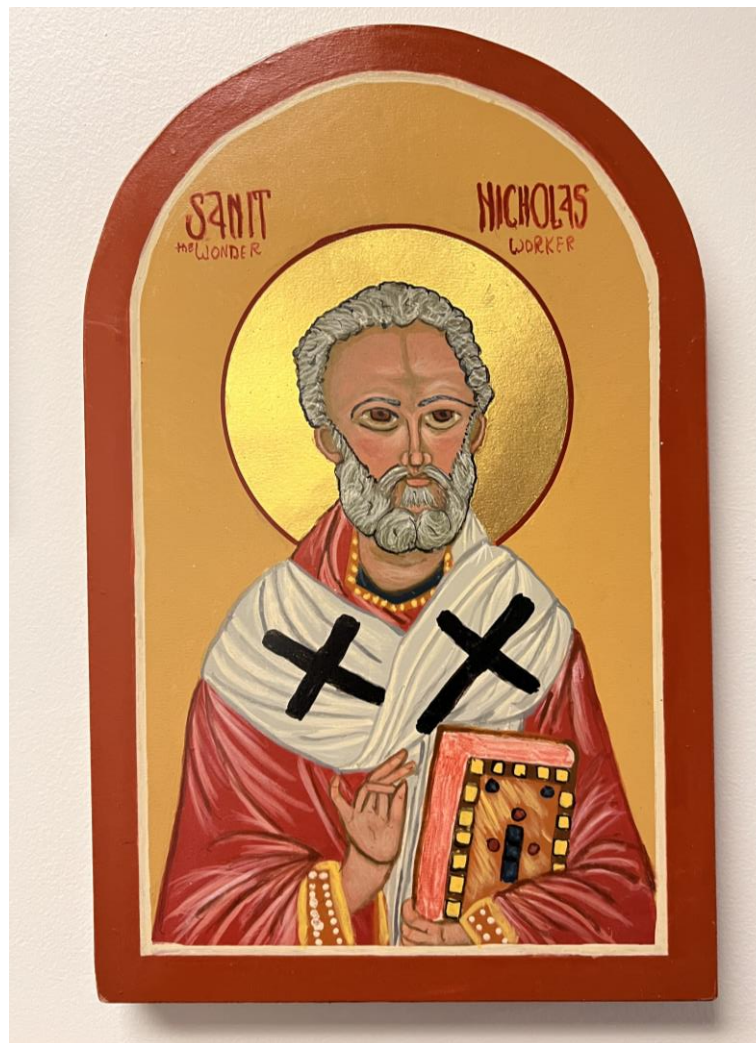




# Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 8, 2024 – 10:30 am  
Choral Eucharist, Rite I



*Saint Nicholas, whose feast day falls on December 6th,  
makes a special visit to Grace Church each year during Advent.*

— Connecting @ Grace —

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

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

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

## WELCOME TO GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are pleased to welcome you to Grace Church. If you are joining us for the first time, please send us a message at [welcome@gracealex.org](mailto:welcome@gracealex.org), so we can get to know you. We can also add you to our mailing list by request. We're glad to have you join with us in worshipping God in the beauty of holiness, something which is central to our identity at Grace. We hope you will join with us in sharing the love of God with this world that needs healing. Assisted listening devices are available for use during worship. Please see an usher if you'd like to use one.



Please silence your cell phones during worship.

### Our Mission Statement

To Love, Proclaim, and Serve God

*through + life-giving liturgical worship + joyful community + empowering others*

### Contacting Grace

Please feel free to contact our staff.

Our regular office hours are Monday to Thursday 9 am – 3 pm, and Fridays 9 am – 12 noon.

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

### Staff

**Noah Aukerman**

*Seminarian*

[naukerman@vts.edu](mailto:naukerman@vts.edu)

**Betsy Bamford**

**Jane Avery**

*Nursery Worker (part-time)*

**The Rev. Emma Brice**

*Assistant Rector & School Chaplain*

[emma.brice@gracealex.org](mailto:emma.brice@gracealex.org)

**Addie Budnick**

*Communications Support*

Announcement requests - [announcements@gracealex.org](mailto:announcements@gracealex.org)

**Mary Cyrus**

*Financial Administrator (part-time)*

[financial.admin@gracealex.org](mailto:financial.admin@gracealex.org)

**Kevin Hamilton**

*Director of Operations and Communication*

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**Pedro Hernández**

**Amorita Quintanilla**

*Sextons*

**Madeline Manaker**

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**The Rev. Santiago Rodriguez**

*Associate Rector*

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**The Rev. Deacon Ignacio Solano Gómez**

*Seminarian*

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**Dr. Alain Truche**

*Director of Music*

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**The Rev. Dr. Anne Michele Turner**

*Rector*

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

### IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE?

Clergy and staff are available for pastoral care. Please call the church office at (703) 549-1980 if you're ill or need pastoral care. For emergencies after hours, please call the **After-hours Emergency Number: (703) 261-9079**, and the priest on call will assist you.

### HOME COMMUNION

Home Communion is available upon request for parishioners who desire this service by Eucharistic Visitors every Sunday. Home Communion will be in one form, Bread only. To request Home Communion, parishioners are asked to contact the Parish Office by telephone at 703-549-1980 no later than 12 pm on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday on which they would like to receive Home Communion.



Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

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

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

CANTICLE 16, THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH

Hymnal S-248

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

*Antiphon*

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break up - on us.

- 1 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
he has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty savior,  
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.
- 4 He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.
- 7 You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. [ANTIPHON]

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

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

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

HYMN 75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

*Ascension*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

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

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The people are seated.*

SERMON

Mother Emma Brice

*Silence is kept.*

NICENE CREED

BCP, p. 326

**We believe in one God,  
 the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.  
 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father.  
 Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation  
     he came down from heaven:  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit  
     he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
     and was made man.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
     he suffered death and was buried.  
     On the third day he rose again  
         in accordance with the Scriptures;  
     he ascended into heaven  
         and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
     and his kingdom will have no end.  
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
     who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
     With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
     He has spoken through the Prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
     and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form V; BCP, p. 389

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, for E. Mark Stevenson and Gayle Harris, our Bishops, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this congregation for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**To you, O Lord our God.**

*Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant*

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

BCP, p. 331

*Celebrant*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*All*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

BCP, p. 332

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*          **And with thy spirit.**

*The people are seated.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

*We invite you to give to the work of the church electronically via Tithe.ly by scanning this QR code.*



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

If Ye Love Me

*Philip Wilby (b. 1949)*

*If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, That he may abide with you for ever; E'en the Spirit of truth. And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.*





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.

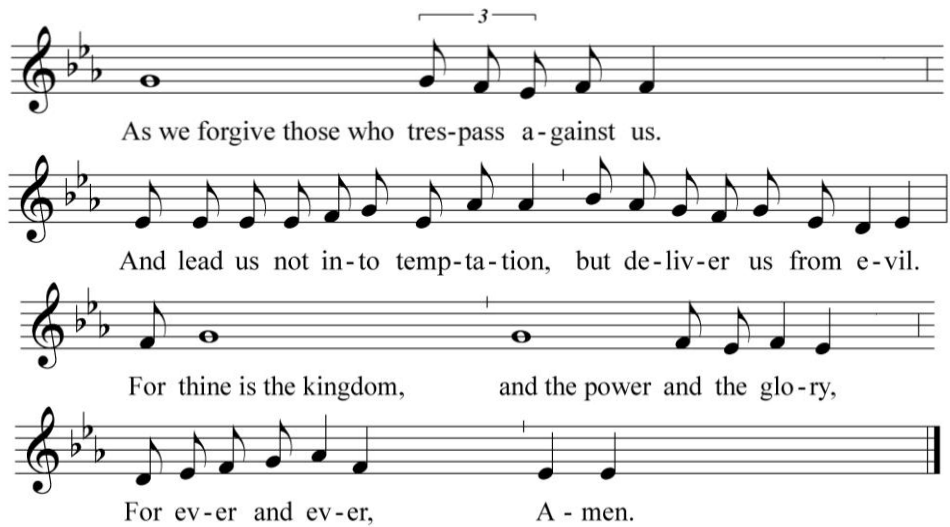
And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor 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-owed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heav-en.  
Give us this day our dai-ly bread, And forgive us our trespasses,



As we forgive those who tres-pass a-gainst us.  
 And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e-vil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glo-ry,  
 For ev-er and ev-er, A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S-158



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -  
 way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
 on us. O Lamb of God, that  
 ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have  
 mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of  
 God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the  
 world, grant us thy peace.

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

*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 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42

*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 WLP 724

People, look East. The time is near

Besançon carol

THE DISMISSAL

BCP, p. 366

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

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Carillon on 'Besançon'

Rebecca Groom Te Velde (b. 1956)

*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

**Malcolm Archer** (born 1952) is an English composer, conductor and organist. He was formerly Organist and Director of Music at Bristol Cathedral, at Wells Cathedral and at St Paul's Cathedral and Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College.

His setting on the hymn tune “Merton” starts with a four-measure introduction. The melody is then played in the top voice of a four-part texture two measures at a time with two measure interludes based on the melodic material from the introduction.

**David Thorne** (b. 1950) is an accomplished musician, composer, arranger and teacher whose career has included composing and arranging music for the visit of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu and performing in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

His setting on the hymn tune “Merton” has a three-voice texture, a popular texture in organ music. The melody is played in the left hand accompanied by a lightly registered right hand and the pedal providing the bass line.

British composer, organist, and choir director **Philip Wilby** attributed his early interest in musical composition to another English composer Herbert Howells whose composition classes he attended in his youth. His later serious commitment to composition developed during his years at Oxford University where he received an undergraduate degree in composition in 1971. He joined the faculty of the University of Leeds in 1972 where he is Principal Lecturer in Composition. His stately *If Ye Love Me* opens with a fetching tune sung by the soprano section that is later taken up by the choir in unison. Between those two sections, Wilby features a divided soprano section in rising and falling sequences.

**Rebecca Groom Te Velde** (b. 1956) is an American organist, composer, and educator, known for her contributions to sacred music and her work in the field of organ performance. She holds degrees in music and has studied at institutions such as the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Te Velde is particularly recognized for her compositions for organ and her arrangements of hymns, which are often performed in church settings.

Her setting of the hymn tune “Besançon” (today’s closing hymn), uses a clever carillon figuration in the right hand with the tune found in the pedals (feet). A quieter mid-section sets the tune in the left hand with the right hand keeping the same busy rhythm as before. The last section becomes loud again, and the left hand plays opening melody from the hymn “How bright appears the morning star” usually sung for the Epiphany.

## SERVING @ GRACE TODAY

<i>Celebrant</i>	Mother Anne Michele Turner
<i>Deacon &amp; Preacher</i>	Mother Emma Brice
<i>Subdeacon</i>	Jay Legere
<i>Assisting &amp; Children’s Chapel</i>	Father Santiago Rodriguez
<i>Lector</i>	Rushad Thomas
<i>Intercessor</i>	Khacki Berry
<i>Lay Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Alex Willson, June Huber
<i>Music Director</i>	Dr. Alain Truche
<i>Ushers</i>	Brad Bergmann, John Boris, John Hall, Laura Weidenfeld
<i>Live Stream Crew</i>	Alison Campbell, Sarah Schultz
<i>Altar Guild Crew Leaders</i>	Kristine Hesse, Kemp Williams

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 8, 2024

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

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



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

Help decorate the nave for Christmas! See the announcement with more details.

You can scan the QR Code in the header with your smart phone to access the donation form.

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

### POINSETTIA PICKUP TODAY!

Poinsettias are back, just in time for Advent! If you ordered poinsettias for the Grace J2A Pilgrimage fundraiser, they are available for pickup in the Malm Narthex.

### TONIGHT - ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS WITH EUCHARIST - 5 PM

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

### 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](mailto:awcboris@hotmail.com).

### THANKSGIVING BASKET OUTREACH UPDATE

We have exciting updates to last week's Thanksgiving Basket Outreach announcement! Grace/La Gracia Parishioners, EYC / J2A Youth, and the Latter-Day Saints, Alexandria 1st Congregation Church signed up, funded, procured, assembled, and distributed **146 Thanksgiving baskets!** A total of **184 local Families received a basket and /or gift cards.** Our parishioners donated an incredible **\$15,251, a 44.6% increase over last year.** Thank you so much to the people of Grace for your generosity and hard work! Special thanks to Mother Emma who spread the word and recruited our youth workforce and to Bernarda and Pedro Hernandez who managed the registration list and distribution table.

### INVITATION TO THE INSTALLATION OF THE REV. DAVID P. KENDRICK

The Parish of St. Monica and St. James, Capitol Hill cordially invites you to the Installation of The Rev. David P. Kendrick as Rector on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. Father Kendrick was raised up for ordination while a member of Grace, and we continue to celebrate his ministry.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

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

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK (CONTINUED)

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

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



### CHRISTMAS USHERS NEEDED!

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

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

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

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

If a traditional Christmas Eve worship service is overwhelming for you or your loved one, you are invited to join Emmanuel Episcopal Church's Sensory-Friendly Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist and "no practice pageant." There will be low lighting, soft music, floor mat/yoga ball/chair seating, sensory objects available for use, and vocalizations, devices, and movement is encouraged and welcomed. This service will be at 1:00 pm in the Emmanuel Episcopal Church parish hall (1608 Russell Road) on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

### DON'T GO PHISHING!

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

### ADULT FORUM FALL SCHEDULE

Adult forum is offered Sundays 9:40-10:15 in the St. Mark room (2nd floor) or virtually via Zoom link sent in the Sunday morning email. Tea and coffee are available just outside the St. Mark Room from 9:30. All are welcome at any forum; no commitment required.

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

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

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



**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](mailto:giving@gracealex.org).



**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS!**

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

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

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS**

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

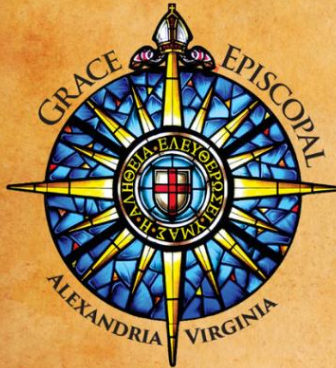
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Given by (print the name or names of the donors below exactly as you want them to appear):

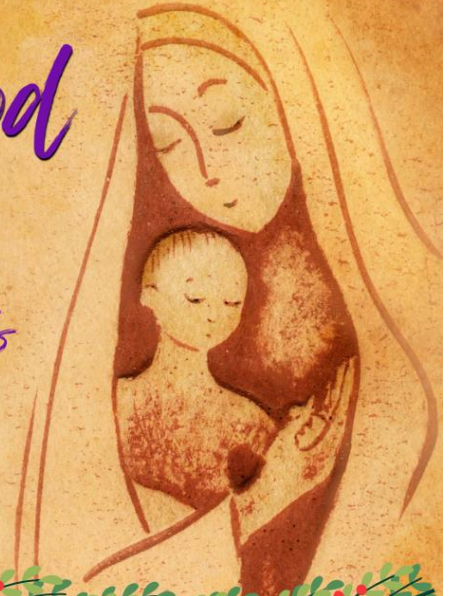
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# The Nearness of God



## Advent & Christmas @ Grace Church



### Special Events & Services

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

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

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

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

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

#### Sunday, December 8, Advent II

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

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

6 pm- Youth Christmas Party

#### Sunday, December 15, Advent III

5 pm- Youth & Children's Christmas Pageant

*A reception follows in the Auditorium.*

#### Sunday, December 22, Advent IV

6 pm- Greening of the Church

*Join us as we decorate the nave for Christmas Services!*

#### Monday, December 23

7 pm- Las Posadas & Santa Eucaristía, Rito II

*Servicio en español*

#### Sunday, December 29

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

*Only one combined service on this day*

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

Noon- Festival Eucharist **LIVE**

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

5 pm- Festival Eucharist **LIVE**

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

\* Childcare provided

**LIVE** = Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

### Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services

*Held in the nave unless otherwise noted.*

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

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

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

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

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

Festival Eucharist

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

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

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

Festival Eucharist **LIVE**



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.
- **Parishioners and others in assisted living:** Margaret, Nancy, Sally, Clare, Elesa, Mary Ann, Cynthia, Reg, Don, Susan, James, Peck, Vylma, Bette.
- **Family & friends:** Barbara, Maggie, Joel, Anthony, Mark, Klaus, Charles, Nancy, Madison, Jack, Michael, Dave & Mimi, Sharon, Peter, Cyndy, Scott, Jean, Eileen & Dylan, Virginia, Christine, Elena, Al, Connie, Don, Leslie, Elizabeth, Ada, Don, Cooper, Marge, Elizabeth, Bert, Clare, Betsy, Chuck, Mike, Jim, Renee, Patrick, Ashby, Troy, Ada, Gen, Dick, Danny, Lew, Cathie, Cameron, Ellen, Patti & Joe, Claudia, Amy, Bill, Markita, Theresa, Will, Judy & Bryan, Rob, Sherry, Amabda & Kurt; Mike & Silvia.
- **Members of our staff:** Addie, Alain, Amorita, Mother Anne, Betsy, Mother Emma, Jane, Kevin, Madeline, Mary, Pedro, Father Santiago.
- **Grace School:** Students & their families; for the staff, especially Amanda, interim head of school.
- **Outreach & Justice Partners:** ALIVE; Casa Chirilagua; Christ Church Refugee and Lazarus Ministries; Community Lodgings; Cristosal, El Salvador; Haiti Micah Project; Meade Memorial Lunch Program; Tanzania Mission; Tenants and Workers; V.O.I.C.E.; Kathleen and Eddie Arthur Hearts of Love Fund.
- **Those who have died:** Those who have died from illnesses and natural disasters; and all those killed in acts of terror, violence, and war around the world.
- **Those serving our country in the Armed Forces and State Department overseas:** LCDR Claire S. Eudy, USN; SSgt Chip Fowler, USAF; Erika Olander; for healing for US troops wounded as casualties of war; and for physical and mental well-being of all veterans.
- **Others who are overseas serving the Church or our nation or studying:** Chris & Melissa Reed; Owen Malone & Miles Malone.
- **Diocese of Virginia Prayer Cycle:** Bishop E. Mark Stevenson; Bishop Gayle E. Harris; Diocesan staff; Emmanuel, Rapidan; St. James the Less, Ashland; St. Andrew's, Burke.
- **Anglican Prayer Cycle:** Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan; The Diocese of Kobe, The Nippon Sei Ko Kai; The Diocese of Koforidua, The Church of the Province of West Africa; The Diocese of Kolhapur, The Church of North India (United); The Diocese of Kollam - Kottarakkara, The Church of South India (United); The Diocese of Kondoa, The Anglican Church of Tanzania; The Diocese of Kongor, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

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

## BIRTHDAYS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 8	Valerie Eudy
Friday, December 13	Emmy Doyle, Isabella Giacomo
Saturday, December 14	Mike Stancil, Lucy Waskowicz



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, 12/8	7:30 am Holy Eucharist in English, Rite I	Nave	
	8:45 am Santa Eucaristía <i>en español</i>	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 Advent Lessons and Carols, Rite I	Nave	
	6:00 pm Youth Christmas Party		<a href="mailto:Emma.brice@gracealex.org">Emma.brice@gracealex.org</a>
Monday 12/9	Food Pantry Bagging - 3:30 - 5:30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>
Tuesday 12/10	Food Pantry Distribution - 6:30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>
Wednesday, 12/11	Food Pantry (Unloading of Delivery) - 2 - 4 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>
	Evening Prayer - 5:30 pm	Zoom	Lucy-Lee Reed - 703.842.3121
	Bible Study - 7:30 pm	Zoom	<a href="mailto:Stephen.Lovell@gracealex.org">Stephen.Lovell@gracealex.org</a>
	Alcoholics Anonymous - 8 pm	MH Auditorium	
	Alanon - 8 pm	St. Luke Room	
Thursday, 12/12	Food Pantry Bagging - 3:30 - 5:30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>
	Handbell Rehearsal - 6 pm	Malm Narthex	
	Adult Choir Rehearsal - 7 pm	St. Cecilia Room	<a href="mailto:Alain.truche@gracealex.org">Alain.truche@gracealex.org</a>
Friday, 12/13	Food Pantry Bagging - 3 - 5 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>
	Food Pantry Distribution - 6:30 pm		
Saturday, 12/14	Altar Guild Set Up - 9 am	Narthex, Sacristy	
	Bible Study - 10 am	Zoom	<a href="mailto:cmfaddencrosby@gmail.com">cmfaddencrosby@gmail.com</a>
	Food Pantry Bagging - 1 - 3 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> floor Lobby	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org">Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org</a>