

Call to Worship

Mike Matheson, Lead Pastor

[“Angels We Have Heard on High”](#)

Tomlin

[“Sing We the Song of Emmanuel”](#)

Papa, Townend, Boswell

Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

[“God's Promised One is Born”](#)

*Taken from the The Big Picture Storybook Bible by David Helm, Illustrated by Gail Schoonmaker*

© 2007. Used by permission of Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 60187, [bigpicturestorybible.com](http://bigpicturestorybible.com)

[“O Little Town of Bethlehem”](#)

Brooks

[“O Come All Ye Faithful”](#)

Myers, Stanfill

Reading of the Word [Luke 2:1-7](#)

Matthew Lautz, Dir. of Worship Arts

Preaching of the Word

Pastor Mike Matheson

Community Candle Lighting

[“Silent Night”](#)

Gruber, Hebble, Mohr, Young

[“Joy to the World \(Joyful Joyful\)”](#)

Handel, Watts, Wickham

Benediction

Pastor Mike Matheson

---

## Welcome to Christmas at Grace!

*We're so glad you've joined us this afternoon to celebrate Emmanuel, God with us. No matter what season of life you find yourself in today, it is our prayer that you will find hope as you encounter Jesus! The Christmas story is far more than just a story passed down from generation to generation. There were real shepherds, real angels, and an amazing Christ child who was born on Christmas. We hope that with childlike eyes you can experience the message of Christmas today that will sustain you long after the parties and presents have come and gone.*

*We also want you to know that we would love to have you join us each Sunday. Our weekly service is at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday. If we can serve you in any way, please don't hesitate to let us know. Merry Christmas to you!*

We want to connect with you! You can share your contact info via the QR code or stop by the information booth on the way out.

[graceinracine.com/connectcard](http://graceinracine.com/connectcard)



# What Is the Good News?

---

*One thing that all people share is that as we progress through life, we seek answers to the deeper questions: Where did we come from? What is our purpose? Why does so much in the world seem to be so wrong? The message of Christianity is that God has graciously given us answers to these questions. These answers come from what we call “the gospel” which means, “good news.” Here's that message:*

**1. God.** The Bible tells us that God, who is supremely good and loving, has created all things. From the smallest cells in our body to the countless galaxies in our universe, God has made, sustains, and rules over everything. ([Gen. 1:1](#); [Mark 10:18](#); [Col. 1:16,17](#))

**2. Man.** In his creative work, he has made us; human beings. The chief purpose of our design is to bring God glory. This means that in all that we do in the life that we live, our primary role is to reflect what God is like to the world. And when God finished creating us, he declared his work as good. ([Gen. 1:26,31](#); [Is. 43:6,7](#))

**3. Sin.** But then something happened. Even though we are the pinnacle of God's creation, we rebelled against God and fell into sin. In this, our hearts have turned from desiring to bring him glory to bringing glory to ourselves. Sin has caused us to be separated from a loving relationship with our creator God, darkened our understanding of him, and brought about death. In fact, all that is wrong with the world and every act of human evil finds its origin in our rebellion against God. ([Gen. 3](#); [Rom. 3:23](#); [Eph. 2:1-3](#))

**4. Jesus.** Fortunately, the story doesn't end here. When Christians celebrate Christmas, we are celebrating the fact that God graciously chose to rescue people from the clutches of sin and death. God sent his only son into the world to live the perfect life that we could never live, die a horrible death on a cross that pays the penalty for our sin, and conquer death by being raised from the dead. ([1 Tim. 1:15](#); [2 Cor. 5:21](#); [1 Cor. 15:3,4](#))

**5. Our Response.** It is important for you to know that only those who respond to Jesus and what he has done in faith will be saved from their sins and be restored to a relationship with God. A word that the Bible uses often is ‘repent’. This means that we turn from our life of sin, trust that Jesus is enough to save us, and follow after him. ([Luke 5:32](#); [John 14:6](#); [Rom. 3:21,22](#))