

A Celebration of Worship

December 28, 2025

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, "What now?"

P: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

L: In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

P: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

L: With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

P: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

L: As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

P: We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

UMH #246

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER/PRAYER

HYMN

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

UMH #242

CHILDREN'S STORY—held in the Nursery

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 63:7-9 & Matthew 2:13-25 (NRSV)

SERMON

"Signs and Power"

Pastor Kevin Rea

*HYMN

"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought"

UMH #128

OFFERING PRAYER: Steadfast God of refuge and promise, even when the world makes no room, even when fear seems stronger than hope, you are with us. In the flight to Egypt, in the cries of grief, in the fragile beginnings of new life, you make a way. Receive these gifts, O God, as signs of our willingness to make room for your kingdom among us. Use what we bring—not just our treasure, but our time, our voices, our compassion—to heal what is broken, to protect the vulnerable, and to embody your saving love. In the name of Jesus, our Light in the shadows. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

*BENEDICTION/*POSTLUDE

Serving Today

Liturgist: John Swihart

Fellowship:

Staff

Pastor: Kevin Rea

Office Assistant:

Organist: Jim O'Konski

Flute: Nancy Ott

Lay Leader: Valinda Hailey

Contact Information

Pastor's email: krea@greatplainsumc.org

Office Phone: 785-232-3333

Office Email: graceumc27@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Website: graceumctopeka.com

*Please Stand

**Hearing Assist Units are available from an usher.

*** Children are always welcome to stay in worship. Activity bags are available for them to use. They are hanging on a rack outside the sanctuary.

Connection Card

Welcome to Topeka Grace UMC!

We are so glad you are here. Please take a moment to complete this card in its entirety and place it in the offering plate.

December 28, 2025

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email @gmail.com @yahoo.com @cox.net

Please update my contact info.

Add me to the church email list.

Attending with me today:

I am a: Out of town Guest

First time Guest Frequent Guest

Second time Guest Member

Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 29

12:00 pm AA - #3

7:30 pm NA - #3

Tuesday, December 30

5:30 pm AA - #3

Wednesday, December 31

New Years Eve

5:30 pm AA - Parlor

Thursday, January 1

New Years Day

5:45 pm Women AA - #3

6:00 pm TOPS - Parlor

Friday, January 2

6:30 pm NA - #3

Sunday, January 4

10:45 am Worship

Mission Statement

Grace United Methodist Church is growing into an open, welcoming, and accepting Christ-centered community, committed to sharing the transforming love of Christ, and loving all people all the time!

Grace

United Methodist Church



December 28th, 2025

Please:

- Share with Prayer Team
- Keep confidential (Pastor only)

This person is:

- Family Friend Member
- Self Co-worker Other

My name: _____

Date: _____

Contact Info.: _____
