



# Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Rd. Alexandria, Virginia 22305

[www.gracealex.org](http://www.gracealex.org) 703.549.1980

## The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025 – 5:00 pm Festival Eucharist, Rite II



### WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS EVE AT GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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

- Place cash or check in the offering bag as it is passed through the pews during the anthem.
- Make a one-time donation through the website, [gracealex.org](http://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](mailto: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](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 office hours are Monday to Thursday 9 am – 3 pm, and 9 am – 12 pm on Fridays.

(Mother Anne is out of the office on Mondays and & Mother Emma is out of the office on Fridays)

## Staff

**Betsy Bamford**

Jane Avery

Nursery Workers (part-time)

**The Rev. Emma Brice**

Associate Rector & School Chaplain

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

**Mary Cyrus**

Financial Administrator (part-time)

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

**Kevin Hamilton**

Director of Operations and Communication

[director.of.operations@gracealex.org](mailto:director.of.operations@gracealex.org)

**Josh Harrington**

Interim Director of Music (part-time)

[josh.harrington@gracealex.org](mailto:josh.harrington@gracealex.org)

**Pedro Hernández**

Amorita Quintanilla

Sextons

**Amanda Hungerford**

Head of Grace Episcopal School

[ahungerford@graceschoolalex.org](mailto:ahungerford@graceschoolalex.org)

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

Rector

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

**Kris Varga**

Communications Contractor

Communications submissions can be emailed to

[announcements@gracealex.org](mailto:announcements@gracealex.org)

**25-26 Seminarians (Virginia Theological Seminary)**

Seth Wise Buck

Gabriel (Gabe) Oakes

Miranda Peters

## IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE?

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

## HOME COMMUNION

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

## MUSICAL PRELUDE

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The people stand for the procession.*

#### THE PROCESSION TO THE CRÈCHE

**Celebrant:**   
Let us go forth in peace.

**People:**   
In the name of Christ. A-men.

#### HYMN 83

O come, all ye faithful (vs. 1-3, 6)

Adeste fideles

*During the procession to the crèche, children in the congregation will be invited by the ushers to follow the altar party to the crèche. Adults may assist younger children. After viewing the crèche, please return to your pew.*

*Photographs at the crèche may be taken after tonight's liturgy.*

#### THE BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

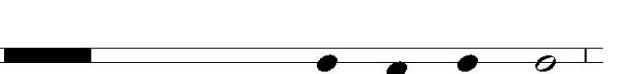
Celebrant Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

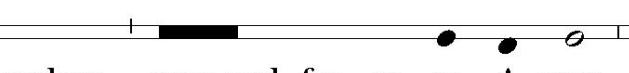
#### HYMN 101

Away in a Manger

Cradle Song

#### 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.

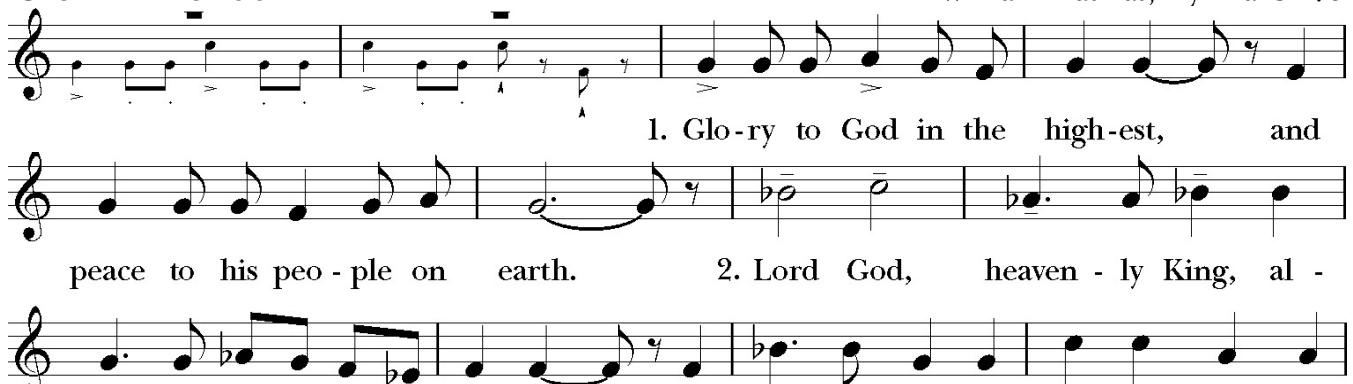
#### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, p. 355

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

#### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

William Mathias, Hymnal S-278



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry.

3. Lord Je - sus Christ,

on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer.

6. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant      The Lord be with you.

People      And also with you.

Celebrant      Let us pray.

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

*The people are seated for the reading of the lesson.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

*Lector*                    A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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

*Lector*                    The Word of the Lord.

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

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

HYMN 96

Angels we have heard on high

Gloria

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

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

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

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

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Deacon*                    The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The people are seated.*

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Anne M. Turner

*Silence is kept.*

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, Donald, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

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

*Celebrant*

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

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP, p. 360

*Deacon*      Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The people kneel. Silence may be kept.*

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

*Celebrant*      Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

*The people stand.*

THE PEACE

BCP, p. 360

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

*People*      **And also with you.**

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

Sing this night for a boy is born in Bethlehem  
Christ our lord in a lowly manger lies  
Bring your gifts come and see him at his cradle  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

See his star shining bright  
in the sky this Christmas night  
Follow me joyfully  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

Angels bright come from heaven's highest glory  
Bear the news with its message of good cheer  
Sing, rejoice, for a king is come to save us  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

See his star shining bright  
in the sky this Christmas night  
Follow me joyfully  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

## Star Carol

See he lies in his mother's tender keeping  
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep  
Shepherds poor come to worship and adore him  
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary

See his star shining bright  
in the sky this Christmas night  
Follow me joyfully  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

Let us all pay our homage at the manger  
Sing his praise on the joyful Christmas night  
Christ is come bringing promise of salvation  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

See his star shining bright  
in the sky this Christmas night  
Follow me joyfully  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

John Rutter

HYMN 109

The first Nowell

The First Nowell

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

The Celebrant continues.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

William Mathias, Hymnal S-128

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high-est.

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

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

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

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

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

William H. Plant

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed 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. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

BCP, p. 364

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

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the eucharist. Please come forward to the altar rail at the direction of the ushers.*

*A full communion is made with the bread alone, but if you choose to receive the wine, you may either drink from the cup, or you may offer your wafer to the person holding the chalice, who will dip the bread in the wine for you.*

*If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are available; simply ask the priest.*

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

HANDBELL VOLUNTARY

In the Bleak Midwinter

HYMN 78

O little town of Bethlehem

Forest Green

*The people kneel.*

HYMN 111

Silent night, holy night

Stille Nacht

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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

THE BLESSING FOR CHRISTMAS

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

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

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

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

*The people stand.*

HYMN 100

Joy to the world! The Lord is come

Antioch

THE DISMISSAL

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

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

VOLUNTARY

Variation on I Saw Three Ships

SERVING @ GRACE TODAY

Celebrant

The Rev. Emma Brice

Deacon & Preacher

The Rev. Dr. Anne M. Turner

Subdeacon

Jay Legere

Lector

Anne Boris

Intercessor

Mary Hix

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Kelly Gable, Kemp Williams

Interim Music Director

Josh Harrington

Acolytes

Victoria Portillo, Annie Eason, Christian Portillo, Joey Portillo, Maddie Prosser, Ellen Rugaber, Alex Cline, Reagan Cline, Lucy Williams, Anna Serke, Molly Sim

Ushers

Sherryl Dodd, John Boris, Chuck Dodd, Bill Eckel

Livestream Crew

Alison Campbell, Jeanne Faith d'Orleans

Altar Guild Crew Leader

Beth Yancey

## YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR CHRISTMASTIDE SERVICES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY – 12 p.m. Festival Eucharist, Rite I (nave)

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, FEAST OF ST. JOHN – 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Lady Altar)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 (THREE SERVICES OFFERED) – 8:45 a.m. La Gracia (nave)

9:00 a.m. Little Church (Auditorium)

10:30 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols (nave)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, FEAST OF HOLY INNOCENTS – 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Lady Altar)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME – 12 p.m. Festival Eucharist, Rite I (nave)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY – 5 p.m. Bilingual Festival Eucharist (nave)

*(January 4- 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:

Anonymous	<i>In thanksgiving for our Grace church clergy.</i>
Sunny Adams	<i>In loving memory of Russ Adams.</i>
The Arnold Family	<i>In loving memory of those who have gone before us.</i>
John & Debbie Barker	<i>In thanksgiving for our family and all of our blessings.</i>
Brad Bergmann and June Huber	<i>In thanksgiving for our Grace Church family.</i>
Alison Campbell	<i>In thanksgiving for Grace Church and the family it has given me over the years.</i>
Lisa F. Cassady	<i>In loving memory of my beloved mother Anna Cassady and my brother Bobby.</i>
Ruth Corlett	<i>In loving memory of Cleve and in thanksgiving for our wonderful family.</i>
Chrissie Crosby	<i>In thanksgiving for the common sense, support, and good humor of my sisters, Anne McFadden and Diane Allen. Without that care, I would be at sea!</i>
Wendy & Bill Cummings	<i>In loving memory of Tom, Peg, Tom, Margie, Eddie, Ferris, Ike, Midge, and George.</i>
Chad Eckles	<i>In thanksgiving for the love of Gregg, Augustine, Gwen, and Theo.</i>
Kevin Hamilton	<i>In loving memory of Ward &amp; Barbara Morris. Barbara often honored Ward's memory in Grace's flower dedications. This year it seems fitting they be remembered, together.</i>
Kristine Hesse & Greg Whitlow	<i>In thanksgiving for all our blessings.</i>
Michael S. Jones & Halina Banas-Jones	<i>In thanksgiving for the wonderful ministry of Grace Episcopal Church.</i>
Jane Clare & Barry Joyner	<i>In thanksgiving for family and friends.</i>
Scott Knudsen	<i>In thanksgiving for my lovely wife, Jennifer Pease. I couldn't have made it through this challenging year without you, Sweetheart. I love you.</i>
Ann Korky	<i>In loving memory of Theodore &amp; Agnes Korky.</i>
Anne McFadden	<i>In thanksgiving for the love and support of my daughters and siblings and in thanksgiving for the life of Gary Charles Schroen.</i>

Jeff & Suzy McQuilkin	<i>In loving memory of our Dad, James Francis McQuilkin. And in thanksgiving for all of our families: the Apperson, Dumas, Zentmyer &amp; McQuilkin families that we were lucky enough to be born into, as well as the Hughes, Puskar &amp; Wayne families that we happily "force" our way into each Christmas morning.</i>
Judy Miller	<i>In loving memory of Claude A. Wheeler and Claude A. Wheeler, II (Sonny).</i>
Brynn & Morgan Miller	<i>In thanksgiving for our Grace Church family, who walk with us down every road, and for Grant Miller.</i>
Morgan Miller	<i>In thanksgiving for Jerry, my person.</i>
Liz Myers	<i>In thanksgiving of my daughters Emma &amp; Elizabeth Imphong.</i>
Suzanne and Jay O'Malley	<i>In thanksgiving for the love and joys of family and friends, especially our daughters, Meghan and Kerrigan, sons-in-law, Brett and Briggs, grandsons, Sean, Luke, and Ethan, and granddaughter, Catherine Elliott.</i>
Katy Patarini	<i>In thanksgiving for our wonderful family.</i>
Jennifer Pease & Scott Knudsen	<i>In thanksgiving for Suzi, our dear departed Charlie, Elizabeth, and Chris. We love you, our parents, and thank you (and forgive you) for everything.</i>
Cynthia & Cathy Puskar	<i>In loving memory of our parents and grandparents, Mary &amp; Lewis Fulwiler and Chuck Puskar, our beloved Bill Stokes, and our brother and uncle, Lewis Fulwiler.</i>
Jean & Lucy-Lee Reed	<i>In loving memory of Rodney P. Reed. In thanksgiving for beloved family &amp; friends.</i>
Christina Ritter & Steven Zatta	<i>In loving memory of William P. Ritter and Leo, Dorothy and David Zatta, and in thanksgiving for our many blessings.</i>
Evan & Nancy Robinson	<i>In thanksgiving for God's many blessings, and in prayers, memory, and hope for all those who have died and are suffering throughout the world.</i>
The Rev. Candace & John Sandfort	<i>In thanksgiving for our daughter, Sarah Sandfort Schultz, so proud that having raised you in the Episcopal Church you have gone on to do so many good things for Grace!</i>
Sarah and Robert Schultz	<i>In thanksgiving for our children, Willem and Celia.</i>
Barbara Arthur Slate, Ed Arthur, and Kathy Arthur Roche	<i>In loving memory of Eddie and Kathleen Arthur, Robert L. Slate, and Bill Roche.</i>
Mother Anne Turner	<i>In thanksgiving for the staff and people of Grace Church.</i>
Jennifer Voces	
Elly Vogtmann	<i>In loving memory of my parents, Stella &amp; Bill. In thanksgiving for Elaine &amp; Keith Niemeyer.</i>
Matt and Tacie Williams	<i>In thanksgiving for the Sunday School teachers!</i>
Otto & Jan Wolff	<i>In thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren.</i>
Lorna Worley	<i>In loving memory of Lynn &amp; Rosemond Worley. Lundy &amp; Vada Gadd, and David Worley.</i>
Beth Yancey	<i>In thanksgiving for all my blessings and especially for my family- Libby, Dennis, Bette, Michael, Robert, Allie, Coker, Amanda, Amy, Chipper -and for the Grace Church Altar Guild.</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 @ GRACE THIS WEEK

\*\*\*\*\* Headings for New Announcements Added This Week are Shaded. \*\*\*\*\*

### OVERFLOW PARKING

The property management company that oversees the Food Star lot has asked that when we are using the lot for overflow parking, we will not take up more than half of the lot. If the lot is more than half full when you arrive, please seek street parking.

### ELEVATOR UPDATE & FELLOWSHIP (COFFEE) HOUR LOCATION REMINDER

Work is finishing this week to establish a connection between the modernized elevator and the fire panel. Once complete, our vendor can schedule the inspection required for permitting. Our Fellowship Hour (Coffee Hour) returned to the Auditorium last week at the request of many in our parish. You can help make Fellowship Hour a great way for our parish to connect by volunteering to host, provide food donations, and help with cleanup after fellowship hour. If you and/or your family enjoy having refreshments and snacks, please consider signing up. To volunteer, use your phone's camera to scan the QR code or fill out the hard copy signup sheet located on the snack table. Please note, refreshments and snacks will only be available during a fellowship hour when someone has volunteered to host to perform setup and food donations are provided. Have questions? Please reach out to Mother Emma at emma.brice@gracealex.org.



### ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

Adult forum is offered Sundays 9:40 -10:15 am 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 am. All are welcome at any forum; no commitment required.

**Adult Forum Schedule:**

- December 28:** No Adult Forum. *Forum will resume January 4.*
- January 4:** Diocesan Convention Report by Rushad Thomas and other delegates
- January 11:** TBD
- January 18:** Budget Presentation, by Ramee Gentry

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE THROUGH JANUARY 4

The church office will close December 24 and reopen Monday, January 5. If possible, please give the clergy and 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.

### UPCOMING FEAST DAY EUCHARISTS

We have three upcoming Feast Day Eucharists held outside of a regular service offering. The Feast of Saint Stephen is Friday, December 26 at 12 noon, the Feast of Saint John is Saturday, December 27 at 8:30 a.m., and the Feast of Holy Innocents is Monday, December 29 at 8:00 a.m. All three services will be held at the Lady Altar in the nave.

### BABY SHOWER FOR BABY BRICE – JANUARY 11

You're Invited! Please join us for an afternoon tea to shower the mamas-to-be with love on Sunday, January 11 from 2:00-4:00 pm at Merrow Hall. All are welcome, including little ones. Please use the QR code to RSVP by Jan 2 and sign up to bring a treat from the list - or surprise us with something delightful! Let's raise our teacups to Mother Emma and Crichelle's upcoming arrival!



### END OF YEAR DONATIONS

As 2025 draws to a close, it is important to be aware that all pledge contributions and other donations to Grace must be processed within required deadlines. Cash/check contributions must be physically received in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2025. Stock contributions must be in Grace's Schwab Account by December 31, and therefore should be initiated at least two weeks before the month's end to ensure timely processing. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact [Giving@gracealex.org](mailto:Giving@gracealex.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

### FOYER GROUP- SIGNUPS OPEN FOR SHORTER SPRING SEASON OF SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Want to get to know fellow parishioners in a smaller, offsite setting? Do you crave home cooking or trying new restaurants and want some good company? If so, Foyer Groups are for you! Please register using the QR code so we can randomly assign you to a group of 6 people who will meet for three relaxed, fun meals that will be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time in the January through June timeframe. Each group will have a convener who reaches out to the group to find a time for the first meal, and then each couple (singles will have a partner to collaborate with) will take turns hosting the meal. New this year is a "foodies foyer" which is for people who want to meet at a restaurant for a "dutch treat" meal instead of cooking at home - this is designed as a "lighter lift" for those who don't have time or space to host at home. If you have any questions, or would like to help explore ideas for a kid-friendly option, please email Cricket at cb9@verizon.net. Register by Sunday January 4, 2026 so we can kick off the next round of Foyers that second week of the new year.



### YOUTH NIGHT ICE SKATING - JANUARY 11, 6-8 P.M.

Come keep the winter festivities going with a night of ice skating! Weather-permitting we will be outside at Pentagon Row. If it is too cold or rainy, then we will shift to an indoor rink. Stay in the loop and help Mother Emma make reservations by completing the RSVP form (scan the QR code on the right). The estimated cost is \$20 per person, and financial aid is available as needed. This event is for 6th-12th graders. Dinner will not be provided, so eat before coming!



### INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENTS

On weekends and holidays, closure announcements are made by 7 a.m. via our Website, Facebook Page, and in an all-church email notification. If you do not receive the weekly emails and would like to sign up, visit our website at [gracealex.org](http://gracealex.org) and click on the Newsletter sign up banner near the bottom of our home page. During the week, the Church Office follows the same closure decisions as Grace Episcopal School.

## 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:** Hector, Amorita, Debbie, Kelly, Ed, Colin, Jennifer, Joanie, Jean, Linda, John & Anne, Ismael, Wendy, Stephen, Lisa, Priscilla & Paul; Liz; Anne; Claire; Don; Doug, Lesley, Charles.
- **Parishioners and others in assisted living:** Margaret, Nancy, Sally, Clare, Elesa, Marilyn, Don, Susan, James, Peck, Vylma, Bette, Cynthia.
- **Family & friends:** Klaus, Nancy, Michael, Sharon, Ashby, Troy, Cathie, Cameron, Patti & Joe, Amy, Bill, Theresa, Rob, Sherry, Pearl, Heather, Jack, Eileen, Charlotte, Deanna, Allen, Leslie, Fielding, Lit & Mary Carol; Jeannine; Sam; Lisa; Margianne; Courtney; Gina; Joanne; Victoria; Erin; Marc; Annelie; Charlotte, Jim, Theresa; Ron, Gwendolyn; Claudia; Janice.
- **Members of our staff:** Amorita, Mother Anne, Betsy, Mother Emma, Gabriel, Ginny, Jane, Josh, Kevin, Kris, Mary, Miranda, Pedro, Seth.
- **Grace School:** Students & their families; for the staff, especially Amanda, head of school.
- **Outreach & Justice Partners:** ALIVE; Casa Chirilagua; Christ Church Refugee and Lazarus Ministries; Community Lodgings; Haiti Micah Project; Health Tanzania; Meade Memorial Lunch Program; 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; 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:** Karen & Eric Coulson; 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 teaching or studying abroad:** Chris & Melissa Reed, Virginia Robinson, Julie Mills Cizek & Theo Halliwell; Ace Crane.
- **Diocese of Virginia Prayer Cycle:** Grace (Cismont), Keswick.
- **Anglican Prayer Cycle:** Anglican Church of Burundi; Diocese of Santiago, Chile, Iglesia Anglicana de Chile; Diocese of Santiago, Philippines, Episcopal Church in the Philippines; Diocese of São Paulo - Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil; Diocese of Sapele, Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion); Diocese of Saskatchewan, Anglican Church of Canada; Diocese of Saskatoon, Anglican Church of Canada.

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