



Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Rd. Alexandria, Virginia 22305

www.gracealex.org 703.549.1980

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024 – 5:00 pm Festival Eucharist, Rite II



WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS EVE AT GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are excited that you have chosen to worship with us today as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We invite you to return in the coming weeks to worship during Christmastide and Epiphany. See the schedule inside the back cover of this bulletin to see our upcoming services.

If you would like to support the ministries of Grace Church, there are a couple of ways to make a Christmas Eve offering:

- Place cash or check in the offering bag as it is passed through the pews during the anthem.
- Make a one-time donation through the website, www.gracealex.org.

If you are looking for a church home, we welcome you. Please leave a visitor card in the offering plate or send an email to welcome@gracealex.org

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 Santiago 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.

MUSICAL PRELUDE— 4:30 PM

PRELUDE	Noël, Grand Jeu et Duo no. 10	<i>Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)</i>
	Variations on a Basque Noel	<i>Jean Bouvard (1905-1996)</i>
	Offertory on Two Noels	<i>Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)</i>
HANDBELL PRELUDE	Good King Wencelas	<i>Piae Cantiones, arr. Richard McKee</i>
	Carol of the Bells	<i>Traditional Ukrainian carol, arr. William Withrup</i>
	God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen	<i>Traditional, arr. Linda Lamb</i>
	Prince of Peace	<i>For Unto Us a Child is Born, G.F. Handel Adeste Fidelis, Arr. Bill Ingram</i>

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The people stand for the procession.

THE PROCESSION TO THE CRÈCHE

Celebrant: 

Let us go forth in peace.

People: 

In the name of Christ. A-men.

HYMN 83

O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fideles

During the procession to the crèche, children in the congregation will be invited by the ushers to bring gifts to the crèche.

Adults may assist younger children. After leaving a gift, please return to your pew. Photographs at the crèche may be taken after tonight's liturgy.

THE BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

Celebrant Most merciful and loving God, you have made this day holy by the Incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the childbearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we, your people, may enter with joy into the celebration of this day, and may also rejoice forever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**


HYMN 101

Away in a Manger

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant

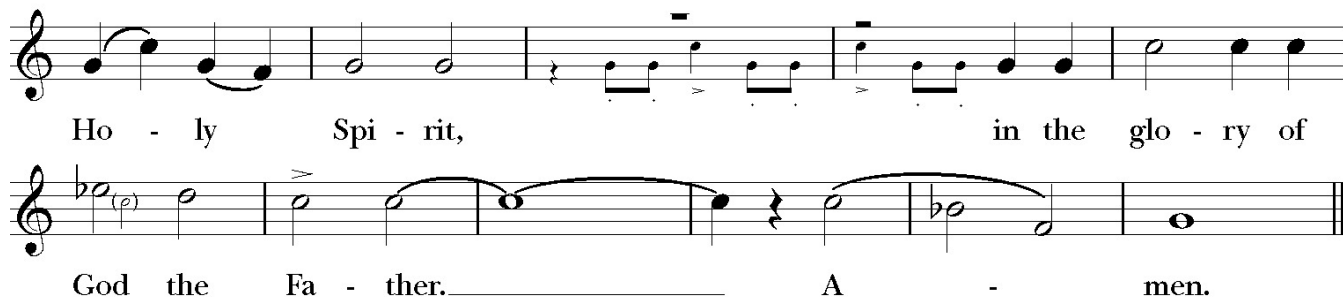

Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.

People


And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev-er. A-men.



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
 might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
 on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
 5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
 ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The people are seated for the reading of the lesson.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

HYMN 96

Angels we have heard on high

Gloria

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated.

SERMON

Father Santiago Rodriguez

Silence is kept.

THE 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 I; BCP, p. 383

The Leader and People pray responsively

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Presiding Bishop, Sean, for our Bishops, Mark and Gayle, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, Joe, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the city of Alexandria, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Celebrant

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

BCP, p. 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**



THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

We invite you to give to the work of the church electronically via [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) by scanning this QR code.

HANDBELL VOLUNTARY

What Child Is This

Old English, arr. Barbara Kinyon

The people stand and sing the hymn.

HYMN 109

The first Nowell

The First Nowell

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

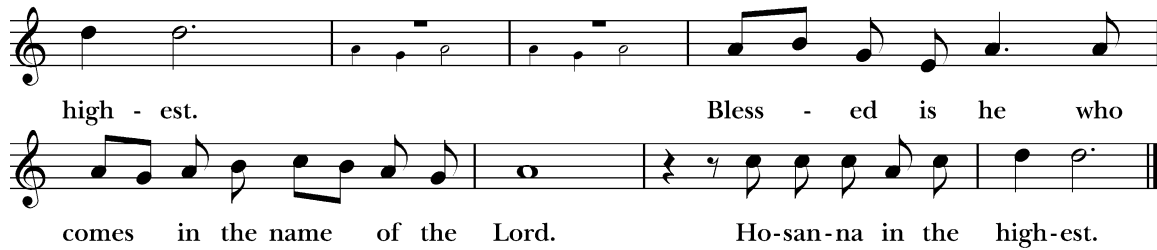
The Celebrant continues.

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 you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

William Mathias, Hymnal S-128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the



Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

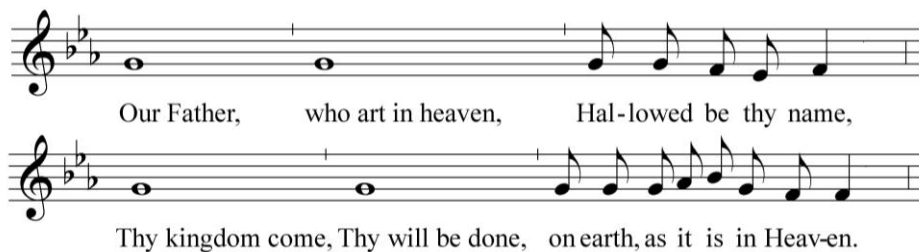
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and Joseph, Nicholas, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

William H. Plant



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

Celebrant Alleluia. The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

People **He was in the beginning with God and dwelt among us. Alleluia.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

BCP, p. 364

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.

Those who wish to have the eucharist brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

HANDBELL VOLUNTARY

In the Bleak Midwinter

HYMN 78

O little town of Bethlehem

Forest Green

The people kneel.

HYMN 111

Silent night, holy night

Stille Nacht

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING FOR CHRISTMAS

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior’s birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The people stand.

HYMN 100

Joy to the world! The Lord is come

Antioch

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Carillon de Westminster

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Guest musicians for tonight’s service are Eddie Lamont Adams, violoncello; Matthew Harrison Gardner, violin; and Annette Hana Lee, violin.

SERVING @ GRACE TODAY

Celebrant	Mother Anne Michele Turner
Deacon & Preacher	Father Santiago Rodriguez
Subdeacon	Mother Emma Brice
Lector	Kelly Gable
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Kemp Williams
Music Director	Dr. Alain Truche
Acolytes	Molly Sim, Annie Eason, Willem Egass, Keaton Brathwaite, Willem Schultz, Regan Cline, Lucy Williams, Alex Cline, Emily Thompson, Vivianne Egass, Anna Serke
Ushers	John Boris, John Hall, Kristine Hesse, Scott Knudsen, Evan Robinson
Live Stream Crew	Stephen Lovell
Altar Guild Crew Leaders	Alison Campbell, Eleanor Reed, Lucy-Lee Reed

YOU’RE INVITED TO OUR CHRISTMASTIDE SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY – 12 p.m. Festival Eucharist, Rite I

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN – 12 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Lady Altar)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, FEAST OF ST. JOHN – 12 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Lady Altar)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, FEAST OF HOLY INNOCENTS – 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Lady Altar)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 (ONE SERVICE ONLY) – 10:30 a.m. Bilingual Christmas Lessons and Carols

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME– 12 p.m. Festival Eucharist, Rite I

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY – 5 p.m. Bilingual Festival Eucharist
(January 5- Regular Sunday Morning service schedule, with the exception of no La Gracia service)

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

The flowers decorating the church are given to the Glory of God by the following:

Sherrie Arnold & the Arnold family	<i>In loving memory of those who are forever in our hearts.</i>
Lisa Bellantoni	<i>In thanksgiving for Sally Rasco's birthday.</i>
Brad Bergmann and June Huber	<i>In loving memory of all family members and friends who have died and remain in our prayers.</i>
John J. & Anne Clift Boris	<i>In thanksgiving for our family.</i>
Lisa Cassady	<i>In loving memory of my Mother Anna and my brother Bobby.</i>
Ruth Corlett	<i>In loving memory of Cleve and our parents.</i>
Elizabeth Corley	<i>In loving memory of her parents Bette and Steve Stevens, and beloved friend Tracy Robertson.</i>
Chrissie Crosby	<i>In thanksgiving for the clergy and staff (including volunteers!) of Grace.</i>
Wendy & Bill Cummings	<i>In thanksgiving for Grace Church and all the congregation; for love and kindness and peace throughout the world.</i>
Jonathan & Lisa Doelp	<i>In thanksgiving for our son Adam and for our nieces and nephews Erik, Ilse, Mark, Eddie, Matthew, Thomas, Lee, ErikJan.</i>
Claudine & Joe Donovan	<i>In thanksgiving for the Donovan, Pauly, and Meeks families, children and grandchildren, those before us and after us.</i>
Chad Eckles	<i>In thanksgiving for the members of the Vestry and all of their hard work over this past year.</i>
Kevin Hamilton	<i>In thanksgiving for the people of Grace Church. Your strength and dedication to the work of love and your eagerness to hear the Spirit calling is beautiful.</i>
Pedro and Bernarda Hernandez	<i>In thanksgiving for Grace Episcopal Church and La Gracia.</i>
Kristine Hesse & Greg Whitlow	<i>In thanksgiving for all our blessings.</i>
Summer Jones	<i>In loving memory of Jack and Brenda Chiow, parents of Jeffrey Chiow and grandparents of Duke, Hudson, Perrin, and Mira.</i>
Barry & Jane Clare Joyner	<i>In thanksgiving for Ben and for family who are friends and friends who are family.</i>
Ann Korky	<i>In loving memory of Theodore and Agnes Korky.</i>
Richard and Cindy Kelly	<i>To our beloved parents and grandparents: Daisy MacIntyre, Frederick MacIntyre, Virginia Woods, Randall Kelly.</i>
Richard and Cindy Kelly	<i>In thanksgiving for our wonderful family: Heather, Erin, Sean, Shannon, Karlene and Dan from mom and dad</i>
Anne McFadden	<i>In loving memory of my beloved husband, Gary Charles Schroen.</i>
Anne McFadden	<i>In thanksgiving for Kevin Hamilton, an unsung hero.</i>
Erica McFarquhar & David Holiday	<i>In thanksgiving for family and friends.</i>
Doug & Judy Miller	<i>In loving memory of Claura A. Wheeler and Sonny A. Wheeler.</i>
Betty Mills	<i>In thanksgiving for the 23rd birthday of my daughter, Julie Mills Cizek</i>
Barbara Morris	<i>In loving memory of Ward Morris, a Grace usher for 30 years.</i>
Liz Myers	<i>In loving memory of my grandparents Irene & Carl Heider.</i>
Suzanne and Jay O'Malley	<i>In thanksgiving for the joys of family and friends, especially our daughters Meghan and Kerrigan, their husbands Brett and Briggs, our grandsons Sean, Luke, and Ethan, and welcoming our new granddaughter Catherine Elliott, born September 5, 2024.</i>
Cynthia and Cathy Puskar	<i>In thanksgiving for our many blessings and in loving memory of our parents and grandparents Mary & Lewis Fulwiler and Chuck Puskar; our beloved Bill Stokes; and Jay Smirnow and Mike Medlin who passed away this year.</i>

Lucy-Lee & Jean Reed	<i>In loving memory of Rodney Pendleton Reed.</i>
Lucy-Lee & Jean Reed	<i>In thanksgiving for our family; Christopher, Eleanor, Melissa, & Michael.</i>
Nancy & Evan Robinson	<i>In loving memory of Carol and Libby Herzog, Ara Zusky & Michael Brierton, and in thanksgiving for the return of Mother Anne, and for our other dedicated clergy and staff, particularly the pastoral care team and the members of COHI.</i>
Molly Sim & Lauren and Colby Gustafson	<i>In loving memory of Martha and John Sim, Alisa Wash, and Jeff, Evelyn, and Ralph Gustafson.</i>
Molly Sim	<i>In thanksgiving for the Grace Church Youth Acolytes.</i>
Barbara Slate, Ed Arthur, and Kathy Roche	<i>In loving memory of Eddie and Kathleen Arthur and Robert Slate.</i>
Mary Stewart	<i>In thanksgiving for Bella, Bingley, Tractor and all creatures great and small with whom we share our lives.</i>
Ann Thompson	<i>In loving memory of Rosemary Kutz, Jean Marchand, and Jim & Joanne Thompson.</i>
Larry Thompson	<i>In thanksgiving for my grandsons.</i>
Anne Turner	<i>In thanksgiving for the people and staff of Grace Church.</i>
Otto and Jan Wolff	<i>In thanksgiving for our Grace Church family and our children and their families.</i>
Lorna Worley	<i>In thanksgiving for the birth of my great nephew, Adam Manuel Canizalez and his big sister Ava Alexa Canizalez.</i>
Lorna Worley	<i>In thanksgiving for my life partner, Kenneth Stone.</i>
Beth Yancey	<i>In thanksgiving for all my blessings and especially for my family – Libby, Dennis, Bette, Michael, Robert, Allie, Coker, Amanda, Amy, and Chipper.</i>

The Advent wreath and candles are given in loving memory of Audrey T. Adlis and Charles S. Adlis and Marion L. Iovino and Peter A. Iovino, Sr. by Peter, Charlie and Christina Iovino.

Hanging votive candles for the coming year are given by the Legere family in memory of Dick and Vi Legere.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 24, 2024

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!

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.

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.

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.

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

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!**

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.

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.

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