

# GRACE'S CHATTER

## CHRISTMAS 2021



## Oh give thanks to the Lord!

*Rev. Takouhi's Reflection ... Christmas 2021*



*"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever!"*

*Ps. 107:1*

Dear Grace United Church Family and Friends,

This year, I invite you to make time to reflect on what Christmas means to you.

What does it mean when you offer a gift to someone, and be thanked for it?

Maybe even, when you receive a gift, and you thank the person who offered it to you... from where does your gratitude come, and to where is it directed?

Christmas 2019 seems so far away; it seems to me that it was the last Christmas that we were "free" to do whatever we wanted. Travel anywhere and everywhere freely, there were no restrictions of COVID tests, masks, or distancing ourselves from each other. We used to gather with family and friends to eat, drink and be merry, without any hesitations. We used to gather in church sanctuaries on Christmas Eve, sit shoulder to

shoulder, sing our favourite Carols, enjoy the First Christmas Story over and over again, have a chuckle or two when someone forgot a line or almost tripped over their garments. There are so many things I can list here that flood my memory, but you get the idea.

Beloved, there are so many events that have happened personally, communally, and globally, in 2020 and 2021 that we know life is different than ever before. However, the little voice in me keeps on reminding me, **God is still the same God of the very First Christmas. God is still the same God who created the vast universe with love and care. God is still the God of Light, Life, and Laughter. God is still the God of the best gifts we are offered unconditionally – Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. God is still the God who gives us the reasons to be full of Gratitude and Passion.**

As Sister Joan Chittister says in her most recent monthly publication (The Monastic Way) entitled, **"Gratitude and Passion"**:

"Christmas is the commitment to life made incarnate.  
It is the call to see God everywhere and especially in those places we would not expect to find glory and grace.  
It is the call to exult in life.

Christmas is the obligation to see that everything leads us directly to God, to realize that there is no one, nothing on earth that is not the way to God for me. I knew instantly that the moment we begin to really celebrate Christmas, to look at everyone and everything as a revelation of God, to say "thank you" for them, that racism would be over, war would be no more, world hunger would disappear, everything would be gift, everyone would be sacred.

Indeed, it is simple but oh, so clear: All we have to do to "make straight the way of God" is to say "thank you," to learn to live intensely, to have a zeal for life, to develop a passion for life." 1



So, friends, today I implore you to think and reflect deeply, what does this Christmas mean to you? How would you treat and thank others? How would you include them in your circle of love? How would your Gratitude and Passion live out in this world?

May we live to make this world a better place, at Christmas and ALWAYS.

Your Servant-Leader,

**Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro** B.A., B.Th., M.Div.

1 <https://www.monasticway.org/current-issue - December 2, 2021 – page 1>

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## **Winona Circle quilt returns to Gananoque after 78 years**

By Paul Scott

Much has been written about the sacrifices of the men and women who lost their lives during the Second World War. And we remember them each year on November 11 at the Gananoque Cenotaph.

Much less is known about the women in Canada who lovingly hand assembled over 400,000 quilts which were carefully packaged and sent to be distributed throughout Britain from 1939 to 1945. By 1944 women in Ontario alone had hand quilted over 250,000 quilts.

This is the story of one such quilt; made by the Winona Circle of Grace Church in Gananoque, shipped to a grateful and caring recipient in Britain; was retrieved in 1992 from a pile of blankets destined for Kurdistan; was treasured by podcast host Jo Andrews and her mother as they searched for the church in Canada, and finally returned home to Gananoque on November 11, 2021.



Pam Hudson, Gananoque Library and Joanna Dermenjian admire the Winona Circle quilt.



Label on the Winona Circle quilt from 1943

Joanna Dermenjian is a masters' student at Queen's University, Kingston, who enjoys listening to a podcast called Haptic and Hue whose host, Jo Andrews, a hand weaver, often offers giveaways to listeners. Dermenjian entered via email and included the following note: 'Researching Canadian WWII Red Cross Quilts'. Here is the response she received to her email.

"Your email took my breath away," wrote Andrews. "In the early 1990's, my mother and I ran a morning collection point collecting blankets for Kurdish refugees who were fleeing into the hills of Kurdistan, in bitter weather, away from the death squads of Saddam Hussein's army. These blankets were to be piled onto a big container truck and driven out to eastern Turkey where it was hoped they might provide some comfort."

"Someone handed in a patchwork quilt which was noticed and we fished it out of the pile and have held onto it ever since," relates Andrews. "My mother Christine and I spent some time trying to track down the history of this quilt and the community that made it. We discovered that the church where it was made burnt down some years ago and all records were lost. So the quilt has lived its latter life being cared for in my mother's house." That church was Grace United in Gananoque which was destroyed by fire in the summer of 1979 and was rebuilt and reopened in 1981.



Jo Andrews attached a picture of the quilt label. 'W.V.S. / Winona Circle/ Grace United Church/ Gananoque, Ont. Canada.'

Dermenjian had been researching the "Canadian Red Cross Quilts" for two years and had never come across a "war quilt" that had been made so close to her home. Next stop was the Gananoque Public Library and the microfilm from The Gananoque Reporter. The community newspaper published several articles encouraging women to make and supply quilts and other necessary items. And they responded!

"There are thousands of articles in newspapers across the country, like those in The Reporter, saying three quilts shipped this week or such and such a guild made 17 quilts last month," said Dermenjian.

The Winona Mission Circle at Grace United Church was an evening auxiliary group of the Women's Missionary Society (W. M. S.) which was originally formed here in 1886. There was also an afternoon auxiliary. The Winona Circle was formed sometime between 1908 and 1910 and was named after Miss Winona Pitcher, the daughter of Grace United's minister Rev. Joel Tallman Pitcher.



*Members of Grace Church added detail to the Winona Circle quilt story. From the left, Paul Harding, Nancy Abrams with Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro.*

An email to Grace United Church was forwarded to some of the long standing members and the interest of Music Director Paul Harding and Nancy Abrams was peeked. As a young girl, Nancy Abrams had heard of the Winona Circle and she found reference to the Winona Circle in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet published by Grace United Church in 1936 by local pharmacist Clifford Sine. Paul Harding remembered his grandmother Annie Scott was a member of the Winona Circle and he was able to put his hand on several letters of thanks she had received from folks in Britain who had

received quilts from Grace Church women. He remembered coming across these letters when sorting through some of his mother's items and he decided to keep them.

One of the letters was written on September 23, 1945 by A. Cornish. "The quilt or bedspread has arrived safe in Yorkshire, England with your name on it. A lot of things has (sic) come from Canada ... I thought I would drop a line thanking you very much for all you have done." Mr. Cornish was an "old age pensioner" who was very grateful for this thoughtful donation.

The W.V.S. on the top of the quilt label was a puzzle initially. Why would it not have been W. M. S. (Women's Missionary Society)? Joanna Dermenjian discovered that W. V. S. (Women's Volunteer Service) appears to have been the distribution agent in Britain for the British Red Cross and the W. V. S. was likely added to the label prior to distribution.

"Originally, I thought all the quilts went to The Canadian Red Cross – that's why I called them the 'Red Cross Quilts' – but I don't think that anymore. I do know that the Canadian Red Cross shipped the largest number to the British Red Cross and they were then distributed by the W. V. S.", Dermenjian said.

In Britain the quilts are revered as valuable pieces of history, treasured antiques found in private collections and museums. However, in Canada, very few people even know about them, and almost none exist. She said that about 200 war quilts are believed to exist in the UK and Dermenjian has found nine so far in Canada. One special quilt has made its way home to Gananoque, bringing the total to ten. When one considers that it took close to 50 hours to hand make one quilt that totals over 200 million women hours of quilt making for the war effort from Canada.

At the repatriation ceremony at the Gananoque Library on November 11, 2021, Joanna Dermenjian summed it up beautifully. "Today, as we remember the tragedies of war, and honour those who made sacrifices in support of our democracy, it is fitting to also acknowledge and honour all the women of the war, the wives and mothers, sisters and aunts who were left behind on the 'home front'. They worked hard to support their homes, their men, the economy, the war needs and the people in other countries affected by war."

"For six years during the Second World War, the women of Canada maintained the momentum to make 'war comforts' by hand," she told the gathering at the library. "This quilt is a rare tangible object that has survived to tell us this story. It is a gift back to the Gananoque community from Christine and Jo Andrews – a reminder of the patriotism, industry, thought, care and love of the women of Gananoque to the people of Britain during the Second World War," she concluded.

**Acknowledgements:** To Lorraine Payette for her two articles in the Nov. 11 and Nov. 25 issues of The Gananoque Reporter and to researcher Joanna Dermenjian, masters' student in Cultural Studies at Queen's University, Kingston, On.

# Community Kitchen will teach nutritious meal preparation

By David Charles



Photo by [John Cameron](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What is a Community Kitchen?

As your Mission and Service Enthusiast, I wondered the same thing when I became our Church representative of the Gananoque and Area Food Access Network (G&AFAN). My first thought is that it was a kitchen like the "Manna Kitchen" at the Salvation Army to provide meals for those in need. A Chinese proverb says "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." This is basically what a Community Kitchen does.

Here at Grace United Church we are privileged to offer our kitchen to help our community to help feed their families with nutritious foods despite tremendous pressures on income. Talking to representatives from the Gananoque Food Bank, they observe that clients avoid basic items like beans and pasta because they do not know what to do with them.

Access to good affordable food has been an important global issue for many years. In many ways it is an economic issue. With current income levels and poor minimum wages people cannot afford to eat nutritious meals. This is why the United Church of Canada supports a minimum livable income.

Our world is changing. The "Protestant work ethic" is changing. People are not lazy. Work has become automated but our social systems have not adapted. I have many friends and family members with adult children living at home because they cannot find work, or they get work that is not sustainable from an income perspective.

Our Grace Church Official Board has approved a 3-learning session Community Kitchen that will use our kitchen to teach folks in our community how to prepare nutritious meals on a tight income. Long term we are looking to Community Living to provide a permanent place for a Community Kitchen...if not maybe this is what Grace United Church is all about.

When asked in an extensive community survey why you would like to have a Community Kitchen these are the responses with top items being the priority:

## RESPONSES

Learn about cooking for a family with kids Improve my cooking skills  
Learn about preserving (freezing, drying, canning) Learn about cooking for one or two  
Cook and share a meal with others  
Learn how to teach my kids to cook  
Learn about bulk/batch cooking/bring home meals Learn about cooking with seasonal foods  
Learn about one pot meals  
Learn how to bake  
Learn about soups and stews

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## 2021 Highlights Growth at Grace United!

By Vicki Leakey

2021 has proven to be a very good year for the Grace United Church family; we are all pleased to be back in the sanctuary, regardless of minor safety restrictions, we still can smile through the mask and see how each of us is doing.

Although many challenges still exist with Covid-19, we have had so many successes this year, our pie sales were fantastic, and we continue to assist with funding local charities such as the Foodbank, Children's Toy Drive, Almost Home etc. I believe we can all be very proud how full our red wagon of supplies for the Gananoque Foodbank is each week, the generosity among our members is overwhelming.

The stewards and the official board have worked to draft a 2022 budget where we have set a target of \$222,773 for expenses with matching revenue which is approximately an expected 4% increase. Fortunately, we do have some access to Trustee funds to help subsidize our work in the areas of Worship, Christian Development, Pastoral Care and Mission and Service and local Outreach.

Fundraising has been very challenging in 2021 with the required safety restrictions for Covid-19; however, our church family has been successful in raising dollars to cover our essential operating costs or for a specific need in the community. Special thanks to those that have worked to bring in grants to assist with the necessary equipment that allows us to televise our services.

Total Revenue for year to date for November 2021 was \$180,370 compared to \$162,709 in 2020.

Total expense for year to date for November 2021 was \$190,489 compared to \$162,709 in 2020.

We will also make a special note of appreciation to all those supporting the United Church of Canada Mission & Service initiatives. We have been able to raise \$12,583 to date, which in an increase of \$5,000 over the prior year. I believe the M&S communication we hear each week, of great need from all over the world helps bring a closer appreciation of where and how our gifts are being used.

Blessings to those who continue to provide the necessary financial support to our church, there is much thought on how we can reach the need locally and abroad and your gifts enable us to make a difference.

We have several Offering options available for those that may not attend Sunday Service but wish to support the many programs that Grace United Church continues to provide. E-Transfer from your on-line bank account is popular. You can look for "send an e-transfer" on your on-line banking website and send to [grace.gan@outlook.com](mailto:grace.gan@outlook.com). Follow the instructions given. Offerings by mail is another option – send a cheque to Grace United Church 120 Pine St. Gananoque, ON K7G 1C7. Thank you for your support.

As we are all still experiencing the impact of COVID 19 on our daily lives, please know that your church family is always here for you. The Holiday Season for 2021 will likely have continued uncertainty, regarding how far we might travel or how much family can gather together. Although there has been some lowering of restrictions that give us some freedom for much needed social time, we must all be diligent until we can finally breathe a sigh of relief at the end of this pandemic.

As your Church Treasurer, I wish all of you a safe, healthy and Merry Christmas and thanks to all of you that have supported your church with your time and your finances to make this a good year for Grace United Church.





# Grace Church fine tunes Live Steaming on YouTube

By Paul Harding

The week of September 6<sup>th</sup> was a busy one for the Audio/Visual Team and installer Rob Bailey of Kingston SoundWorks. Rob installed the first of two pan/tilt/zoom cameras along with the hardware to stream the video signal to Facebook and beyond. Meanwhile, our Music Director was working on the sound system, to ensure that everything that happens during our service can be *heard* in our streamed service. Dave Charles provided a laptop computer, with which we can display the words of hymns and prayers. And an enthusiastic group of volunteers gathered 'round to see how it all goes together to send our worship service to the internet. Brian Brooks, Cliff Edwards, Dave Charles, Christina Kaya and Paul Harding received instruction on how to operate the system.

Christina drew the straw to be first on deck and approached the task with organization and conscientiousness. With only a few hours of instruction and practice, Christina sent out to Facebook our first streamed live service since December 20, 2020. Kudos to her for the fine job she did, for her first try. With suggestions and equipment adjustments Christina has been capably at the helm each Sunday since then ensuring our services are carried live on YouTube.

The AV Centre is all housed on a small table at the back of the church ( with the exception of a camera) which is mounted higher on a centre pillar. The camera is capable of wide shots, zooming in, panning from side to side and tilting up and down, controlled by a single 'joystick'.



*“With headphones in place, Christina Kaya prepares to provide live Sunday services on YouTube.”*

The A/V Team appreciates the enthusiasm with which Grace United Church has embraced the concept of having our services “out there” for all the world to see. Some of our own members, who may not be comfortable yet joining with the group, look forward to seeing our service Sunday morning, on Facebook, YouTube or Cogeco TV.

Operating the AV Console is, indeed, easier than you think. Please, give consideration to serving Grace United Church in this way. Training will be given and there’s help with every step.

Contact Office Administrator Laurie 613-382-2161 or [grace.gan@outlook.com](mailto:grace.gan@outlook.com) to get your name on the roster of helpers. The more people we have, the less often you have to take your turn.

# Serving at Grace creates happiness!

**By Tammy Fergusson**

Do you want to know the secret to a happy life?

Join a Committee at Grace United!

The Nominations Committee is seeking 5 to 7 church members to fill the opening **Session** positions. Session is a group of 12 members who work towards bringing a meaningful worship experience to Grace United.

We have smaller committees who communicate with our church members, get involved in special services and prepare the elements for Communion. And this is just a few of the things we do!

Our Session and its Committees enjoy working together to enrich the life and worship experience of our church family. The main areas of responsibility include Worship, Membership, Faith Formation and Christian Education, Pastoral Care and Visitation and Outreach.

The **Board of Stewards** also requires positions to be filled. That committee manages the financial affairs of the congregation by assisting in securing financial contributions, disbursing the money received, fundraising, reporting the financial condition of the Congregation to the Official Board and presenting the financial statements at the Annual Meeting.

Terms on Session and Stewards are usually three years and ideally there should be a mixture of new and seasoned members. Meetings are held monthly September through June with no meeting in December.

The **Ministry and Personnel Committee** is also hoping to add a member or two. They liaise between church staff and the congregation, the **Trustees** administer funds held in trust, such as bequests and investments.

If you have not served on a church board or committee in a number of years or if you have never served, please consider doing so and contact Tammy Fergusson (613-328-7766)

[thefergussons@primus.ca](mailto:thefergussons@primus.ca), Linda Brooks (613-382-2385) [lbrooks6.lb@gmail.com](mailto:lbrooks6.lb@gmail.com) or the Church office, Laurie Cadue (613-382-2161) [grace.gan@outlookcom](mailto:grace.gan@outlookcom).

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## **FundScrip – Help Our Church Raise Funds**

*By Using Gift Cards for Your Everyday Spending*

Do you buy groceries, gas, household items, shop at department stores, do you eat in restaurants? Go to the movies or need gifts for holidays, birthdays, or other special events?

FundScrip is a fundraising program that lets our church raise much need funds simply by purchasing gift cards to the stores you are already shopping at. You purchase a \$100 grocery card and you will receive a \$100 gift card, a percentage of your purchase will be donated back to our fundraising campaign.

How do I order?

An order form with the complete list of available gift cards can be emailed to you or picked up at the Church. Complete the order form and submit to our group administrators, Linda Brooks or Denise Wood with your payment. Orders are accepted the second Sunday of each month. You will be contacted when the Gift Cards arrive for pick up.

Need more information - please contact the church office or speak to Linda or Denise.

<https://www.fundscrip.com/>



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## And there were in the same country...

The Story as retold by our Moderator Rt. Rev. Richard Bott.

<https://www.facebook.com/ModeratorRichardBott>



A retelling of the story of Jesus' birth, based on the words in the text we know as the "Gospel according to Luke" (chapter 2).

What, if anything, strikes you as strange about this retelling?

It was at a time of economic and social change, when Augustus (who styled himself as God/Emperor) decided that there would be a new way to transfer the riches from all of the known lands into his hands. To do this, there would need to be a count of all the people living on those lands. This was the first such census, and it was done in the time when Quirinius was the Emperor's minion ruling Syria.

The rules for this census caused a forced migration - everyone being made to travel to the male head-of-household's ancestral lands for the count. So Joseph and Mary left Nazareth, in Galilee, and travelled to Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph's ancestor was King David, himself. This was not an easy journey, walking that distance, as Mary was pregnant and close to term.

While they were in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to her child - her first-born. Because there were so many people in the city, all of the more private guest-spaces in Joseph's extended family's homes were filled up, so Mary's son was born in the room that was the family-space, at a time when the animals had been brought in to protect them from the night's dangers. (One can imagine a head of house listening to a tired Joseph recite his lineage, "I am Joseph, son of Jacob, son of Matthan, son of Eliazar, son of of Elihud, son of...", and trying to figure out where this cousin's cousin of a cousin and his quite pregnant wife were going to squeeze in, but "family is family, and you never turn away a guest!") In the warmth of that space, Mary wrapped her newborn tightly, as was the custom, and laid him down in the softest place available - the depression where fresh, sweet hay had been placed for the animal's fodder.

As the child was being born, there were folks out in the fields, people who were taking care of others' sheep. This was a dirty and dangerous job, one for only those on the lowest rung of the social ladder.

Out of nowhere appeared a messenger of God. To...shepherds. The shepherds could tell this was God's messenger because God's glory was overwhelmingly present. And they were, rightly, terrified. The Messenger said, "Don't be afraid. I am here to share good news - news that will bring joy to everyone who hears it. News that is for all people! Right now, in David's city - in Bethlehem - a child has been born. This child is the One who Saves, the Messiah... the MESSIAH! How will you know it is him? He will be wrapped tightly, and lying in the hay of the animals feed-space."

Suddenly, God's entire army lit up the night's sky - not in battle, but in praise - with the words, "Glory to God in heaven!

Peace to all those on earth who God loves!"

When the celestial army disappeared, along with God's messenger, the Shepherds decided to go to the town, to meet the newborn they had been told about. The newborn they had been told about by... God's... Messenger!

They hurried to the town and, sure enough, found the child exactly as they had been given to understand - Mary and Joseph sitting there, and the baby, wrapped tightly and lying on the sweet hay.

When they saw this, they told everyone in the house what they had been told about this child (and by whom!)

Everyone was astounded - shocked, even - and wondered what it meant.

Well, everyone except Mary. She had had her own experience of God's call, through the messenger Gabri-el, and she held everything she heard deep within her, a treasure for her heart to ponder. The shepherds returned to their flocks, and would tell the story of what happened that night, for the rest of their lives.

Eight days later, at the time of his circumcision, the baby was given the name that God's great Messenger Gabri-el had told Mary. The child was named Yeshua - "Rescuer".

(This is the child we know as "Jesus.")

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## Celebrations



Happy Birthday to all those celebrating birthdays in the coming weeks, especially, Denise, Steve, Paul, Bonnie, Edna, Rev. Seeley, Catherine, Carol, Vicki, Tom, Gayle, Cliff, Marjory, Merna, Gary, Cecile, Peter, Helen, Gary, Tim, Connie, Dianne, Marilyn, Collen, Marg, Diane, and Gillian.

Happy Anniversary to Brian & Linda, David & Joan and Ron & Mary.

We were blessed at Grace United to have held three Baptisms over the past few months, welcome, Ethan, Austin and Henry.

On December 19<sup>th</sup> we welcomed new member Susan Barwell to our Grace Church Family.

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**Contributors this month** Rev. Takouhi, Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, Vicki Leakey, Paul Harding, David Charles, Tammy Fergusson, Paul Scott, Laurie Cadue.

**Next deadline: Friday, April 1, 2022 – No Fooling 😊**

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## Contacts:

**Minister:** Rev. Takouhi Demirdijian-Petro - Direct line: 613-777-0880

You can learn more about Rev. Takouhi on her website [www.RevTakouhi.ca](http://www.RevTakouhi.ca)

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Board of Stewards: Chair: Carolyn Scott 613-382-4386 [scottsonhill@hotmail.com](mailto:scottsonhill@hotmail.com)

Vice Chair: Denise Wood [seelion89@gmail.com](mailto:seelion89@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Vicki Leakey 613-382-4015 [vickileakey@gmail.com](mailto:vickileakey@gmail.com)



**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year**

**We wish you a year full of  
health, happiness & joy.**



## A Christmas Day Home Worship

Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021



### Lighting of a Candle

*(Light a candle)*

**Opening Words:** For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Prayer:** Almighty God, Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, born in Bethlehem.

May we receive Christ into our lives and become, through him, your blessed children who walk in the light you have sent into our world. Through Christ we pray. **Amen.**

### **Carol: Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

1 Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!' Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host  
proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'

## The Birth of Jesus

(Luke 2: 8-20 ; New Revised Standard Version)

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**A Christmas Prayer of Thanksgiving:** God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, Jesus. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer to you. Use us and all of our gifts for your purposes and plans, bringing your good news of great joy to all people. **Amen.**

**Happy Birthday, Jesus!**  
*Merry Christmas to ALL*

## A New Year's Day Home Worship

Saturday, January 1, 2022



*(Light a candle)*

**Opening Words:** Ps. 148 selected verses

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the earth! Young and old alike, men and women together. Praise the Lord!

### **Song VU #266: Amazing Grace**

- 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me, this word my hope secures; God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

**Prayer of Confession:** God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; as we journey on in this New Year that you have gifted us today.

**Amen**

**Declaration of Forgiveness:** God loves us not because of any good works that we have done, but because of who God is: You are Loved more than you know...

### **Song VU# 296: This is God's Wonderful World**

- 1 **This is God's wondrous world,  
and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is God's wondrous world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.**
- 3 **This is God's wondrous world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:  
God reigns, let earth be glad!**

### **A New Year's Day Prayer:**

Renewing God: We give you thanks for this New Year.

As we begin this new chapter may we trust your Guidance,  
Direction and Grace. Help us to live compassionate lives  
filled with patient and meek moments; and lead humble  
and modest lives, like Jesus did.

May we live like Jesus, our example, and The Way to follow.

**Amen.**

*Happy New Year!*

*May the new year ahead, 2022 be Filled  
with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love*