



Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024 – 10:30 am
Choral Eucharist, Rite I



On the Third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a day of joyful anticipation for the coming of Christ. The name Gaudete is derived from the Latin word meaning "rejoice" and captures the spirit of the day. This theme is beautifully expressed in the opening words of the Epistle: "Rejoice in the Lord always."

— Connecting @ Grace —

Address: 3601 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA 22305 ♦ Phone: 703.549.1980 ♦ Website: www.gracealex.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GraceEpiscopalChurchAlexandriaVa ♦ Instagram: @graceepisalexva

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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 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. Dr. Anne Michele Turner

Rector

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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.

THIRD 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

Veni, Emmanuel

Heathcote Statham (1889-1973)

The people stand.

HYMN 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

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 – 3rd 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.

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.**

The people are seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah.

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. 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 9, THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

Hymnal S-213

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



Sing the prais - es of the Lord, for he has done great things.

- 1 Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
- 2 For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.
- 3 Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.
- 4 And on that day you shall say,
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
- 5 Make his deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
- 6 Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,
and this is known in all the world.
- 7 Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. [ANTIPHON]

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

Lector A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

HYMN 70

Herald, sound the note of judgement

Herald Sound

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

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

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

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 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 be to thee, O Christ.**

The people are seated.

SERMON

Mother Anne Michele 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 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

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Rejoice in the Lord Alway

Anonymous (att. John Redford)

*Rejoice in the Lord alway,
and again I say, rejoice.*

*let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving
of thanks.*

*Let your softness be known unto all men:
the Lord is at hand.*

And the peace of God,

Be careful for nothing:

which passeth all understanding,

but in all prayer and supplication,

shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ

Jesu. Amen

The people stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN 640

Watchman, tell us of the night

Aberystwyth

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.

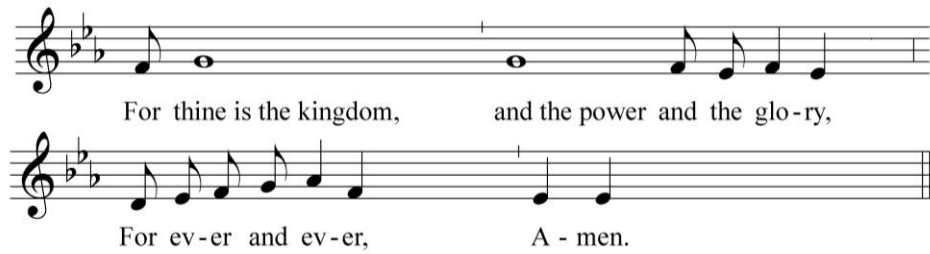
And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor 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-owed 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, 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 56

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

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 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

THE DISMISSAL

BCP, p. 366

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Toccata on 'Aberystwyth'

David Bednall (b. 1979)

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

Heathcote Statham (1889-1973) was a British conductor, composer and organist. He held various posts, most interestingly at Calcutta Cathedral from 1913 to 1920. As a composer he is best known for his Rhapsody on a Ground for organ (1944) and his settings of the Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in E minor and G. His Fantasia on ‘Veni Emmanuel’ follows the soft-loud-soft format with the tune played mostly in the top voice.

The anonymous sixteenth-century anthem Rejoice in the Lord alway (formerly attributed to John Redford) is a setting of the fourth chapter of St Paul’s letter to the Philippians. The only known source of this anthem is in the Mulliner Book which is held in the British Library. The rhythms in the music make it apparent that the words originally set were from the 1594 Prayer Book. The music—a careful setting of the words—varies between imitative passages and homophonic sections as, for example, at the words ‘Let your softness be known unto all men’.

David Bednall (born 1979) is a British composer, organist, and educator, known for his works in choral and organ music. He studied music at the University of Bristol and later at the Royal College of Music in London. Bednall's compositions draw on a variety of influences, blending traditional English choral music with modern harmonic language. He is particularly noted for his contributions to sacred music, with a significant body of choral works, anthems, and organ pieces.

The Toccata on “Aberystwyth” follows the French toccata format of a fast chordal figuration, in this case in the right hand. The melody is played in the left hand punctuated by the pedals (feet). During the next section the right hand plays the melody and the left hand takes a turn at the fast figuration. This is followed by some key changes and climaxes into the melody played on the pedals accompanied by a two-hand fast figuration a la French Toccata.

SERVING @ GRACE TODAY

<i>Celebrant</i>	Father Santiago Rodriguez
<i>Deacon & Preacher</i>	Mother Anne Michele Turner
<i>Subdeacon</i>	Jane Rosman
<i>Children’s Chapel</i>	Noah Aukerman
<i>Lector</i>	Anne Boris
<i>Intercessor</i>	June Huber
<i>Lay Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Noah Aukerman, Stephanie Reed
<i>Music Director</i>	Dr. Alain Truche
<i>Ushers</i>	Brad Bergmann & June Huber, Bill Eckel, Colleen McArdelle
<i>Live Stream Crew</i>	Geoffrey Whitlock, Stephen Lovell
<i>Altar Guild Crew Leaders</i>	Lucy-Lee Reed, Beth Yancey

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 15, 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.



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

TODAY is the last day for Christmas Flower Dedications! See the last page for 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

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – TONIGHT, DECEMBER 15TH, AT 5:00 PM

The annual Christmas Pageant is tonight, Sunday, December 15th at 5pm, and it will be followed by a festive cookie party. All are welcome!

ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 12/22 – 1/5 ARE DUE BY 12 NOON MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Due to the additional resources required for Christmas Eve and Day services and holiday office closures, all bulletin and email announcement submissions for December 22 – January 5 **must be received by 12 pm Monday, December 16**. Late submissions cannot be accepted due to the tight review and print schedule.

UPCOMING FEAST DAY EUCHARISTS

We have three upcoming Feast Day Eucharists held outside of a regular service offering. The Feast of Saint Thomas is Saturday, December 21 at 8:30 a.m., the Feast of Saint John is Friday, December 27 at 12 noon, and the Feast of Holy Innocents is Saturday, December 28 at 8:30 a.m. All three services will be held at the Lady Altar in the nave.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH – DECEMBER 22ND AT 6:00 PM

Save the date! The Altar Guild invites you to help green the Nave for Christmas services on Sunday, December 22nd at 6pm (following the 5:00 pm 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. Contact Alison Campbell with questions.

ADULT FORUM DECEMBER - JANUARY 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 15: Art of Watching for the Light II, by Anne Clift Boris

December 22-29: CHRISTMAS BREAK - NO ADULT FORUM OR SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 5: Reflecting on the Gifts of the Wise, by Fr. Santiago Rodriguez

January 12: TBD

January 19: Budget Presentation

January 26: ANNUAL MEETING - NO ADULT FORUM OR SUNDAY SCHOOL

A 2025 PLEDGE UPDATE

On November 10th, In-Gathering Sunday, Grace parishioners brought forward their 2025 pledges during our worship services for a blessing. Pledges are vital to our planning and preparation for the coming year, specifically in the area of budget creation. **To date we have received 106 pledges totaling \$650,980.00.** If you have any questions or didn't receive the initial mailing with information and a pledge card, please contact giving@gracealex.org with your name and address so we can ensure you receive the materials. You are also able to pledge online, at gracealex.org/pledge. **Thank you!**

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK (CONTINUED)

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S UNTIL JANUARY 2ND

The church office will be closed December 23 – January 1 and will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd. 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.

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 to volunteer.

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 (1608 Russell Road) on Tuesday, December 24th.

CALL FOR ADULT FORUM PRESENTERS

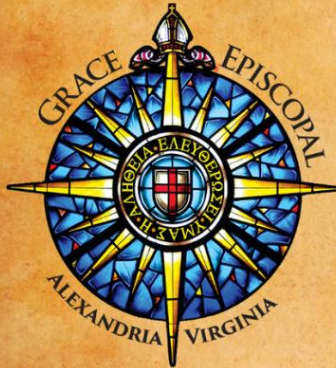
We are now scheduling Adult Forum presenters for 2025. We would like to hear from more people in our "Grace at Work" series, where people talk about how they live out their faith in their work lives; there will be an opportunity in the spring to share meaningful books; and new topic suggestions are also welcome. If you have an idea of something you'd like to present, or something you'd like someone else to present, please contact Anne Clift Boris at awcboris@hotmail.com.

END OF YEAR GIVING REMINDERS

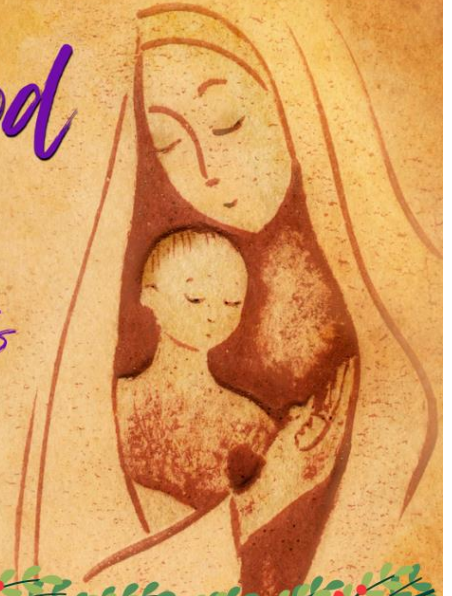
As we approach the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons, we know it can be a very busy time of the year so we want to provide you with a couple of important giving reminders. IRS tax regulations require that all pledge contributions and other donations to Grace must be received physically at Grace or 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.

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**



3601 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22305



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www.gracealex.org

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, Igor, David & Joanie, Anne, Mary Ann, Nancy & John, Jan.
- **Parishioners and others in assisted living:** Margaret, Nancy, Sally, Clare, Elesa, 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, 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, Amanda & Kurt; Mike & Silvia.
- **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; Christ Church, Gordonsville; Grace Church, Bremo Bluff; La Iglesia Santa Maria, Falls Church; St. James, Warrenton.
- **Anglican Prayer Cycle:** The Anglican Church of Tanzania; The Diocese of Kongor, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan; The Diocese of Kontagora, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion); The Diocese of Kootenay, The Anglican Church of Canada; The Diocese of Eastern Kowloon, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui; The Diocese of Western Kowloon, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui; The Diocese of Krishna-Godavari, The Church of South India (United).

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

BIRTHDAYS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

Tuesday, December 17	Mary Fox, Mary Hix, Christina Ritter
Wednesday, December 18	David Dellefield, Owen Malone
Friday, December 20	Pat Edelin
Saturday, December 21	Wendy Wilmer
Sunday, December 22	Priscilla Hanley



*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, 12/15	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 Sunday School and Adult Forum	Various Locations	
	10:30 am Choral Eucharist, Rite I	Nave / Livestream	
	5:00 pm Christmas Pageant	Nave	
Monday 12/16	Food Pantry Bagging - 3:30 - 5:30 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
Tuesday 12/17	Food Pantry Distribution - 6:30 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
Wednesday, 12/18	Food Pantry (Unloading of Delivery) - 2 - 4 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
	Evening Prayer - 5:30 pm	Zoom	Lucy-Lee Reed - 703.842.3121
	Bible Study - 7:30 pm	Zoom	Stephen.Lovell@gracealex.org
	Alcoholics Anonymous - 8 pm	MH Auditorium	
	Alanon - 8 pm	St. Luke Room	
Thursday, 12/19	Food Pantry Bagging - 3:30 - 5:30 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
	Handbell Rehearsal - 6 pm	Malm Narthex	
	Adult Choir Rehearsal - 7 pm	St. Cecilia Room	Alain.truche@gracealex.org
Friday, 12/20	Food Pantry Bagging - 3 - 5 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
	Food Pantry Distribution - 6:30 pm		
Saturday, 12/21	Altar Guild Set Up - 9 am	Narthex, Sacristy	
	Bible Study - 10 am	Zoom	cmfaddencrosby@gmail.com
	Food Pantry Bagging - 1 - 3 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org

*****LAST CALL FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS*****

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. 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"

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

