



# Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 8, 2024 – 5:00 pm  
Advent Lessons & Carols with Eucharist, Rite I



*During this Advent season, we prepare and wait for the Light to come in the first coming of Christ on Christmas and in his second coming not yet occurred.*

— 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

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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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS WITH CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE I

PRELUDE	Fantasia sopra Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele Pastorale on “Wachet Auf” Wachet aut, rulf uns die Stimme, BWV 645	J.L. Krebs (1713-1780) Wayne Wold (b. 1954) J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
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INTROIT I look from afar *Adapted from G.P. da Palestrina, 1525-94*

*I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another. Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?*

*The people stand.*

HYMN 56	O Come, O Come Emmanuel (1-4)	Veni Emmanuel
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THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

**Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

CAROL

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston (1906-1987)

*The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green:  
The tree of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil.  
Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel:  
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly have I bought:  
I missed of all: but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

*The people stand.*

HYMN 59

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

*The people are seated.*

ANTHEM

Adam lay ybounden

John Ireland (1879-1962)

*Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond:  
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.*

*And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,  
As clerkes finden written in their book.*

*Né had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,  
Né had never our lady abeen Heavené queen.*

*Blessed be the time that apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen, Deo Gracias!*

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*The people stand.*

HYMN 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42

*The people are seated.*

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9a

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

ANTHEM

This is the truth sent from above

Arr. James Kirkby (b. 1949)

*This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love:  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all, both rich and poor.*

*The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create,  
The next thing which to you I'll tell,  
Woman was made with man to dwell.*

*Then, after this, 'twas God's own choice  
to place them both in Paradise,  
There to remain, from evil free,  
Except they ate of such a tree.*

*But they did eat, which was a sin,  
And thus their ruin did begin.  
Ruined themselves, both you and me,  
And all of their posterity.*

*Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose,  
And so a promise soon did run,  
That he would redeem us by his Son.*

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

ANTHEM

There is no rose

Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

*There is no rose of such virtue,  
as is the rose that bare Jesu.  
Alleluia.*

*For in this rose contained  
was heaven and earth in little space.  
Resmiranda. (Wondrous thing)*

*By that rose we may well see  
that be one God in persons three.  
Paresforma. (One in form)*

*The angels sungen the shepherds to:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. (Glory to God in the highest)  
Gaudeamus. (Let us rejoice)*

*Leave all this worldly mirth  
and follow we this joyful birth.  
Transeamus. (Let us cross over)*

# 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](http://www.gracealex.org) and click on "Make an Offering."*



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Advent Hymn

Martin Jean (b. 1960)

*Oh, come, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and loose the chains of guilt and fear. Our souls are bound by sin so great and yearn your drawing near. We look for hope. We pray for peace of mind and troubled heart. Salvation comes from you alone, and we deserving not.*

*Through ancient prophets God revealed the promise of salvation near. From heaven's throne our Lord bent down, his love our gift so dear. We look for hope. We pray for peace of mind and troubled heart. Salvation comes from you alone, and we deserving not.*

*Come with me now to see the throne, the manger where our Savior lies. Kneel down in awe before his crib and kiss the feet of God. Our hope is here. The peace he brings will draw us to that place, Where we shall sing in perfect praise and dwell in endless day.*

*The people stand.*

OFFERTORY HYMN 57

Lo! He comes with clouds descending

Helmsley

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER I

BCP, p. 340

*Celebrant* *People*  
The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit.

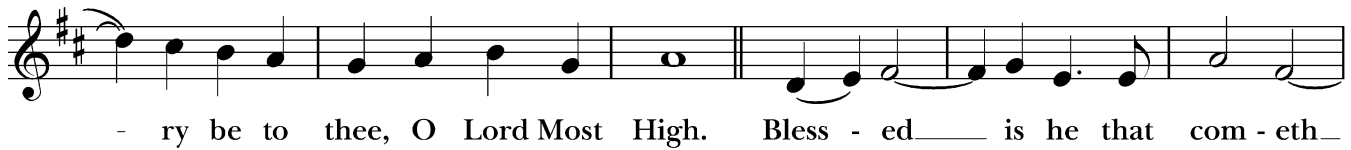
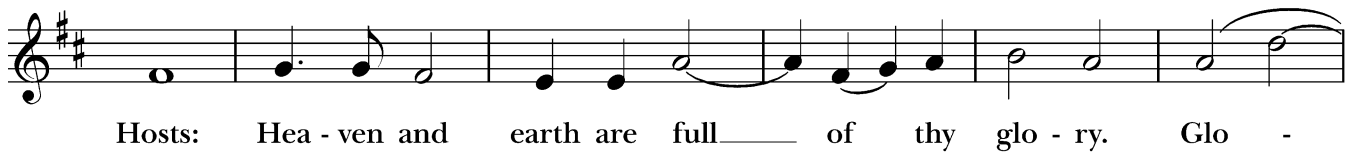
*Celebrant* *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up un - to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

*People*  
It is meet and right so to do.

*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 thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:



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

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues.*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

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

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

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.



And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

William H. Plant

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

BCP, p. 338

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the eucharist. Please come forward to the altar rail at the direction of the ushers. A full communion is made with the bread alone, but if you choose to receive the wine, you may either drink from the cup, or you may offer your wafer to the person holding the chalice, who will dip the bread in the wine for you.*

*If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are available; simply ask the priest. If you do not wish to receive communion at the altar, please let an usher know, and communion can be brought to you in your pew.*

HYMN 61

Sleepers, Wake

Wachet Auf

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 COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Celebrant*

Merciful God, who sent 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 ADVENT BLESSING

*Celebrant* May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

*People* Amen.

*Celebrant* May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

*People* Amen.

*Celebrant* May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

*People* Amen.

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

*People* Amen.

*All stand and sing the hymn.*

CLOSING HYMN 56

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (5-8)

*Veni Emmanuel*

THE DISMISSAL

BCP, p. 366

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'

*Andrew Carter (b. 1939)*

**SERVING @ GRACE TODAY**

*Celebrant*

Mother Anne M. Turner

*Ushers*

Scott Knudsen, Mary Stewart

*Lectors*

Brynn Miller, Evan Robinson, Kristine Hesse,

Nancy Robinson, Mary Stewart

*Acolyte*

Ramee Gentry

*Altar Guild Crew Leaders*

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"

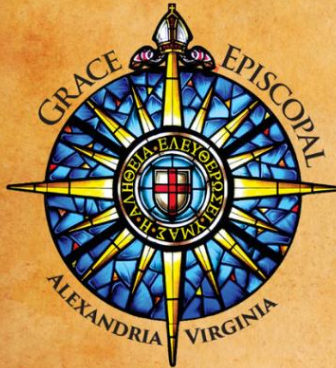
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Given by (print the name or names of the donors below exactly as you want them to appear):

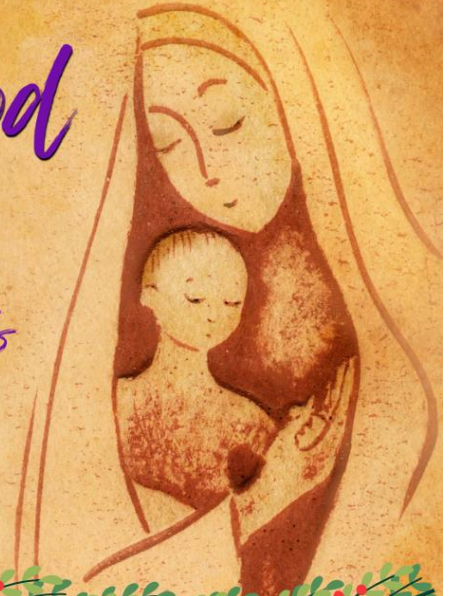
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# The Nearness of God



## 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



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www.gracealex.org

## PRAYER @ GRACE THIS WEEK

*We continue praying for all those in need of healing of mind, body, or spirit. We also pray for wisdom and strength for our communities, our elected officials, and our leaders as they make difficult and important decisions. As we join in common prayer this weekend, let us remember those who are in any need or trouble.*

- **Parishioners:** Virginia, Michael, Lisa, Lina, Mario, Tina, Hector, Wendy, Conway, Amorita, Caz & family, Debbie, Amber, Kelly, Elle, John, Carl, Jeannie, Sigrid, Ed, Larry, Susie, Otto, Anne, Charles, Cleveland, Colin, Jennifer, Barbara, Duke, Lisa, Igor, David & Joanie, Anne, Mary Ann, 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>