



Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024 – 10:30 am
Choral Eucharist, Rite I



*“Frost and chill, bless the Lord. Ice and snow, bless the Lord. Praise and exalt him above all forever” Daniel 3:69-70
Photo from January 2024*

— Connecting @ Grace —

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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, 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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Director of Music

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The Rev. Dr. Anne Michele Turner

Rector

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.

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

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 & BWV 660 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The people stand.

HYMN 267

Praise we the Lord this Day

St. George

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.

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

Micah 5:2-5a

Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

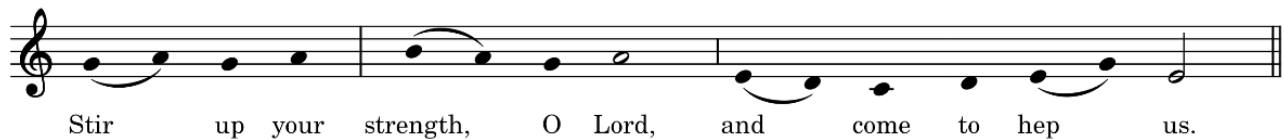
Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7

Plainsong

The choir sings the antiphon the first time. 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]

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:5-10

Lector A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will."

He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

HYMN 54

Savior of the nations, come!

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

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

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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, especially Robert Joseph Folliard, Jr., 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.



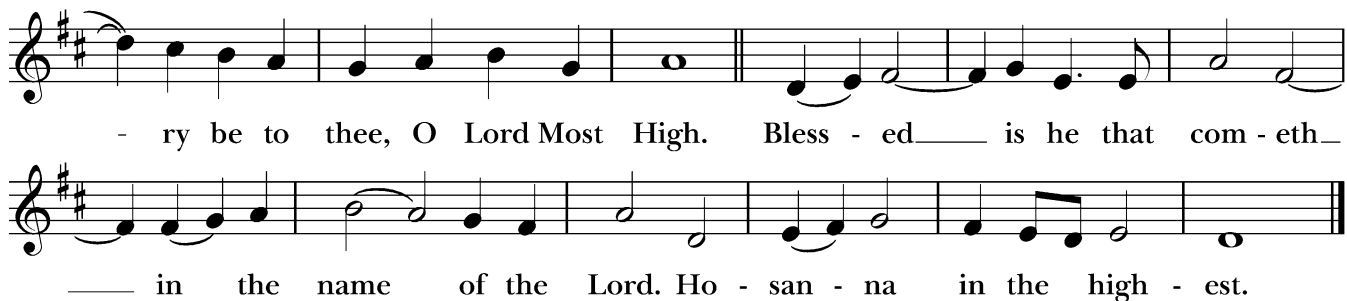
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Mary through the Thornwood Passed

Hugo Distler (1908-1942)

*As Mary through the thornwood passed,
Kyrie Eleison!*

*As Mary through the thornwood passed,
Which no leaves had borne in seven years long past.
Jesus and Mary!*



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

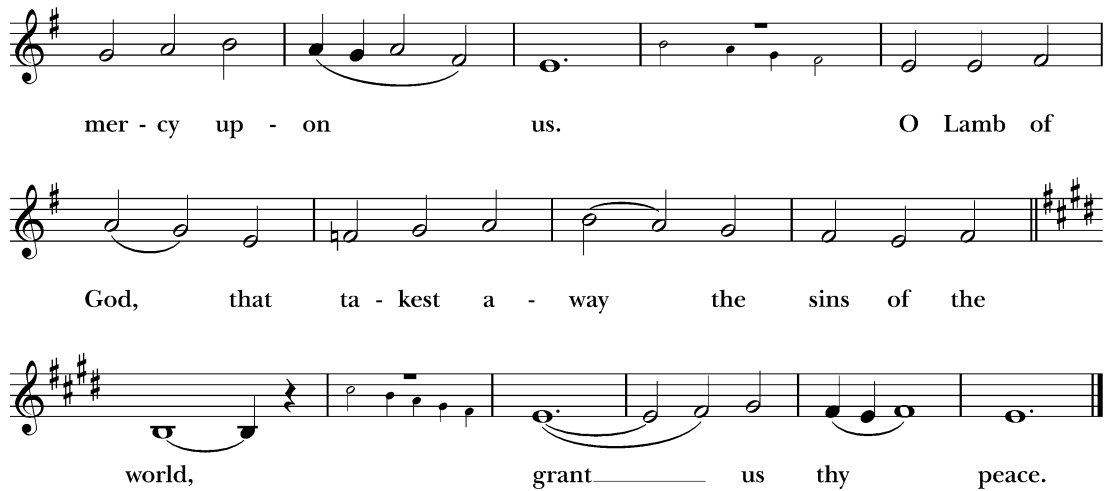
Our Father, who art in heaven, Hal-lowed be thy name,
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heav-en.
 Give us this day our dai-ly bread, And forgive us our trespasses,
 As we forgive those who tres-pass a-gainst us.
 And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e-vil.
 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 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 437

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Birmingham

THE DISMISSAL

BCP, p. 366

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*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

The chorale Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (Come now, Savior of the Heathen) forms an Advent trilogy in the next three chorales. In BWV 659 Bach ornaments the chorale considerably in the soprano, much like a sacred aria inspired by texts of adoration and supplication. Bach brilliantly hints at the melody in the alto and tenor accompaniment over a continuously “walking” bass line. The closing arabesque-type gesture represents a haunting turn of melody, almost as if paying homage to Christ through his sacrifice. Bach surprises and delights in BWV 660 with the most unusual trio texture with two bass lines: Soprano, Bass, Bass. Underneath the melody the two bass lines tumble and stumble over one another repeatedly crossing above and below as if to cyclically illustrate the fifth stanza of text, “His life began with the Father and led back to the Father (Christopher Jacobson).”

Trained at the Leipzig Conservatory, **Hugo Distler** was one of Germany’s most important choral composers during the first half of the 20th century. He is noted for the revival of old forms and genres and a reverence of earlier composers, particularly J.S. Bach and Heinrich Schütz. Outside of the university setting, Distler’s employers were mainly churches and so the vast majority of his output is for organ and/or vocal/choral. His motet “Maria Walks Amid the Thorn” uses a combination of Renaissance and modern techniques to provide a mood of spiritual solemnity. Distler freely changes the meter to better suit the text and also uses a varied texture throughout the settings of each verse.

BWV 661 presents a rousing conclusion to Bach’s Advent trilogy. As if to say “Amen!” (So be it!) Bach unmistakably showcases the full organ with the melody striding forth in the pedals to a celebratory finish (Christopher Jacobson).

SERVING @ GRACE TODAY

Celebrant	Mother Emma Brice
Deacon & Preacher	Father Santiago Rodriguez
Subdeacon	Jay Legere
Children’s Chapel	Noah Aukerman, Mother Anne Michele Turner
Lector	June Huber
Intercessor	Noah Aukerman
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Kemp Williams
Music Director	Dr. Alain Truche
Ushers	John Boris, Mary Hix, Cindy MacIntyre, Mary Stewart
Acolytes	Molly Sim, Annie Eason, Christian Portillo, Victoria Portillo, Keaton Brathwaite, Brynn Miller, Anna Serke, Annelise Whitlock
Live Stream Crew	Jay Legere, Vance Allen
Altar Guild Crew Leaders	Kristine Hesse, Nancy Robinson

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 22, 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.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

CHRISTMAS EVE COLLECTION AT THE 3:00 PM & 5:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Leave a gift for the baby Jesus at the manger. As is the Grace Church tradition, we will collect donations from families at our 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. This year we are collecting items for our Food Pantry. Items requested are liquid dish detergent, laundry detergent pods, toilet paper, paper towels, masa, large packs of flour, and corn tortillas. Thank you!

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY WITH THE THREE KINGS AND INCENSE - JANUARY 5TH AT 5:00 PM

The feast of the Epiphany officially ends the twelve days of Christmas. In the Western churches (including the Episcopal Church), Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Wise Men from the East to the Christ Child in Bethlehem. Join us on Sunday, January 5th at 5:00 pm for a Bilingual Festival Eucharist to celebrate the Epiphany and the Three Kings. The service will be followed by a light reception hosted by La Gracia.

BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES IN JANUARY: EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY

It's impossible to be spiritually mature, while remaining emotionally immature. Explore how emotional health is vital to spiritual maturity with *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* by Peter Scazzero. Father Santiago Rodriguez will lead a three-part series on Mondays: January 13th, 20th, and 27th. We will gather in the St. Mark's Room at 7:00 pm. Together, we'll dive into the book's transformative insights on spiritual growth, emotional intelligence, and the path toward integration. All are welcome!

BUDGET FORUM

This year's forum on the Annual Budget will be on Sunday, January 12th. The forum will be held in the auditorium immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

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

Please join the Altar Guild to decorate the church as we prepare the church for the nativity of our Lord. We will gather after the 5 o'clock service on Sunday, 22 December (6:00 start time). We will be hanging the roping and wreaths and decorating trees and preparing the altar. We would love help with climbing ladders, setting up trees, preparing the creche, and making the church beautiful for Christmas. Please join us! If you have questions, please contact Alison Campbell at alison.campbell@gracealex.org.

UPCOMING FEAST DAY EUCHARISTS

We have three upcoming Feast Day Eucharists held outside of a regular service offering. The Feast of St. Stephen is on Thursday, December 26 at 12 noon, the Feast of 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.

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 lay 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 (CONTINUED)

A 2025 PLEDGE UPDATE

Pledges are vital to our planning and preparation for the coming year, specifically in the area of budget creation. Our Pledge Goal for 2025 is \$850,000. Thanks to your generosity, **as of December 18 we have received 111 pledges totaling \$676,980.** 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. Visit the Grace website (www.GraceAlex.org) if you would like to make your pledge online. Under "Connect" on the menu at the top, select "Member Resources" to find a link to the 2025 Pledge Form / Formulario de compromiso de 2025. **Thank you!**

ADULT FORUM 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. After our Christmas break December 22 - 29, we will resume on January 5.

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

January 12: Grace at Work: Teaching, by Eleanor Reed

January 19: Understanding Current Housing Insecurity in Alexandria, by Lynn Rohrs and Noah Aukerman.

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

INVITE SOMEONE TO GRACE THIS 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 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 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 Christmas season.



A SENSORY-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS AT EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 pm in Emmanuel Episcopal Church's parish hall (1608 Russell Road) Tuesday, December 24th.

CALL FOR ADULT FORUM PRESENTERS

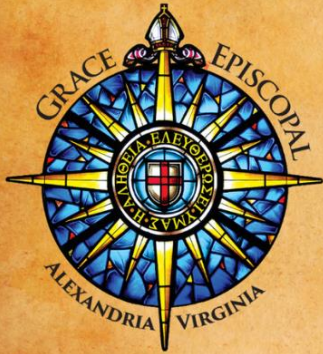
We are now scheduling Adult Forum presenters for 2025. We would like to hear from more people in our "Grace at Work" series, where people talk about how they live out their faith in their work lives; there will be an opportunity in the spring to share meaningful books; and new topic suggestions are also 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

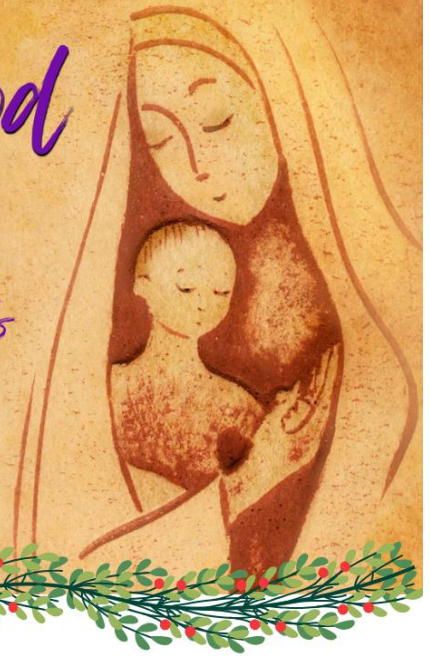
IRS tax regulations require all pledge contributions and other donations must be received physically at Grace or postmarked by December 31, 2024 to be included on end of the year statements. Also, stock contributions **must be received** in Grace's brokerage account with Schwab by December 31, and therefore 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



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**
Handbell prelude starts at 4:30 pm

Christmas Eve, 7:30 pm, Rite I

Festival Eucharist

Christmas Eve, 11 pm, Rite I

Festival Eucharist **LIVE**
Organ prelude starts at 10:30 pm

Christmas Day, 12 pm, Rite I

Festival Eucharist **LIVE**

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 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- Bilingual 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



3601 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22305



703.549.1980



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, Jan, Bill, Vance.
- **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, Judy & Bryan, Rob, Sherry, Amanda & Kurt; Mike & Silvia, Al.
- **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:** Robert Joseph Folliard, Jr., 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; St. Matthew's, Richmond.
- **Anglican Prayer Cycle:** The Church of the Province of Uganda; The Diocese of Kubwa, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion); The Diocese of Kuching, Church of the Province of South East Asia; The Diocese of Kumasi, The Church of the Province of West Africa; The Diocese of Kumi, The Church of the Province of Uganda; The Diocese of Kurunegala, The Church of Ceylon (Extra Provincial); The Diocese of Kushtia, The Church of Bangladesh.

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

BIRTHDAYS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 22	Priscilla Hanley
Monday, December 23	Constance Troyer
Thursday, December 26	Eva Lorentz
Friday, December 27	George Winstead
Saturday, December 28	Matt Tschetter
Sunday, December 29	Pierce Klemmt



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, 12/22	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 Holy Eucharist, Rite II	Nave	
	6:00 pm Greening of the Church	Nave	
Monday 12/23	Food Pantry Bagging - 3:30 - 5:30 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
Tuesday 12/24	3:00 pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist, Rite II	Auditorium	
	5:00 pm Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist, Rite II	Nave / Livestream	
	7:30 pm Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist, Rite I	Nave	
	11:00 pm Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist, Rite I	Nave / Livestream	
Wednesday, 12/25	12:00 pm Christmas Day Festival Eucharist, Rite I		
	Church office Closed		
	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	
Thursday, 12/26	Alanon - 8 pm	St. Luke Room	
	Church Office Closed		
Friday, 12/27	St. Stephen Feast Day Eucharist - noon	Lady Altar	
	Church Office Closed		
Saturday, 12/28	St. John Feast Day Eucharist - noon	Lady Altar	
	Church Office Closed		
	Feast of the Holy Innocents Eucharist - 8:30 am	Lady Altar	
	Altar Guild Set Up - 9 am	Narthex, Sacristy	
	Bible Study - 10 am	Zoom	cmfaddencrosby@gmail.com