



Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Rd. Alexandria, Virginia 22305

www.gracealex.org 703.549.1980

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025 – 10:30 am
Choral Eucharist, Rite I



Above is a photo from last week's Christmas Pageant.

Connecting @ Grace

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WELCOME TO GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are pleased to welcome you to Grace Church. If you are joining us for the first time, please send us a message at welcome@gracealex.org, so we can get to know you. We can also add you to our mailing list by request. We're glad to have you join with us in worshipping God in the beauty of holiness, something which is central to our identity at Grace. We hope you will join with us in sharing the love of God with this world that needs healing. Assisted listening devices are available for use during worship. Please see an usher if you'd like to use one.



Please silence your cell phones during worship.

Our Mission Statement

To Love, Proclaim, and Serve God

through life-giving liturgical worship + joyful community + empowering others

Contacting Grace

Please feel free to contact our staff.

Our office hours are Monday to Thursday 9 am – 3 pm, and 9 am – 12 pm on Fridays.

(Mother Anne is out of the office on Mondays and Father Santiago & Mother Emma are out of the office on Fridays)

Staff

Betsy Bamford

Jane Avery

Nursery Workers (part-time)

The Rev. Emma Brice

Associate Rector & School Chaplain

emma.brice@gracealex.org

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Pedro Hernández

Amorita Quintanilla

Sextons

Amanda Hungerford

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The Rev. Dr. Anne Michele Turner

Rector

anne.turner@gracealex.org

Kris Varga

Communications Contractor

Communications submissions can be emailed to

announcements@gracealex.org

25-26 Seminarians (Virginia Theological Seminary)

Seth Wise Buck

Gabriel (Gabe) Oakes

Miranda Peters

IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE?

Clergy and staff are available for pastoral care. Please call the church office at (703) 549-1980 if you're ill or need pastoral care. For emergencies after hours, please call the **After-hours Emergency Number: (703) 261-9079**, and the priest on call will assist you.

HOME COMMUNION

Home Communion is available upon request for parishioners who desire this service by Eucharistic Visitors every Sunday. Home Communion will be in one form, Bread only. To request Home Communion, parishioners are asked to contact the Parish Office by telephone at 703-549-1980 no later than 12 pm on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday on which they would like to receive Home Communion.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE I

Children 3 months until 3 years are welcome in the nursery. Please ask an usher to direct you.

PRELUDE

The people stand.

HYMN 497

How bright appears the Morning star

Wie schön leuchtet

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant

Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Children ages 3 years – 3rd grade follow the Crucifer to Children's Chapel.

TRISAGION (Sung three times)

Hymnal S-102

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Mighty,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

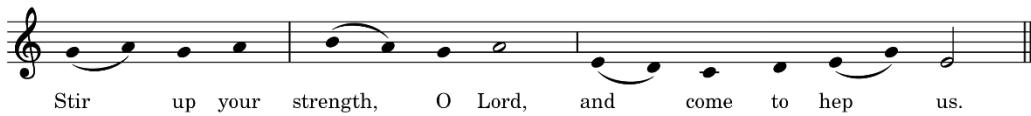
Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

Plainsong

The choir sings the Antiphon first, please sing the second time and where indicated.



1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **[Antiphon]**

4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **[Antiphon]**

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **[Antiphon]**

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

Lector A reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand for the Gospel Procession and sing the hymn.

HYMN 260

Come now, and praise the humble saint

Tallis' Ordinal

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-15

Priest The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The people are seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Anne Turner

Silence is kept.

NICENE CREED

BCP, p. 326

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.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form V; BCP, p. 389

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, for E. Mark Stevenson, Gayle E. Harris, and Mark Allen Bourlakas, our Bishops, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever.

People Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

BCP, p. 331

Deacon

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

All

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name.

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.

THE PEACE

BCP, p. 332

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

The people are seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY *We invite you to give to the work of the church electronically via Tithe.ly by scanning this QR code.*

If you give electronically, please place the tag in your pew in the offering so that your gift can be blessed.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Creator of the stars of night

John Scott

Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesus, Saviour of us all, Regard thy servants when they call.

*Thou, grieving at the bitter cry, Of all creation doomed to die,
Didst come to save a ruined race, With healing gifts of heavenly grace.*

Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride, As drew the world to evening tide,
Proceeding from a virgin shrine, The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

At thy great name, majestic now, All knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
And things in heaven and earth shall own, That thou art Lord and King alone.

To thee, O holy One, we pray, Our judge in that tremendous day,
Preserve us, while we dwell below, From every onslaught of the foe.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee, Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Spirit blest, forevermore.

The people stand and sing the hymn.

HYMN 265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Gabriel's Message

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

BCP, p. 340

Celebrant

The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts. 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.

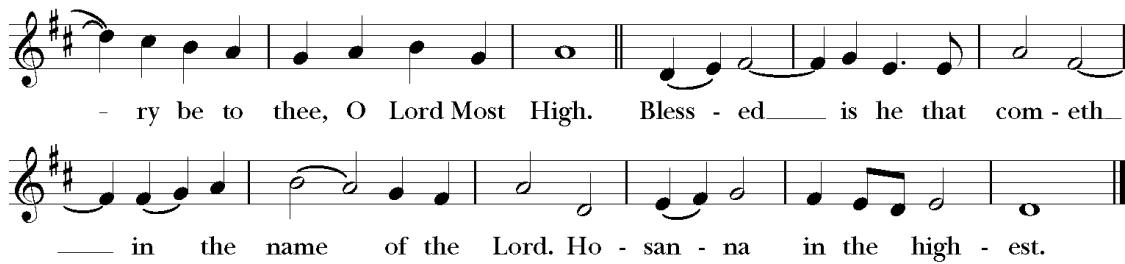
The Celebrant continues.

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, Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus and Benedictus

Hymnal S-114

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. The top line consists of two staves of music in G major, with lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - ly, Lord God of' on the first staff and 'Hosts: Hea - ven and' on the second staff. The bottom line is a single staff of music in G major, with lyrics 'earth are full____ of thy glo - ry. Glo - -' continuing from the second staff. The music is written in a traditional style with note heads and stems, and includes a basso continuo line with dots and dashes.



The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in 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

William H. Plant

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 dai-ly bread, And forgive us our trespasses,

— 3 —

As we forgive those who tres-pass a- gainst us.

And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e- vil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glo- ry,

For ev-er and ev-er, A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

HYMNAL S-158

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

BCP, p. 338

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.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the eucharist. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

*A full communion is made with the bread alone, but if you choose to receive the wine,
you may either drink from the cup, or you may offer your wafer to the person holding the chalice,
who will dip the bread in the wine for you.*

If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are available; simply ask the priest.

If you do not wish to receive communion at the altar, let an usher know, and communion can be brought to you in your pews.

COMMUNION HYMN 60

Creator of the stars of night

Conditor alme siderum

THE SENDING FORTH OF LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we share in one bread, one cup.**

The people stand or kneel.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

All stand and sing the hymn.

CLOSING HYMN 74

Blest be the King whose coming

Valet will ich dir geben

THE DISMISSAL

BCP, p. 339

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

SERVING @ GRACE TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Emma Brice
Deacon & Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Anne Turner
Subdeacon	Evan Robinson
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Nancy Robinson, Matt Williams
Lector	Mary Stewart
Intercessor	Rushad Thomas
Interim Music Director	Josh Harrington
Altar Guild Crew Leaders	Beth Yancey
Livestream Crew	Alison Campbell
Ushers	Mary Stewart, Brad Bergmann, June Huber, Laura Weidenfeld

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 21, 2025

SEE THE ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE NOTICE IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT SECTION!

Announcements arriving after 12/21 will not be included in the 12/28 & 1/4 bulletins. Please limit submissions to 75 words. Announcements are edited for content/length. Email requests announcements@gracealex.org.

The Greens on the Altar are given to the Glory of God.

The Christmas Flower Donation deadline has passed. If you would like to dedicate flowers for a Sunday in the new year, scan the QR code on the right.



ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

***** Headings for New Announcements Added This Week are Shaded. *****

OVERFLOW PARKING

The property management company that oversees the Food Star lot has asked that when we are using the lot for overflow parking, we will not take up more than half of the lot. If the lot is more than half full when you arrive, please seek street parking.

ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE FOR THE 12/28 AND 1/4 BULLETINS IS TODAY, DECEMBER 21

Due to the office schedule and Christmas bulletin production, the deadline for all announcements for the 12/28 & 1/4 bulletins and Friday emails is Sunday, December 21. Late submissions will not be accepted.

ELEVATOR UPDATE & FELLOWSHIP (COFFEE) HOUR LOCATION REMINDER

Work is finishing this week to establish a connection between the modernized elevator and the fire panel. Once complete, our vendor can schedule the inspection required for permitting. Our Fellowship Hour (Coffee Hour) returned to the Auditorium last week at the request of many in our parish. You can help make Fellowship Hour a great way for our parish to connect by volunteering to host, provide food donations, and help with cleanup after fellowship hour. If you and/or your family enjoy having refreshments and snacks, please consider signing up. To volunteer, use your phone's camera to scan the QR code or fill out the hard copy signup sheet located on the snack table. Please note, refreshments and snacks will only be available during a fellowship hour when someone has volunteered to host to perform setup and food donations are provided. Have questions? Please reach out to Mother Emma at emma.brice@gracealex.org.



ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

Adult forum is offered Sundays 9:40 -10:15 am in the St. Mark room (2nd floor) or virtually via Zoom link sent in the Sunday morning email. Tea and coffee are available just outside the St. Mark Room from 9:30 am. All are welcome at any forum; no commitment required.

Adult Forum Schedule: **December 21:** Advent Art: Watching for the Light, by Anne Boris

December 28: No Adult Forum. *Forum will resume January 4.*

January 4: Diocesan Convention Report by Rushad Thomas and other delegates

January 11: TBD

January 18: Budget Presentation, by Ramee Gentry

GREENING OF THE CHURCH-TODAY - DECEMBER 21 AT 6:00 P.M. WILL BE LIVESTREAMED.

The Altar Guild invites you to help green the Nave for Christmas services today, December 21 at 6 p.m. (following the 5 p.m. service). This will be a festive evening hanging roping, stringing lights on trees, preparing and hanging wreaths, setting up the creche, and all the poinsettias. Children (especially teens!) welcome. We'll have treats to share and appreciate anything you'd like to add to the table. **This year, the Greening of the Church Will Be Livestreamed, Sunday, December 21 @ 6:00 p.m.!** If you've never been to the Greening, you will see how the Altar Guild and many volunteers transform the Nave as Grace church prepares for Christmas. The volume of the livestream will be very low because it can get noisy as we work! As you watch, turn on some Christmas Carols as you decorate your own home or wrap gifts while keeping an eye on the activity in the Nave.

ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE THROUGH JANUARY 4

The church office will close December 24 and reopen Monday, January 5. If possible, please give the clergy and staff the gift of empty email inboxes upon their return in the new year. For pastoral emergencies, please call the after-hours pastoral emergency number 703.261.9079 and the clergy member on call will assist you.

UPCOMING FEAST DAY EUCHARISTS

We have three upcoming Feast Day Eucharists held outside of a regular service offering. The Feast of Saint Stephen is Friday, December 26 at 12 noon, the Feast of Saint John is Saturday, December 27 at 8:30 a.m., and the Feast of Holy Innocents is Monday, December 29 at 8:00 a.m. All three services will be held at the Lady Altar in the nave.

BABY SHOWER FOR BABY BRICE – JANUARY 11

You're Invited! Please join us for an afternoon tea to shower the mamas-to-be with love on Sunday, January 11 from 2:00-4:00 pm at Merrow Hall. All are welcome, including little ones. Please use the QR code to RSVP by Jan 2 and sign up to bring a treat from the list - or surprise us with something delightful! Let's raise our teacups to Mother Emma and Crichelle's upcoming arrival!



END OF YEAR DONATIONS

As 2025 draws to a close, it is important to be aware that all pledge contributions and other donations to Grace must be processed within required deadlines. Cash/check contributions must be physically received in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2025. Stock contributions must be in Grace's Schwab Account by December 31, and therefore should be initiated at least two weeks before the month's end to ensure timely processing. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Giving@gracealex.org.

FOYER GROUP- SIGNUPS OPEN FOR SHORTER SPRING SEASON OF SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Want to get to know fellow parishioners in a smaller, offsite setting? Do you crave home cooking or trying new restaurants and want some good company? If so, Foyer Groups are for you! Please register using the QR code so we can randomly assign you to a group of 6 people who will meet for three relaxed, fun meals that will be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time in the January through June timeframe. Each group will have a convener who reaches out to the group to find a time for the first meal, and then each couple (singles will have a partner to collaborate with) will take turns hosting the meal. New this year is a "foodies foyer" which is for people who want to meet at a restaurant for a "dutch treat" meal instead of cooking at home - this is designed as a "lighter lift" for those who don't have time or space to host at home. If you have any questions, or would like to help explore ideas for a kid-friendly option, please email Cricket at cb9@verizon.net. Register by Sunday January 4, 2026 so we can kick off the next round of Foyers that second week of the new year.



YOUTH NIGHT ICE SKATING - JANUARY 11, 6-8 P.M.

Come keep the winter festivities going with a night of ice skating! Weather-permitting we will be outside at Pentagon Row. If it is too cold or rainy, then we will shift to an indoor rink. Stay in the loop and help Mother Emma make reservations by completing the RSVP form (scan the QR code on the right). The estimated cost is \$20 per person, and financial aid is available as needed. This event is for 6th-12th graders. Dinner will not be provided, so eat before coming!



INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENTS

On weekends and holidays, closure announcements are made by 7 a.m. via our Website, Facebook Page, and in an all-church email notification. If you do not receive the weekly emails and would like to sign up, visit our website at gracealex.org and click on the Newsletter sign up banner near the bottom of our home page. During the week, the Church Office follows the same closure decisions as Grace Episcopal School.

BIRTHDAYS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 21	Wendy Wilmer
Monday, Dec. 22	Priscilla Hanley
Tuesday, Dec. 23	Constance Troyer
Friday, Dec. 26	Katrina Epifanovskaya, Eva Lorentz
Saturday, Dec. 27	Wendy Wilmer, Sam Waskowicz, George Winstead
Sunday, Dec. 28	Matt Tschetter



Parishioner birthdays are listed weekly based on records from Breeze, our church database. For birthdays missing or listed on an incorrect date, please contact the church office to update your record. **Thank you!**

EVENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT / INFO*
Sunday 12/21	8:45 am La Santa Eucaristía	Nave	
	9:00 am Little Church, Rite II	Auditorium	
	10:30 am Lessons & Carols (livestream)	Nave	
Monday, 12/22	Food Pantry Bagging - 3:30 - 5:30 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
Tuesday, 12/23	Food Pantry Distribution - 6 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
	Las Posadas - 7 pm	Nave	
Wednesday, 12/24	3:00 pm Family Service w/ Holy Eucharist	Nave	
	5:00 pm Festival Eucharist w/ Creche procession	Nave	
	Bible Study - 7:30 pm	Zoom	Stephen.Lovell@gracealex.org
	11:00 pm Festival Eucharist	Nave	
Thursday, 12/25	12:00 pm Festival Eucharist	Nave	
Friday, 12/26	Feast of St. Stephen - 12 Noon	Nave- Lady Altar	
Saturday, 12/27	Feast of St. John - 8:30 am	Nave- Lady Altar	
	Altar Guild Set Up - 9 am	Narthex, Sacristy	

PRAYER @ GRACE THIS WEEK

We continue praying for all those in need of healing of mind, body, or spirit. We also pray for wisdom and strength for our communities, our elected officials, and our leaders as they make difficult and important decisions. As we join in common prayer this weekend, let us remember those who are in any need or trouble.

- **Parishioners:** Hector, Amorita, Debbie, Kelly, Ed, Colin, Jennifer, Joanie, Jean, Linda, John & Anne, Ismael, Wendy, Stephen, Lisa, Priscilla & Paul; Liz; Anne; Claire; Don; Doug, Lesley, Charles.
- **Parishioners and others in assisted living:** Margaret, Nancy, Sally, Clare, Elesa, Marilyn, Don, Susan, James, Peck, Vylma, Bette, Cynthia.
- **Family & friends:** Klaus, Nancy, Michael, Sharon, Ashby, Troy, Cathie, Cameron, Patti & Joe, Amy, Bill, Theresa, Rob, Sherry, Pearl, Heather, Jack, Eileen, Charlotte, Deanna, Allen, Leslie, Fielding, Lit & Mary Carol; Jeannine; Sam; Lisa; Margianne; Courtney; Gina; Joanne; Victoria; Erin; Marc; Annelie; Charlotte, Jim, Theresa; Ron, Gwendolyn; Claudia; Janice.
- **Members of our staff:** Amorita, Mother Anne, Betsy, Mother Emma, Gabriel, Ginny, Jane, Josh, Kevin, Kris, Mary, Miranda, Pedro, Seth.
- **Grace School:** Students & their families; for the staff, especially Amanda, head of school.
- **Outreach & Justice Partners:** ALIVE; Casa Chirilagua; Christ Church Refugee and Lazarus Ministries; Community Lodgings; Haiti Micah Project; Health Tanzania; Meade Memorial Lunch Program; Tenants and Workers; V.O.I.C.E.; Kathleen and Eddie Arthur Hearts of Love Fund.
- **Those who have died:** those who have died from illnesses and natural disasters; all those killed in acts of terror, violence, and war around the world.
- **Those serving our country in the Armed Forces and State Department overseas:** Karen & Eric Coulson; Erika Olander; for healing for US troops wounded as casualties of war; and for physical and mental well-being of all veterans.
- **Others who are overseas serving the Church or our nation or teaching or studying abroad:** Chris & Melissa Reed, Virginia Robinson, Julie Mills Cizek & Theo Halliwell; Ace Crane.
- **Diocese of Virginia Prayer Cycle:** Grace (Cismont), Keswick.
- **Anglican Prayer Cycle:** Anglican Church of Burundi; Diocese of Santiago, Chile, Iglesia Anglicana de Chile; Diocese of Santiago, Philippines, Episcopal Church in the Philippines; Diocese of São Paulo – Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil; Diocese of Sapele, Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion); Diocese of Saskatchewan, Anglican Church of Canada; Diocese of Saskatoon, Anglican Church of Canada.

You can fill out a Prayer Request Form on our website or email your request to prayers@gracealex.org

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Join us for Advent & Christmas @ Grace



Special Events & Services

In addition to our regular service offerings, we invite you to experience the seasons of Advent and Christmas here at Grace Church with special events and services, outlined below.

* Childcare provided

 = Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

Sunday, November 30, Advent I

9:30 am- Intergenerational Wreath Making Event

Sunday, December 7, Advent II

8:45, 9, & 10:30 am- Saint Nicholas visits these services*

5 pm- Advent Lessons & Carols with Choral Eucharist 

6 pm- Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14, Advent III

5 pm- Youth & Children's Christmas Pageant

A reception follows in the Auditorium.

Sunday, December 21, Advent IV

6 pm- Greening of the Church

Join us as we decorate the nave for Christmas Services!

Tuesday, December 23

7 pm- Las Posadas & Santa Eucaristía, Rito II

Servicio en español

Sunday, December 28

10:30 am- Christmas Lessons & Carols* 

8:45 am Spanish Service & 9 am Little Church held as usual.

No 7:30 am or 5 pm services.

Thursday, January 1, Feast of the Holy Name

Noon- Festival Eucharist 

Sunday, January 4

5 pm- Bilingual Festival Eucharist for Epiphany (transferred) 
7:30, 9, & 10:30 am Services held as normal, no 8:45 am service.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services

Held in the nave

Christmas Eve, 3 pm, Rite II *

Little Church Service with Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve, 5 pm, Rite II *

Festival Eucharist, with procession to the Creche 

Music Prelude starts at 4:30 pm

Christmas Eve, 7:30 pm, Rite I

Festival Eucharist

Christmas Eve, 11 pm, Rite I

Festival Eucharist 

Music Prelude starts at 10:30 pm

Christmas Day, 12 pm, Rite I

Festival Eucharist 



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