



Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Rd. Alexandria, Virginia 22305

www.gracealex.org 703.549.1980

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Christmas Day, December 25, 2024 – 12:00 pm Festival Eucharist, Rite I



WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS DAY 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.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
FESTIVAL EUCHARIST, RITE I

PRELUDE

Divinum Mysterium

David Johnson (1922-1987)


The people stand.

OPENING HYMN 82

Of the Father's love begotten


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

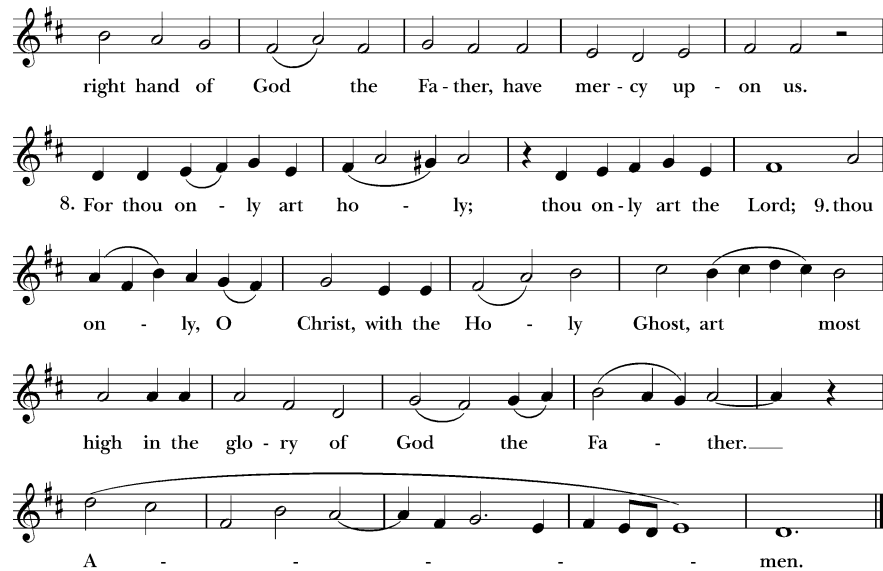
Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS S202

Healy Willan



1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,
good will towards men. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,
we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give
thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly
King, God the Fa-ther Al - might - y.
4. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;
5. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the



right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mer-cy up-on us.

8. For thou on-ly art ho-ly; thou on-ly art the Lord; 9. thou on-ly, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most high in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. —

A - - - - - men.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1881-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sung by all.

PSALM 98

Simplified Chant, S411

Robert Knox Kennedy
 (b. 1945)



1 Sing to the Lord a new | song, *
for he has done marvelous | things.
2 With his right hand and his holy | arm *
has he won for himself the | victory.

3 The Lord has made known his | victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the | nations.
4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of | Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our | God.

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you | lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and | sing.
6 Sing to the Lord with the | harp, *
with the harp and the voice of | song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the | horn *
shout with joy before the King, the | Lord.
8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is | in it, *
the lands and those who | dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their | hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the | Lord,
when he comes to judge the | earth.
10 In righteousness shall he judge the | world *
and the peoples with | equity.

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-12

Lector A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"?

Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Mother Anne Michele Turner

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, 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.**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY *If you prefer to give electronically, you can scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit the giving page at www.gracealex.org and click on "Make an Offering."*



OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY Prelude on 'What child is this' *Richard Purvis (1913-1994)*

OFFERTORY HYMN 105 God rest you merry, gentlemen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II BCP, p. 340

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS Hymnal S-114

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
 Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
 - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

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

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

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

William H. Plant

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

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

HYMN 112

In the bleak Midwinter

Cranham

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 339

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 Christ, who by his Incarnation, gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN 100

Joy to the world

Antioch

THE DISMISSAL

BCP, p. 339

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

VOLUNTARY

Postlude on Hark! The Angels Sing *David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

SERVING @ GRACE TODAY

Celebrant
Deacon & Preacher
Subdeacon
Lector & Intercessor
Acolytes
Usher
Altar Guild Crew Leaders

Mother Emma Brice
Mother Anne Michele Turner
Father Santiago Rodriguez
Anne Boris
Molly Sim, Lauren Gustafson, Annie Eason, Brynn Miller
John Boris
Chad Eckles

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 Cassidy	<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 25, 2024

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

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!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK (*CONTINUED*)

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