

# Grace

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 15, 2024 | 8:00 AM SERVICE

*"The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival."  
- Zephaniah 3:17-18a*

# Welcome to Grace Church

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## 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.

*Scripture passages and quotations are from The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.*

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# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## 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

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;

**People**

*They rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest.*

Celebrant

Christ himself has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows,  
shattering the yoke of sin that burdened us.

**People**

*He restores to us the joy of salvation and grant us willing spirits. By his stripes our weary souls are healed.*

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you give strength to the weary and pronounce blessings on those who mourn. You have sent us a Savior. You have made us your people. Fill our hearts with joy that flows from the forgiveness of our sins, joy powered by the resurrection of our living Savior, that we may shine like the stars of the heavens, bringing glory to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE PROCESSION

*Please stand*

Celebrant

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

**People**

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

## 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 worshiping that our lives have been set apart by the sacrifice of Christ, on our behalf, for the glory of God.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### 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.*

### COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant

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

### THE KYRIE ELEISON

Celebrant

Lord have mercy upon us.

**People**

**Christ have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant

Lord have mercy upon us.

### THE GLORIA

**Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace,  
good will towards men.**

**We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee,  
we glorify thee,**

**we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,**

**O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.**

**For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;**

**thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,**

**art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

**People**

**And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## THE FIRST READING

## ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Reader

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### 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 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.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### THE PSALM

We read a psalm responsively each service as an expression of our emotions before the Lord. The Psalms contain all of our common emotions that derive from our day to day experiences. Read it recognizing that being honest before God, and each other, has great godly benefit.

I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader  
The Word of the Lord.

**People**  
***Thanks be to God.***

### THE RESPONSE

### CANTICLE 9

Reader  
Our Worship Song today is The First Song of Isaiah which we will read responsively at the half verse:

Surely, it is God who saves me;  
***I will trust in him and not be afraid.***

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
***and he will be my Savior.***

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing  
***from the springs of salvation.***

And on that day you shall say,  
***Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;***

Make his deeds known among the peoples;  
***see that they remember that his Name is exalted.***

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,  
*and this is known in all the world.*

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,  
*for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.*

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 4:4-7

Reader

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

**People**

*Thanks be to God.*

*Please stand*

## THE GOSPEL

## LUKE 3:7-18

Deacon

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

**People**

*Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

Deacon

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is

## 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Deacon

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People**

***Praise to thee, O Christ.***

**SERMON**

**FR. FRANS VAN SANTEN**

**THE NICENE CREED**

Celebrant

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

***I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;***

### **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.*



# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

*Please kneel as able*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reader

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

*The reader leads the people in a series of prayers to which the people respond.*

Reader

Lord, in thy mercy

**People**

*Hear our prayer.*

Reader

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

## 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.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### 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.

### People

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Celebrant

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Celebrant

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him...

## THE PEACE

### Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

### People

**And with thy spirit.**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE OFFERTORY

*The people are invited to offer their gifts to God.*

Celebrant

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

*Please stand*

Celebrant

All things come of thee, O Lord.

**People**

*Of thine own have we given thee.*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

**People**

*And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts.

**People**

*We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Celebrant

Let us give thanks unto our Lord, God.

**People**

*It is meet and right so to do.*

Celebrant

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

*The Celebrant offers a Preface, and concludes saying,*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### 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

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### **Celebrant and People**

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

*Please kneel as able*

### Celebrant

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.*

### 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.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### EUCHARIST 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.*

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People**

***Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!***

Celebrant

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

**People**

***Have mercy upon us.***

Celebrant

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

**People**

***Have mercy upon us.***

Celebrant

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

**People**

***Grant us thy peace.***

## THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

**People**

***We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.***

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.

## THE SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING COMMUNION

*Be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*

## THE SILENT PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNION

*O Lord Jesus Christ, who in a wonderful Sacrament has left us a memorial of your passion: Grant us, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of your redemption; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

*Please kneel as able*

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant

Let us pray.

People

*Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.*

## THE BLESSING

Celebrant

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

## 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!**

## 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 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.*

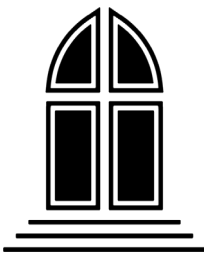
# *PERSONAL NOTES*

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# VISITOR INFORMATION CARD

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## *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**

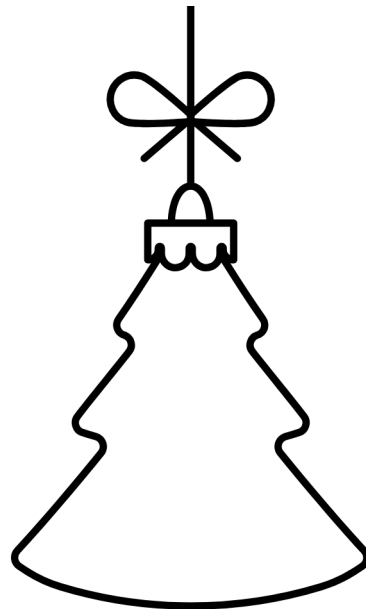
# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

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## *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)

A decorative banner with a light pink background. It features various gold-colored ornaments including stars, circles, and small crosses. The text "NEW YEAR'S" is written in a small, gold, sans-serif font. Below it, the words "Sip & Share" are written in a large, elegant, gold cursive font. At the bottom, the date and time "JAN. 11 | 4:00PM | PARISH HOUSE" are written in a gold, sans-serif font.

NEW YEAR'S

*Sip & Share*

JAN. 11 | 4:00PM | PARISH HOUSE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF WINE, CHEESE AND TESTIMONIES!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

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## COMING EVENTS

### **DECEMBER**

- 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

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## Next Week's Bible Readings

Micah 5:2-5a  
Psalm 80:1-7  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The advent greens on the altar today are given to the glory of God by John and Sherri Sullivan in thanksgiving for their wonderful grandchildren!

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## 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](mailto:catie@graceocala.org).

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## 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.

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## 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.

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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](http://www.graceocala.org)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

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## IN THE COMING WEEK

**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

**Monday, December 16**

- 12:00 Noon: Bulletin Deadline

**Tuesday, December 17**

- 12:00pm: Gospel Bible Study, Zoom

**Wednesday, December 18**

- 12:05pm: Midweek Service, Church
- 7:00pm: Psalm Bible Study, Zoom

**Thursday, December 19**

**Friday, December 20 - Office Closed**

**Saturday, December 21 - Office Closed**

- 9:00am: Children's Pageant Rehearsal, Parish House

**Sunday, December 22 - 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
- 12:00pm: Children's Christmas Pageant, Church

## BIRTHDAYS

### DECEMBER

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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](mailto:prayers@graceocala.org). And include which list you are requesting.

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

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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](mailto: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

### Today's Servers

**Advent Wreath:** The Hanley Family

**Usher:** Tammy Flanagan

**Reader:** Cookie Zeuch

**Chalice Minister:**

**Prayer Team:** Deacon Mary Delancey

**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:** Sanjit Nirmalanandhan

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### 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