



Grace

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 8, 2024 | 10:00 AM SERVICE

“See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?”
- Malachi 3:1-2

Welcome to Grace Church

WELCOME!

Welcome, we are so glad you are joining us for worship this morning!

TODAY'S SERVICES AND EVENTS

Rite One Service | 8:00am
Coffee Hour+ | 9:00am | Parish House
Nursery | 9:00am | Nursery
New Testament Bible Study | 9:15am | Grace Hall
WonderKids | 9:45am | Sunshine Room
StoryMakers | 9:45am | Wonder Room
Connect | 10:00am | Grace Hall
Rite Two Service | 10:00am
Coffee Hour+ | 11:00pm | Parish House

WHO ARE WE?

In our reverent worship space, we warmly welcome people who are at all stages of faith, from those who are curious to explore the big questions of life, faith and meaning, to those who are growing and maturing in their faith. Our sermons convey the truth of the gospel and offer practical applications to everyday life. Our desire is to grow in knowledge and love God, and infuse His grace and truth into everything we do. Grace Episcopal Church is traditional and liturgical, and we care for our visitors by clearly explaining the heart and history behind our form of worship. We have found a family here, and we want this church to feel like a family for you, too.

OUR BELIEF & PRACTICES

The Episcopal Church has been called the “bridge church,” for we are Protestants who also honor our traditional Catholic heritage as well as contemporary worship. In addition to the Bible, our worship is led by the Book of Common Prayer, which has formed our historical thought and practice in its several editions since 1549. We are deeply sacramental, believing in the Baptism of children and that the Holy Eucharist (Communion) is the central act of worship. All baptized Christians may receive communion.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Rite One Service: Traditional Service without music at 8:00 am Sunday mornings
Rite Two Service: Contemporary Service with music at 10:00 am Sunday mornings. Nursery is open.
Midweek Service: Healing and Prayer Service at 12:05 pm on Wednesdays

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Your children are very welcome here! If you have babies or children, we have a nursery across the street in the Church Office building for children ages 0-3 years. We offer our WonderKids program for children ages 4-6 where we use the Jesus Storybook Bible curriculum. Our Story Makers classroom is for ages 7-9. And we also offer Connect Youth for ages 10-13.

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THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light:

People

On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Celebrant

John the Baptist called out in the wilderness: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

People

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

Celebrant

Christ himself has given us the power for repentance. By his holy life and innocent death he has conquered Satan and sin and is able to help us when we are tempted.

People

He reigns in our lives with his grace and brings us to eternal life

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your holy Word has called us to repent of sin and walk in your path of righteousness. For the sake of Jesus Christ, you have not quickly judged the world for sin, but have given all a time of grace, and a call to turn from evil ways. By the power of your Spirit, turn our hearts to you. Make us grow in our obedience to your Word. In Jesus, you have revealed to us your holy love. Move us to love one another as he has loved us, and to serve one another as if we were serving you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL

Please stand

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION

Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley

LITURGICAL GUIDE

ADVENT WREATH

The lighting of the Advent Wreath is a tradition rich in symbolism. Most importantly, it reminds us of the Light of Christ: "...in him was life, and the life was the light of all people." (John 1:4)

PROCESSION

We start our services with a procession of ministers and servers who have chosen to serve God and his people in their act of corporate worship. The procession is led by the cross, reminding those serving and those worshipping that our lives have been set apart by the sacrifice of Christ, on our behalf, for the glory of God.

HYMN 65

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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THE WORD OF GOD

You are invited to voluntarily make the sign of the cross on your body - to cross yourself - as a means to tell God again, and remind yourself, that you belong to him. You can do this at any time it seems meaningful to you. Often we sign ourselves when the names of the Trinity are used, in reference to the resurrection of the dead, and when saying "blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

COLLECT OF PURITY

We start almost every Episcopal service with this prayer. It is succinct and powerful as it explores the depths of our hearts and our need before God. What better way to start a worship service than to tell God we are here for him, every aspect of our being, and want to become more like him because of our worship.

a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

Celebrant

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT OF PURITY

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

GLORIA

S280

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father, Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

COLLECT OF THE DAY

This prayer is a moment to catch the theme of the service today. If you grasp it, your participation in worship will be enhanced, and you'll see God connecting the pieces of the gospel with your life.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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THE FIRST READING

The First Reading is always an Old Testament passage. The OT forms a foundation for the New Testament and gives us many examples how God has led his people, displaying his essence and character.

CANTICLE

A canticle is a "little song", usually a portion of Scripture, that is used in liturgy as an aid to worship. Often it replaces the psalm.

THE FIRST READING

MALACHI 3:1-4

Reader

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

CANTICLE 16

Reader

Our Worship Song today is the Song of Zechariah which we will read responsively at the half verse:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

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This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
*holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.*

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Reader

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

Reader

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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Reader
The Word of the Lord.

People
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GRADUAL HYMN

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

HYMN 56

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel!

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light. Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel!

GOSPEL READING

Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, who made his dwelling among us. Reading his spoken words from the center of the congregation proclaims that grace and truth come through Jesus Christ.

When we make a little cross on our head, mouth and chest we are reminding ourselves that Jesus' gospel reforms our thinking, cleanses our speech and conforms our hearts to his truth and love.

THE GOSPEL

LUKE 3:1-6

Deacon
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Deacon
In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas

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and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Deacon

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

FR. BRIAN STANKICH

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant

Let us stand together and affirm our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

THE SERMON

God's Word is living and active, and cuts to the heart. That's why we read it, proclaim it, listen to it, meditate upon it, and take the time to make it understood.

THE NICENE CREED

If you are looking to unite around one set of beliefs for the Christian life, this would be it. It is broad enough to capture the essentials of our faith and narrow enough to be a definitive statement of biblical truth.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray these established prayers to ensure that we cover important aspects of our lives and the world with corporate prayer. Listen to each prayer carefully, saying the words silently, so that your spoken Amen will ring true in your heart and be added to the prayers of the saints.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please kneel or be seated as able

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reader

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Reader

For all the people in their daily life and work;

People

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Reader

For all schools, colleges, and universities and especially those in Marion County.

People

For those who teach and those who learn.

Reader

For this community, the nation, and the world;

People

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Reader

For the just and proper use of your creation;

People

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Reader

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Reader

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Reader

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; and Justin, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

People

For all who serve God in his Church.

Reader

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation;
And for all those we name from our hearts.

You may add your own petitions

Reader

Hear us, Lord;

People

For your mercy is great.

Reader

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

You may add your own thanksgivings

Reader

We will exalt you, O God, our King;

People

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Reader

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

You may add your own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People

Who put their trust in you.

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CONFESSION

We recognize our sins before God as a church body, recognizing our humanity and our weekly, daily, momentary need for the Lord and the cleansing blood of Christ. You will notice after some months of confession and absolution that you start to feel clean throughout the week, as if you've been washed and renewed. The 16th-century reformers thought the proper way to approach God was via confession.

ABSOLUTION

Having heard the Word of God proclaimed, which has led us to confess our sins, it is now time to receive some assurance that God has forgiven the sins of those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ. It is Christ's power that forgives, embodied by the pronouncement of the priest, that makes tangible the truth that God has removed the barrier between him and us.

THE PEACE

Exchanging the peace is an ancient custom of God's people. We do it after Confession and Absolution which means we can give the same forgiveness to others that we have received from God. A demonstration that we have renewed relationships in Christ, it also prepares us to together receive Communion as the Body of Christ.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

Please be seated

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

Celebrant

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

O NATALUX

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.

Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis.

*O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.*

*Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body.*

Please Stand

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

HYMN 380, VERSE 3

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant
The Lord be with you.

People
And also with you.

Celebrant
Lift up your hearts.

People
We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give
thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The celebrant offers a preface and concludes saying...

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OFFERTORY

*What will you give to God?
The money he gave to you?
The time he has allotted for
you today? The abilities with
which you were born? Your
next breath? Combine your of-
fering with those around you,
and see what God can do with
and through our church.*



COMMUNION

*By taking Communion we
obey the Lord's words to
his disciples to remember
his goodness to us and to
proclaim that he is coming
again. Jesus turns a simple
earthy action - eating bread
and drinking wine - into a
magnificent celebration for
his people. In Communion,
Jesus is with us, and we are
with each other. Sounds like
a party!*

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

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Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

S130

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel as able

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

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Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

When you pray this prayer, the one Jesus taught his disciples, and that all Christians everywhere pray, reflect on the words, recognizing you are actually talking to your Heavenly Father. Pray it afresh, as if for the first time.

PRAYER TEAM

Praying with a friend or minister during Communion is a powerful way to experience the presence of Christ. Our clergy and prayer warriors invite you to ask for a breakthrough in your life. The Lord awaits the requests and prayers of his people.

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EUCCHARIST INSTRUCTIONS

Please follow these instructions when you go up to receive communion:

- 1. The ushers will dismiss each row, one at a time.*
- 2. Walk up the center aisle.*
- 3. When it is your turn to receive the Eucharist, kneel down or stand at the altar rail and extend your hands together, palm up. The priest will place a wafer into your hand.*
- 4. The Chalice Minister will then come to you. You have two options; (1) drink from the chalice or (2) have your wafer intincted with wine. If you choose option 2, leave your wafer in hand so that Chalice Minister can place it back in the palm of your hand to consume. You may consume at the rail.*
- 5. Return to your seat by the side aisle closest to you.*

If you cannot come to the rail to receive notify an usher to have communion brought to you in the pew.

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

CORPORATE SONGS DURING COMMUNION

THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS CRYING

HYMN 75

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the God, our God, may go!**

**O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like flow'rs of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay;
the pow'r and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away.**

**But the word of our God endureth,
the arm of our Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations,
and he will right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
the lambs He'll gently hold;
to pastures of peace He'll lead them,
and bring them safe to His fold.**

COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

HYMN 67

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Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain:
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.

HUMBLY I ADORE THEE

HYMN 314

Humbly I adore thee, Verity unseen,
who thy glory hidest 'neath these shadows mean;
lo, to thee surrendered, my whole heart is bowed,
tranced as it beholds thee, shrined within the cloud.

Taste and touch and vision to discern thee fail;
faith, that comes by hearing, pierces through the veil.
I believe whate'er the Son of God hath told;
what the Truth hath spoken, that for truth I hold.

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O memorial wondrous of the Lord's own death;
living Bread that givest all thy creatures breath,
grant my spirit ever by thy life may live,
to my taste thy sweetness never-failing give.

Jesus, whom now hidden, I by faith behold,
what my soul doth long for, that thy word fore-told:
face to face thy splendor, I at last shall see,
in the glorious vision, blessed Lord, of thee.

WE WALK BY FAITH

HYMN 209

We walk by faith, and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
from one who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod,
yet in his promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:

That when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are
in full and endless sight.

Please kneel as able

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

*the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

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THE BLESSING

Celebrant

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and may the blessing of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please stand

RECESSIONAL

HARK! THE GLAD SOUND!

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long!
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,
and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before Him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of His grace,
to enrich the humbled poor.

Our glad Hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heav'n's eternal arches ring,
with Thy beloved Name.

HYMN 72

THE BLESSING

When you bless someone, you give them life-changing words. The priestly blessing will impact your day with heaven's power. Be sure to receive it with an open heart.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

LITURGICAL GUIDE

THE DISMISSAL

As if we haven't gotten the message yet from the rest of the service, the Deacon urges us to take our love for God and each other into the rest of the world. This can only happen if we walk through the red doors in the power of the Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

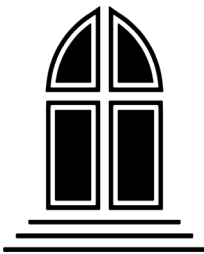
People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALTAR FLOWERS

The advent greens on the altar today are given to the glory of God by Deacon Mary Delancey in thanksgiving for her Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons.

VISITOR INFORMATION CARD



Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church

Visitor Information Card

Please fill out this card and place in the offering plate or mail it back to us. We look forward to getting to know you.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How did you hear about Grace Church (Check all that apply)

____ Friend/Family ____ Internet Search ____ Social Media

Other: _____

Your age group: (please circle) 18-34 35-59 60-up

____ First time visitor

Have ____ children school age
or younger (please circle)

____ New in community

Ages: 0-3 K-3 4-8 9-12

____ Would like clergy to call

Would you like to be signed-up for our Grace To You

Weekly Newsletter? ____ Yes ____ No

How may we contact you? ____ Phone ____ Text ____ Email

Christmas Services

12.22.24

12:00pm - Children's Christmas
Pageant

12.24.24

6:00pm - Christmas Eve Service
without incense (nursery provided)

10:00pm - Christmas Eve Service
with incense

12.25.24

Christmas Day Morning Prayer
10:00am



Christmas Eve Poinsettias and Wreaths!



It is time to order Christmas Poinsettias and Wreaths. If you would like to sponsor these decorations, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate, or bring or send it to the Church Office by December 22.

Please include payment. The poinsettias and wreaths are \$20 each.

Name: _____

(As you wish it to appear in the bulletin – ie: Mr. and Mrs. John Doe, John and Jane Doe, the Doe Family, etc.)

Number of Poinsettias / Wreaths: _____ \$20 each

Total Paid: _____

Please make check out to Grace Episcopal Church and note “Poinsettias / Wreaths” on the memo line.

Message (E.g., “In memory of...”, “In honor of:...”)



WHAT IS ALPHA?

Alpha offers everyone the opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal environment.

- What is my purpose?
- What happens when I die?
- Why is there suffering?

Alpha is your chance to ask and explore these questions and challenges of life. Each session includes a short video that makes you think and small group discussions to help you have conversations with others that explore life's biggest questions in a safe and respectful way.

Try Alpha, what do you have to lose?

Dates: JAN 15 - MAR 26

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Address: Parish House, 505 SE
Broadway Street Ocala, FL 34471**

Website: <https://www.alphaocala.org>

**Scan the QR Code to
register now for both our
Alpha & Youth Alpha
Series!**



EXPLORE LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS

JAN 15 - MAR 26

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS



6:30 pm | December 9, 2024

Grace Church

Joshua L. Mazur, Organist

presents:

The Waiting Dark: An Advent Journey

Joshua Mazur is Assistant Conductor for the Ocala Symphony Orchestra and has been organist at OSO and other Reilly Arts Center concerts. He serves Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Gainesville as Director of Music Ministry and Organist. Joshua has composed music for choirs and orchestras as well as scored soundtrack music for films. As well as being an accomplished vocal performer, he is Director of the Ocala Symphony Orchestra Chorus. He is bringing this organ concert to Grace as a gift for the Advent season. Please join us.

The service of Lessons & Carols was written over 100 years ago by an Anglican priest, The Rev. Eric Milner-White, in response to the horrors and losses of World War I. The main theme of the service is “the development of the loving purposes of God” as viewed “through the windows and the words of the Bible.” A simple service, it focuses on “colour, warmth, and delight” and is a wonderful reminder of the source of our joy and celebration this season.

Dec. 13

5:30 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Service

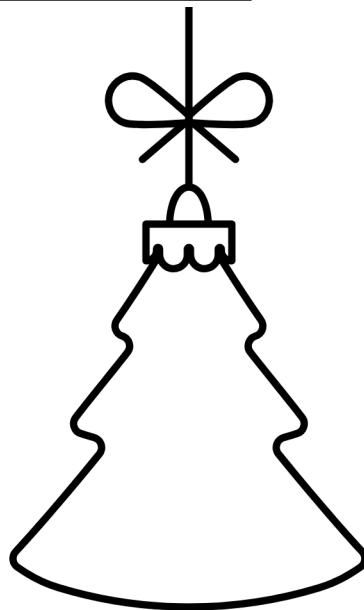


LESSONS & CAROLS

Teen Group Homes Christmas Collection

Grace Church has collected money for many years during the holiday season so the girls and boys at the Arnette House group homes are able to enjoy outings and activities during the Christmas break. Without our help they would not be able to do things like go to the movies, out to lunch or for ice cream, SkyZone, painting, and many other activities, they would not normally be able to do!

Please mark envelopes with cash or checks “Group Home Project.” These can be put in the collection basket at church or dropped off at the office. The deadline is December 20th.



(Color me & cut out)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 21 Christmas Pageant
Rehearsal & Gingerbread
House Event
- 22 Coffee Hour
Children's Christmas
Pageant
- 24 Christmas Eve Services
6:00pm
10:00pm
- 25 Christmas Day Morning
Prayer Service 10:00am
- 29 Coffee Hour

JANUARY

- 31 New Year's Eve - Office
Closed
- 1 New Year's - Office Closed
- 5 Coffee Hour+
8am: Coffee Hour Breakfast
10am: Coffee Hour Brunch
- 6 Epiphany
- 8 Non-Profits Prayer Breakfast
- 9 ECW Meeting
- 11 Sip & Share Event
- 12 Baptism
- 13 Women's Bible Study
- 15 Alpha Starts
- 16 OASIS Lunch Meeting
- 19 Annual Meeting
- 24-25 Diocesan Convention
- 26 New Vestry Members
Installation

BAPTISM

Baptism is scheduled for Sunday, January 12. The Office will contact you to schedule the Baptism Prep Class. If you want to be baptized or have children to be baptized, please contact the church office at (352) 622-7881 or email Catie at catie@graceocala.org.

2024 END OF THE YEAR GIVING

Tuesday, December 31, 2024 will be the last day to give to Grace Episcopal Church. Donations may be dropped in the mail slot of the office door or dropped in the mail with a post mark on or before December 31, 2023.

2025 GIVING ENVELOPES

If you signed up on your Pledge Card to receive 2025 giving envelopes they are in the back of the church and ready for you to pick up. If you did not request envelopes and would like a set, please contact the church office at (352) 622-7881 or stop by and pick them up.



Facebook
Grace Episcopal Church Ocala
Group Page: People of Grace



Instagram
[grace_church_ocala](https://www.instagram.com/grace_church_ocala)



YouTube
Grace Episcopal Church Ocala



www.graceocala.org

Next Week's Bible Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Canticle 9
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

IN THE COMING WEEK

Sunday, December 8 - Office Closed

8:00am: Rite One Service, Church, Livestream

9:00am: Coffee Hour+, Parish House

9:00am: Nursery (0-3), Nursery

9:15am: New Testament Bible Study, Grace Hall

9:45am: Wonder Kids (4-6), Sunshine Room

9:45am: StoryMakers (7-9), Wonder Room

10:00am: Connect (10-13), Grace Hall

10:00am: Rite Two Service, Church, Livestream

11:00am: Coffee Hour+, Parish House

Monday, December 9

12:00 Noon: Bulletin Deadline

6:30pm: The Waiting Dark, Organ Concert, Church

Tuesday, December 10

12:00pm: Gospel Bible Study, Zoom

Wednesday, December 11

12:05pm: Midweek Service, Church

7:00pm: Psalm Bible Study, Zoom

Thursday, December 12

Friday, December 13 - Office Closed

5:30pm: Lessons & Carols Dinner, Parish House

7:00pm: Lessons & Carols Service, Church, Livestream

Saturday, December 14 - Office Closed

Sunday, December 15 - Office Closed

8:00am: Rite One Service, Church, Livestream

9:00am: Coffee Hour, Parish House

9:00am: Nursery (0-3), Nursery

9:15am: New Testament Bible Study, Grace Hall

9:45am: Wonder Kids (4-6), Sunshine Room

9:45am: StoryMakers (7-9), Wonder Room

10:00am: Connect (10-13), Grace Hall

10:00am: Rite Two Service, Church, Livestream

11:00am: Coffee Hour, Parish House

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

- 1 Will Whitehouse
- 2 Leigh Manning
- 4 John Sullivan
Milda Kolesar
- 6 Larry Davis
- 7 Pae Barberie
Evan Allison
- 9 Ryan Ashley
- 10 Collin Turner
- 11 Deacon Mary Delancey
- 12 Sami Burns
Nate Penuel

If you would like to make a prayer request for either the weekly prayer list or the DOK private prayer list please email Deacon Susan at prayers@graceocala.org. And include which list you are requesting.

If you would like to meet with Fr. Frans or Fr. Brian please contact
Catie Hourigan
at 352-622-7881 or
catie@graceocala.org

If you would like to meet or talk to our Children's Minister, Catie Hourigan, you can contact the church office at 352-622-7881; or by email at catie@graceocala.org

- Grace Church Leadership -

HEAD

Jesus Christ

BISHOP

The Right Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb

WORSHIP TEAM

The Rev. Frans van Santen: Priest-In-Charge

The Rev. Brian Stankich: Associate Rector

The Rev. Mary Delancey: Deacon

The Rev. Susan Moorehead: Deacon

Josh Reed: Director of Ministry

Adam Pryor: Worship Coordinator

Catie Hourigan: Children's Ministry Coordinator

Dave Rubin: Verger

VESTRY

Greg Harrell - Senior Warden Michael Owen - Junior Warden Wayne Taylor - Treasurer

Carman Smith Michael Ashley Lise Kent Amy Robertson Sanjit Nirmalanandhan

Leslie Jones Stephen Ayres

MUSICIANS

Adam Pryor Sharon Mai Jessica Mongerio Jason Bartosic

Cheryl Arnold Audrey Flechas David Freudenburg Jamille Brewster

SERVERS

Advent Wreath: The Johnston Family

Usher: Victor & Vivian Barone

Reader, First Reading/Psalm: Matt Merchant, Liam Sanchez

Reader, Second Reading/PoP: Greg Harrell

Acolytes: Walker Harrell, Shealy Harrell, Vivian Rauba, Whitney Rauba

Chalice Minister: Stephanie Harrell

Prayer Team: Marilyn Sibons

Altar Guild: Pae Barberie, Marylin Corsiglia, Tammy Flanagan, Lynn Nobles, Amy Robertson

Flower Guild: Carolyn Ayres, Lynda Peek, Lynn Nobles, Heather Hetzel, Molly Hetzel

VPOD: Michael Owen

Weekly Services on Our Campus

Sunday 8:00am—Rite I

Sunday 10:00am—Rite II with music

Wednesday 12:05pm—Midweek at Grace

Grace Episcopal Church: 503 SE Broadway St, Ocala, Florida

Church Office (mailing address): 510 SE Broadway St, Ocala FL 34471

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 3:30pm, Closed on Friday

Office Phone: (352) 622-7881

Pastoral Care Emergency Line: (352) 369-5780

graceocala.org, info@graceocala.org