



# The Shepherd's Voice

December 20, 2011

By Fr. Joe Rees

“Glory to God in the Highest”

“And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace among men with whom He is pleased.”** Luke 2:13-14.

When the angel Gabriel announced the conception of the Son of God, Jesus, in Mary's womb, she said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” Luke 1:38. Radiant Glory created life. She reflected it back in praise! Now, the angels and all the company of saints in heaven are rejoicing with her in the faithful birth of the Son of God, heaven's Son. Imagine the joy in heaven in realizing that God came down to earth to be the liberator and victor over sin and death to give eternal life! Such a huge pouring forth of the immensity of grace and virtue and peace, as earth had never known before. This solitary miraculous moment forever changed the course of eternal life for all Creation. God was and is completely engaged with His people and is the Master of the universe in a baby boy who is born in a crude animal stable. The glory of God is revealed. The glory of heaven burst forth. The glory of the shining Light of Eternity is incarnated within a human child. Light from light; dispelling the darkness.

Mary and Joseph were filled with awe and wonder as they looked into His perfect eyes filled with the light of heaven. Mary kissed her son, the face of God, adoring Him; and Joseph obediently held this Son in his arms, lifting him up to the starlit, angel-filled sky and praised God with his ‘Baruch Adonai’. ‘Blessed be the Lord! Amen!’ And heaven and earth were joined in a transformational moment of miracle, a cacophony of praise, a symphony of Glory! No wonder Handel wrote the chorus “Glory to God” with such a passion. It is becoming of us therefore to be passionately

engaged in this moment of ‘Glory’ for God's working of His most extraordinary of miracles of placing Himself inside a human child to live amongst us.

Therefore, I call all of us to this Christ-Mass to ‘Glorify the Lord’! I implore you to come to the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and proclaim Him as our Lord and Savior, Savior of all the nations of the earth. I pray He will be truly ‘Glorified’ by our songs of praise, our hearts of joy, our lives filled with His peace and harmony by virtue of His redeeming love. Bring your friends, your relatives, your loved ones to our celebrations, whether they be at 5pm or 10pm on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day at 10am. On Christmas Day we will also have the baptism of Abigail Painter for even more ‘Glory to God’ that we bring another child to Him so He can be born in her. Yes, come and celebrate with joyful hearts the New Born King...Jesus, the Savior of the whole world!

Let your souls abound with the reflected glory of God that first transforms you and then responds with faith to release the glory for all others to see, the joy on your faces, the power of God in your lives to make such a difference in this world of devils as Martin Luther sang. For where and within whom the ‘Glory’ shines, Satan flees away! Come Holy Spirit and bring us into that Shekinah Glory that was revealed at the moment Jesus was born. Shekinah is the Hebrew word used by the rabbis that literally meant “he caused to dwell” but also was visible in the pillar of fire by night or radiantly bright cloud that led the Israelites out of Egypt. It was the radiance that was beyond the veil of the tabernacle's inner sanctum when Moses went in to visit with God's Presence (so much so he wound up being sun-burned!). This same radiance is now Presence within the child Jesus. His eyes must have glowed with the radiance of heaven. We are drawn to Him. He is the Light of the Glory of God. He is the inner sanctum and we do well to worship Him

with all of God's glory we can reflect from our lives back to God in mass concert. Join us in giving 'Glory' to God this weekend. Let your lights shine with glory on each face. Let the joy of Christmas live in your hearts and minds always. Become a 'Glory' reflector for God with all you have in your life. This will truly prepare you for heaven, where the 'Light is always on' and the Glory never fades!

the Most High God for the holy blessings He has brought us in the incarnation of His Son, our Savior, Jesus. Be born within my heart Lord Jesus! Lord of my life, light up all our lives, and give us the joy of communing with You forever!

With Christ's love and blessings,  
Fr. Joe

May the Glory of God fill your hearts and minds to such a radiant intensity that you cascade praises to

### Sunday Servers this week...

December 25, 2011			10:00 a.m. Service
First Reader			Frank Comstock
Psalm Reader			Petey Seibold
Second Reader			Robbin Gates
Intercessor			Joy Rosendale
Lay Euch. Ministers		<b>One Service</b>	Petey Seibold, Frances Slaughter
Acolytes			Bill Laitinen
Welcomers			Katy Laundrie, Joan Gast, John Gutz
Ushers			Dink Nash, Jackie Lansing
Healing Ministers			
Counters			Cline Handy & Michael Murphy

### Christmas at Grace Anglican Church

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Services –

5:00 p.m.-Family Service,

10:00p.m. – Traditional service with choir

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day service at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, December 26 – 9:30 a.m. – Holy Communion – St. Stephens Day

Tuesday, December 27 – 9:30 a.m. – Holy Communion – St. John's Day

Wednesday, December 28 – 9:30 a.m. – Holy Communion – Holy Innocents Day

Saturday, December 31 – 7:00 p.m. – New Year's Eve Service

**Sunday, December 25, 2011**

**10:00 a.m. One Service**

**Merry Christmas**

Join us on December 31<sup>st</sup>  
at 7:00 p.m. for a special  
New Year's Eve service.  
Let's usher the new year  
in with prayer and praise  
to our Lord.

**Readings for Sunday**

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98:1-6

Hebrews 1:1-12

John 1:1-14

We are using the English Standard  
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary  
from the Book of Common Prayer (Year B)

**This Week at Grace –Dec. 20-Dec. 27**

**Tues. December 20**

11:30 a.m. No Rector's Bible Study at Grace  
4:15 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis  
6:30 p.m. No Soup Supper and teaching at Grace

**Wed. December 21**

7:30 a.m. Listening Prayer & Eucharist at Grace  
9:30 a.m. No Staff Meeting –Grace  
6:30 p.m. No Youth Group

**Thurs. December 22**

7:00 a.m. No Bible Study  
11:30 a.m. Holy Communion – Oasis  
2:00 p.m. No Women's Bible Study – Grace  
2:00 p.m. **Bruce Brayton Memorial Service**  
6:00 p.m. Choir Small Group dinner  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Fri. December 23**

Fr. Joe's Day Off

**Sat. December 24**

8:00 a.m. No Men's Bible Study  
9:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Worship Team  
10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir

**Sun. December 25**

10:00 a.m. One Service

**Mon. December 26**

Office Closed

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer group  
9:30 a.m. St. Stephen's Day - Holy Eucharist

**Tues. December 27**

9:30 a.m. St. John's Day - Holy Eucharist  
11:30 a.m. No Rector's Bible Study at Grace  
4:15 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis  
6:30 p.m. No Soup Supper and teaching tonight

**Tues. December 27**

9:30 a.m. Holy Innocents Day – Holy Eucharist

**Weekly** – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: [www.graceanglicanchurch.com](http://www.graceanglicanchurch.com).

**The Kingdom Conference is coming!** March 23-24, 2012. Entitled "The Power of Vision: The Church for the 21st Century", this conference will crack open new approaches to evangelism, church growth, and youth and children's ministry. Don't miss out on the only West Coast Conference designed just for Anglicans. More info coming soon. Everyone who attended last year's conference had a wonderful time of learning and fellowshiping with fellow Anglicans.

The Memorial Service for Bruce Brayton will be on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Grace Anglican Church. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Christian Healing Center and put "Bruce Brayton Memorial Fund" in the memo line.

Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – Women's Ministry Luncheon at 12:15p.m. This free catered lunch is for all women, interested men and hungry husbands. Georgette Fourney of Anglicans for Life and Kim Brunson of the Pregnancy Resource Center will be the featured speakers. Please R.S.V.P. to the church office so we will know how much food to order.

**Save the date!**

Dec. 22 – Bruce Brayton Memorial Service  
Dec. 24- Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 & 10:00 p.m.  
Dec. 25 – One service at 10:00 a.m.  
Dec. 26 – St. Stephen's Day Holy Eucharist  
Dec. 27 – St. John's Day Holy Eucharist  
Dec. 28 – Holy Innocents Day Holy Eucharist  
Jan. 8 – Women's Luncheon  
Jan. 29 – Parish Annual Meeting  
Mar. 23-25, 2012 – Kingdom Conference in Irvine

**Be sure to check our website  
for our church information  
[www.graceanglicanchurch.com](http://www.graceanglicanchurch.com)**