



# Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church

First Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024 – 10:30 am  
Choral Eucharist, Rite I



*Today is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent (which means “coming”) is the season of four weeks before Christmas. During this time, the church prepares for the coming of Christ—not only the birth of the baby Jesus at Bethlehem, but also the second coming. Advent is not a penitential season but rather a time of quiet, solemnity, and waiting. Our liturgy reflects this expectation. Purple vestments symbolize royalty and our hope for the heir of David. The tone of our liturgy is reflective—for example, instead of singing the Gloria in Excelsis we use the Trisagion, acknowledging God’s power and asking for mercy.*

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## Connecting @ Grace

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Address: 3601 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA 22305 ♦ Phone: 703.549.1980 ♦ Website: [www.gracealex.org](http://www.gracealex.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GraceEpiscopalChurchAlexandriaVa](https://www.facebook.com/GraceEpiscopalChurchAlexandriaVa) ♦ Instagram: @graceepisalexva

X: @graceepisalexva ♦ YouTube: Search Grace Episcopal Alexandria, Virginia on Youtube.com

## 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](mailto: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 regular office hours are Monday to Thursday 9 am – 3 pm, and Fridays 9 am – 12 noon.

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

### Staff

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The Rev. Santiago Rodriguez

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The Rev. Deacon Ignacio Solano Gómez

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The Rev. Dr. Anne Michele Turner

Rector

[anne.turner@gracealex.org](mailto:anne.turner@gracealex.org)

### 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.

# FIRST 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

Benedictus

Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

*The people stand.*

HYMN 66

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Stuttgart

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant*

Bless - ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

*People*

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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade follow the Crucifer to Children's Chapel.*

TRISAGION (*Sung three times*)

Hymnal S-102

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

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.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

*Lector* A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

### PSALM 25:1-9

Plainsong

*The choir sings the antiphon the first time. Please sing the second time and where indicated.*



- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long. ANTIPHON
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. ANTIPHON



*Lector* A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

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

HYMN 64

O heavenly Word, eternal Light

O Heiland, reiss

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The people are seated.*

SERMON

Father Santiago Rodriguez

*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 and Gayle Harris, 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

*Celebrant*

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.*



Come, Thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free,  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart,

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit,  
Rule in all our hearts alone,  
By Thine own sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

*The people stand and sing the hymn*

## HYMN 72

Hark! The glad sound! The Savior comes

Richmond

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER I

BCP, p. 340

The musical notation is set in a single key with a common time signature. It consists of four staves, each with a vocal part indicated above the staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

**Staff 1:** *Celebrant* (first half) and *People* (second half).  
 The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit.

**Staff 2:** *Celebrant* (first half) and *People* (second half).  
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**Staff 3:** *Celebrant*.  
 Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

**Staff 4:** *People*.  
 It is meet and right so to do.

*The Celebrant continues.*

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues.*

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 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

William H. Plant

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hal-low'd be thy name,  
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heav-en.  
 Give us this day our dai-ly bread, And forgive us our trespasses,  
 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

**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.

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the eucharist. Please come forward to the altar rail 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, please let an usher know, and communion can be brought to you in your pew.*

## HYMN LEVAS 13

My Lord, What a Morning

## 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 57

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending

*Helmsley*

## THE DISMISSAL

BCP, p. 366

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

## VOLUNTARY

Postlude on 'Helmsley'

*James Vivian (b. 1974)*

*At the end of liturgy today, one of the priests will be available at the Lady Altar for prayers for healing.  
Please allow quiet and privacy for those seeking prayer.*

## Music Notes

**Alec Rowley** (1892 – 1958) was an English composer, organist, pianist, lecturer and writer on music. He composed a large number of works, mainly on a small scale and often of an educational nature though with some larger-scale orchestral and choral works (Wikipedia). His Benedictus starts softly, grows louder towards the middle of the piece and ends quietly.

**Henry Ley** (1887–1962) was an English organist, composer, and conductor known for his contributions to church music, particularly through his organ compositions and hymn arrangements. His setting of the well-loved Advent hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" is a beautiful example of his ability to blend traditional hymnody with expressive harmonies and an engaging choral texture.

The hymn itself, written by Charles Wesley in 1744, is a prayerful anticipation of Christ's arrival, invoking themes of hope, joy, and divine redemption. Ley's arrangement for choir, organ, and often congregation, is characterized by lush, flowing harmonies and a sense of reverence that is well-suited to the Advent season.

**James Vivian (b. 1974)** is a contemporary British composer, conductor, and organist known for his contributions to choral and sacred music. He serves as the Director of Music at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, where he leads the world-renowned choir. Vivian's musical output is diverse, ranging from liturgical works to compositions for concert settings, often incorporating his deep understanding of choral textures and the organ. His brief yet effective postlude on today's closing hymn tune 'Helmsley' features toccata-like figuration with the tune mostly played in the pedal.

## SERVING @ GRACE TODAY

*Celebrant*

Mother Anne Michele Turner

*Deacon & Preacher*

Father Santaigo Rodriguez

*Subdeacon*

Jane Rosman

*Lector*

Deborah Leslie

*Intercessor*

June Huber

*Lay Eucharistic Minister*

Bill Malone

*Music Director*

Dr. Alain Truche

*Ushers*

Chuck & Sherryl Dodd, Scott Knudsen, Colleen Mc Ardelle

*Live Stream Crew*

Eleanor Reed, Vance Allen

*Altar Guild Crew Leaders*

Alison Campbell, Beth Yancey

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2024

Announcement deadline is Monday at 12 pm. Announcements arriving after that time will be held for the following week. Please limit announcements to 75 words.

Email requests to [announcements@gracealex.org](mailto:announcements@gracealex.org).



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

Help decorate the nave for Christmas! See the announcement with more details.  
You can scan the QR Code in the header with your smart phone to access the donation form.

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

### INVITE SOMEONE TO GRACE THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS!

Did you know 83% of first-time churchgoers come because of a personal invitation? Someone you know might be waiting for yours! We've created beautiful invitation cards for our Advent and Christmas services to make it easy. Pick up a card in the church nave or download a digital version to share via text, email, and social media (scan the QR code to visit our Advent & Christmas page to download). This season let's challenge ourselves to invite at least one friend, family member, or co-worker to experience the joy of Grace. Together, we can share the hope and love of the Advent and Christmas seasons.



### CHRISTMAS USHERS NEEDED!

The Christmas season is the most joyous and the busiest season of the church year. Thus, Grace continues its tradition of offering four services on Christmas Eve. Unfortunately, the usher corps is now less than half its size before the pandemic. Please consider ushering for at least one Christmas service. *We could really use your assistance!* Contact [brad.bergmann@gracealex.org](mailto:brad.bergmann@gracealex.org) to volunteer.

### JOIN US FOR ADVENT WREATH MAKING TODAY- DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Celebrate a cherished tradition with us at Grace Episcopal Church! Our annual Advent Wreath Making event is today, December 1st, from 9:30 to 10:20 am during formation time. Join us in the Merrow Hall Auditorium to create your own Advent wreath—supplies will be provided! Enjoy festive cookies and hot coffee as we craft and celebrate the beginning of Advent together. Would you like to help cover the cost of this event? A suggested donation of \$20 per family will help defray the cost of materials. You can scan the QR Code above to access our secure giving portal (choose "Designated-Other Fund" from the menu at the top and add "Advent Wreath" in the memo) or you can give cash at the collection box on December 1st. We look forward to welcoming the Advent season with you!



### ADVENT CARD SIGNING TODAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Join us during the Intergenerational Event and/or Coffee Hour today, December 1 to sign cards for parishioners away at school, serving in the military or as diplomats, and those who are on our prayer list.

### THANKSGIVING BASKETS BENEFITTING 140 FAMILIES.

A heartfelt thank you to the many Grace parishioners who contributed to this year's Thanksgiving baskets! This was truly a Grace Community effort. Parishioners donated funds and prepared baskets at home, while youth and adult volunteers shopped and assembled 140 baskets. La Gracia members helped with registration and distribution as the baskets were distributed to families in need, with the help of youth and adult volunteers. Your generosity and teamwork have made a meaningful difference for so many this Thanksgiving. Thank you for embodying the spirit of gratitude and care!

### ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS WITH EUCHARIST – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 5 PM

As we prepare for the spiritual birth of Jesus at Christmas, join us on Sunday, December 8th at 5:00 PM for our Advent Lessons & Carols Service with Eucharist. This popular seasonal service includes readings from scripture paired with choral music. Look forward to favorites such as "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" by Elizabeth Poston and a beautiful setting of the traditional text "There is no rose" by contemporary English composer Philip Stopford. Invite a family member or friend!

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK (CONTINUED)

### A SENSORY-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS AT EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

If a traditional Christmas Eve worship service is overwhelming for you or your loved one, you are invited to join Emmanuel Episcopal Church's Sensory-Friendly Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist and "no practice pageant." There will be low lighting, soft music, floor mat/yoga ball/chair seating, sensory objects available for use, and vocalizations, devices, and movement is encouraged and welcomed. This service will be at 1:00 pm in the Emmanuel Episcopal Church parish hall on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

### DON'T GO PHISHING!

Churches have increasingly become targets for phishing/email scams as those with malicious intent use a variety of methods via email, social media, and text messaging to access your private information and/or cause harm to your computer/device. Often these attempts include language commonly used in church settings to make the communication seem credible. Clergy and staff will not use private email for church business but will use an email address ending in [@gracealex.org](mailto:@gracealex.org). Clergy and staff will also never ask for money or purchases. If you receive a questionable email stating the sender is Grace clergy or staff, do not click any links (as they could link to viruses or allow someone to access your computer/device) and contact the church office.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

### WALK IN LOVE: FALL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY!

Grace Church relies on the faithful support of parishioners. Each year, the Grace community offers up pledges of time, talent, and treasure for the coming year. These gifts enable the transformative worship, empowering ministries, and restorative fellowship that constitute the Grace Church we all know and love. This year's theme is "Walk in Love." We hear it said nearly every Sunday, but what does it actually look like in real life? Over the coming days you will hear from many individuals describing what it means for them to Walk in Love. Listen to their stories. Think about your own. Prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give and to do in 2025, and then make your pledge! You can pledge any time by returning the pledge card you received in the mail, or online at [gracealex.org/pledge](https://gracealex.org/pledge).

### ADULT FORUM FALL SCHEDULE

Adult forum is offered Sundays 9:40-10:15 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. All are welcome at any forum; no commitment required.

**December 1: Intergenerational Event (Advent Wreaths) in Merrow Hall – No separate Adult Forum**

**December 8: Christmas Away From Home**, by John Boris, Dan Pattarini, and Evan and Nancy Robinson

**December 15: Art of Watching for the Light II**, by Anne Clift Boris

**December 22-29: Christmas Break – No Adult Forum or Sunday School**

### SUPPORT GRACE J2A YOUTH ON THEIR 2025 PILGRIMAGE!

Poinsettias are back, just in time for Advent! Add some beauty to your life or get a gorgeous gift for someone else by purchasing some poinsettias supporting youth at Grace! Order deadline December 3rd; pickup, Malm Narthex, December 8th. To place an order by check or with cash, reach out to [sarahschultz9@gmail.com](mailto:sarahschultz9@gmail.com). Order online via the QR code to the right!



### FREE ORGAN CONCERT BY DR. ALAIN TRUCHE

Dr. Truche will play a Christmas-themed organ concert on December 6th at 12:15 PM at National City Christian Church (5 Thomas Circle NW Washington, DC). Look forward to music by composers Louis-Claude Daquin, Horatio Parker, John Cook, Jean Bouvard, and Marcel Dupré.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK (CONTINUED)

### ADVENT QUIET MORNING – DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

Join Mother Anne and parishioner Mindy Van Wart for a Quiet Morning on Saturday, December 7, from 9:00 -11:45 am. The morning will include brief meditations, poetry, and art, focusing on the stories of Elizabeth and Mary in Luke's gospel. The morning is intended as a time to draw near to God in this holy and yet busy season and includes ample time for silence and contemplation. We conclude with a brief eucharist at 12:00 noon. You are welcome for as long as you can stay, whether just a few minutes or all morning.

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

It is time to start preparing for the annual Grace Christmas Pageant! This year the pageant is on Sunday, December 15th at 5pm, and it will be followed by a festive cookie party. All ages of children and youth are invited to participate (pre-school through 12th grade). Scan the QR code for the sign-up form.



### END OF YEAR GIVING REMINDERS

As we approach the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons, we know it can be a very busy time of the year so we want to provide you with a couple of important giving reminders. IRS tax regulations require that all pledge contributions and other donations to Grace must be received physically at Grace or postmarked by December 31, 2024 to be included on end of the year statements. Also, stock contributions **must be received** in Grace's brokerage account with Schwab by December 31, and therefore should be initiated at **least two weeks** before month-end to ensure timely processing.

If you choose to give online through Breeze or Tithely, there is an option called “cover the fees.” Transaction fees are deducted from the total amount the church receives from each financial gift unless the donor elects to cover the fees. When you cover the fees, you are credited the total transaction amount (gift and fees) for tax purposes, and the church receives the intended gift amount. If you have any questions about giving, don't hesitate to contact the finance team at [giving@gracealex.org](mailto:giving@gracealex.org).

### CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS!

It's time for Christmas Flower and Greens donations. The Altar Guild invites you to help make Grace Church beautiful with seasonal decoration. If you wish to contribute electronically to the Christmas decoration fund, please access the form via the link below and be sure to select “Flowers for Easter or Christmas” from the Altar Flowers drop down menu: <https://gracealex.breezechms.com/form/786b18>.

If you wish to donate via physical check, fill out the form below, cut out, and enclose a donation of \$60. These forms may be dropped in the Sunday offering or sent directly to the church office. Please note ‘Christmas Flowers’ on the check memo line. If you wish to have your dedication in the Christmas bulletin, the office must receive this form and payment **by 4 pm on Sunday, December 15**. Questions? Contact Chad Eckles, Altar Guild Flower Chair, at [cke1986@gmail.com](mailto:cke1986@gmail.com). Please consider making a donation this year as the flower fund is at a low and our Christmas donations can help increase the fund for 2025.

### CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Check one and write dedication below: \_\_\_ “In loving memory of” \_\_\_ “In thanksgiving for”

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Given by (print the name or names of the donors below exactly as you want them to appear):

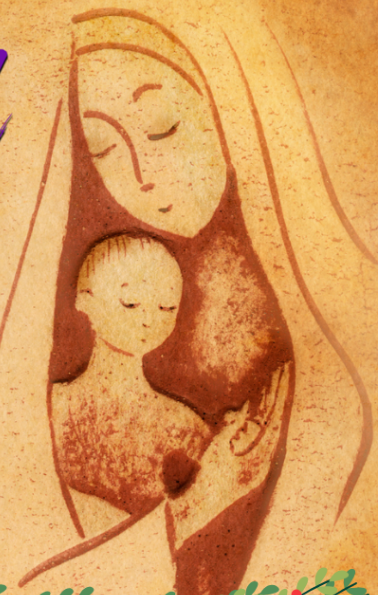
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# The Nearness of God



## Advent & Christmas @ Grace Church



### Special Events & Services

In addition to our regular service offerings, see below for a list of special events and services to help celebrate the Advent & Christmas seasons.

#### Sunday, December 1, Advent I Intergenerational Event

9:30 am- Wreaths & Advent Card Signing\*

#### Saturday, December 7, Advent Quiet Morning, 9 am - 12 pm

9 am- Meditations, reflections, & Eucharist; come for any portion

#### Sunday, December 8, Advent II

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

5 pm- Advent Lessons & Carols with Choral Eucharist **LIVE**

6 pm- Youth Christmas Party

#### Sunday, December 15, Advent III

5 pm- Youth & Children's Christmas Pageant

A reception follows in the Auditorium.

#### Sunday, December 22, Advent IV

6 pm- Greening of the Church

Join us as we decorate the nave for Christmas Services!

#### Monday, December 23

7 pm- Las Posadas & Santa Eucaristía, Rito II

Servicio en español

#### Sunday, December 29

10:30 am- Christmas Lessons & Carols\* **LIVE**

Only one combined service on this day

#### Wednesday, January 1, Feast of the Holy Name

Noon- Festival Eucharist **LIVE**

#### Sunday, January 5, Bilingual Epiphany Service @ 5 pm

5 pm- Festival Eucharist **LIVE**

7:30, 9, & 10:30 am Services held as normal, no 8:45 am service.

\* Childcare provided

**LIVE** = Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

### Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services

Held in the nave unless otherwise noted.

#### Christmas Eve, 3 pm, Rite II \*

Family Service with Holy Eucharist  
Service will be held in the Auditorium.

#### Christmas Eve, 5 pm, Rite II \*

Festival Eucharist, with procession to the Creche **LIVE**  
Music Prelude starts at 4:30 pm

#### Christmas Eve, 7:30 pm, Rite I

Festival Eucharist

#### Christmas Eve, 11 pm, Rite I

Festival Eucharist **LIVE**  
Music Prelude starts at 10:30 pm

#### Christmas Day, 12 pm, Rite I

Festival Eucharist **LIVE**



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## 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:** Virginia, Michael, Lisa, Lina, Mario, Tina, Hector, Wendy, Conway, Amorita, Caz & family, Debbie, Amber, Kelly, Elle, John, Carl, Jeannie, Sigrid, Ed, Larry, Susie, Otto, Anne, Charles, Cleveland, Colin, Jennifer, Barbara, Duke, Lisa, June, Igor, David & Joanie, Anne.
- **Parishioners and others in assisted living:** Margaret, Nancy, Sally, Clare, Eles, Mary Ann, Cynthia, Reg, Don, Susan, James, Peck, Vylma, Bette.
- **Family & friends:** Barbara, Maggie, Joel, Anthony, Mark, Klaus, Charles, Nancy, Madison, Jack, Michael, Dave & Mimi, Sharon, Peter, Cyndy, Anne, Scott, Jean, Eileen & Dylan, Virginia, Christine, Elena, Al, Connie, Don, Leslie, Elizabeth, Ada, Don, Cooper, Marge, Elizabeth, Bert, Clare, Betsy, Chuck, Mike, Jim, Renee, Patrick, Ashby, Troy, Ada, Gen, Dick, Danny, Lew, Cathie, Cameron, Ellen, Patti & Joe, Claudia, Amy, Bill, Markita, Theresa, Will, Judy & Bryan, Rob, Sherry, David.
- **Members of our staff:** Addie, Alain, Amorita, Mother Anne, Betsy, Mother Emma, Jane, Kevin, Madeline, Mary, Pedro, Father Santiago.
- **Grace School:** Students & their families; for the staff, especially Amanda, interim head of school.
- **Outreach & Justice Partners:** ALIVE; Casa Chirilagua; Christ Church Refugee and Lazarus Ministries; Community Lodgings; Cristosal, El Salvador; Haiti Micah Project; Meade Memorial Lunch Program; Tanzania Mission; 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; and 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:** LCDR Claire S. Eudy, USN; SSgt Chip Fowler, USAF; 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 studying:** Chris & Melissa Reed; Owen Malone & Miles Malone.
- **Diocese of Virginia Prayer Cycle:** Bishop E. Mark Stevenson; Bishop Gayle E. Harris; Diocesan staff; in thanksgiving for God's Creation and those who care for it.
- **Anglican Prayer Cycle:** Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan; The Diocese of Kitale, The Anglican Church of Kenya; The Diocese of Kiteto, The Anglican Church of Tanzania; The Diocese of Kitgum, The Church of the Province of Uganda; The Diocese of Kitui, The Anglican Church of Kenya; The Diocese of Kivu, Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda; The Diocese of North Kivu, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo.

You can fill out a [Prayer Request Form](#) on our Website or email your request to [prayers@gracealex.org](mailto:prayers@gracealex.org)

## BIRTHDAYS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

Monday, December 2	Elizabeth Zuidema
Wednesday, December 4	Clara "Glory" Shriner, Nicholas Shriner
Sunday, December 8	Valerie Eudy



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, 12/1	7:30 am Holy Eucharist in English, Rite I	Nave	
	8:45 am Santa Eucaristía en español	Nave	
	9:00 am Little Church, Rite II	Auditorium	
	9:40 - 10:15 Intergenerational Advent Event	Marrow Hall	
	10:30 am Choral Eucharist, Rite II	Nave / Livestream	
	5:00 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II	Nave	
Monday 12/2	Food Pantry Bagging - 3:30 - 5:30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>
	Food Pantry Distribution - 6:30 pm		
Tuesday 12/3	Food Pantry Distribution - 6:30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>
Wednesday, 12/4	Food Pantry (Unloading of Delivery) - 2 - 4 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>
	Food Pantry (Unloading of Delivery) - 2 - 4 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>
	Evening Prayer - 5:30 pm	Zoom	Lucy-Lee Reed - 703.842.3121
	Bible Study - 7:30 pm	Zoom	<a href="mailto:Stephen.Lovell@gracealex.org">Stephen.Lovell@gracealex.org</a>
	Alcoholics Anonymous - 8 pm	MH Auditorium	
	Alanon - 8 pm	St. Luke Room	
Thursday, 12/5	Food Pantry Bagging - 3:30 - 5:30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>
Friday, 12/6	Food Pantry Bagging - 3 - 5 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>
	Food Pantry Distribution - 6:30 pm		
Saturday, 12/7	Altar Guild Set Up - 9 am	Narthex, Sacristy	
	Advent Quiet Morning - 9:00 - 11:45 am	Nave	
	Bible Study - 10 am		<a href="mailto:cmfaddencrosby@gmail.com">cmfaddencrosby@gmail.com</a>
	Food Pantry Bagging - 1 - 3 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>