Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Rd. Alexandria, Virginia 22305

www.gracealex.org 703.549.1980

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.
Choral Eucharist, Rite I



Today is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent (which means "coming") is the season of four weeks before Christmas. During this time, the church prepares for the coming of Christ–not only the birth of the baby Jesus at Bethlehem, but also the second coming. Advent is not a penitential season but rather a time of quiet, solemnity, and waiting. Our liturgy reflects this expectation. Purple vestments symbolize royalty and our hope for the heir of David. The tone of our liturgy is reflective–for example, instead of singing the Gloria in Excelsis we use the Trisagion, acknowledging God's power and asking for mercy.

Connecting @ Grace

Address: 3601 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA 22305 ◆ **Phone**: 703.549.1980 ◆ **Website**: www.gracealex.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GraceEpiscopalChurchAlexandriaVa ◆ **Instagram**: @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, 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.

The church office is open 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 9 a.m. – Noon on Fridays.

(Mothers Anne & Emma are out of the office on Mondays, Father Jon is in the office on Monday & Tuesday mornings.)

Staff

Betsy Bamford
Nursery Worker (part-time)

The Rev. Emma Brice
Associate Rector & School Chaplain
emma.brice@gracealex.org

Kevin Hamilton
Director of Administration and Communication
kevin.hamilton@gracealex.org

Josh Harrington
Director of Music (part-time)
josh.harrington@gracealex.org

Aubrynn Hayden-Sloat
Christian Formation Assistant (part-time)
aubrynn.sloat@gracealex.org

Pedro Hernández
Amorita Quintanilla
Sextons

Amanda Hungerford
Head of Grace Episcopal School
ahungerford@graceschoolalex.org

Kimberly Savage
Finance & Facilities Administrator
kimberly.savage@gracealex.org

The Rev. Jon Scarffe
Interim Assistant Rector (part-time)
jon.scarffe@gracealex.org

The Rev. Dr. Anne Michele Turner
Rector
anne.turner@gracealex.org

2026-27 Seminarians -*Virginia Theological Seminary*

Duncan King
Samuel Manirakiza
Seth Wise Buck

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 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday on which they would like to receive Home Communion.

First Sunday of Advent
Choral Eucharist, Rite I

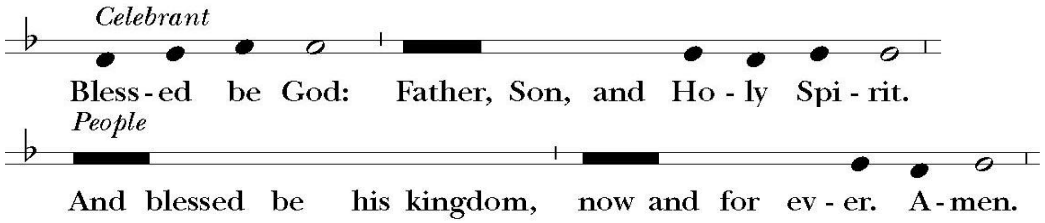
Children 3 months until 3 years are welcome in the nursery. Please ask an usher to direct you.

Prelude

The people stand.

Hymn 59 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding. *Merton*

The Opening Acclamation



The Collect for Purity

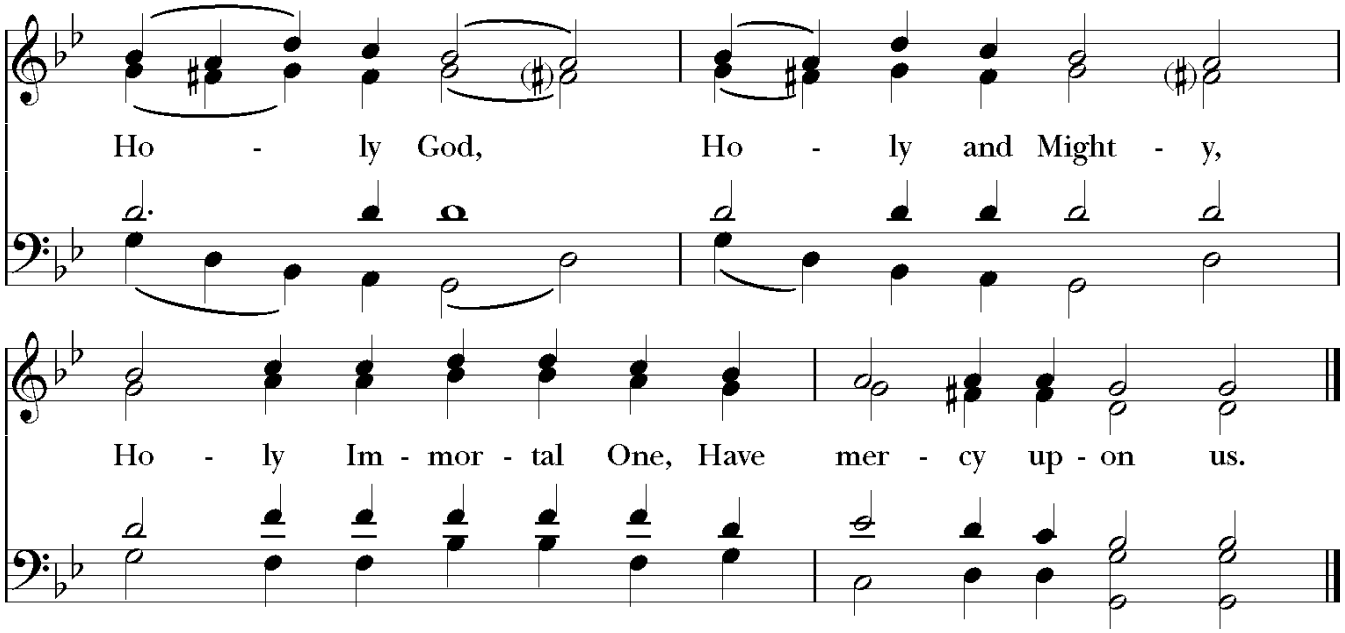
Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Summary of the Law

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Children ages 3 years – 3rd grade follow the Crucifer to Children's Chapel.

Trisagion *(Sung three times)* Hymnal S-102



The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

The people are seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 64:1-9

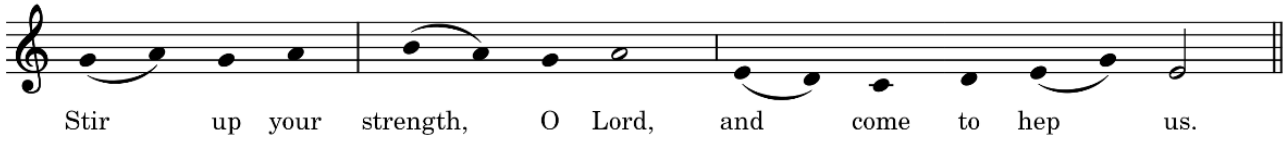
Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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 forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18



1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people? [Antiphon]

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. [Antiphon]

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. [Antiphon]

THE SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Lector A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

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

HYMN 601 O day of God, draw nigh *St. Michael*

THE HOLY GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The people are seated.

SERMON The Rev. Dr. Anne M. Turner

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, Gayle E. Harris, and Mark Allen Bourlakas, 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 parishioner Walter "Peck" Davis Jr. and 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

Deacon
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. If you give electronically, please place the tag in your pew in the offering so that your gift can be blessed.*

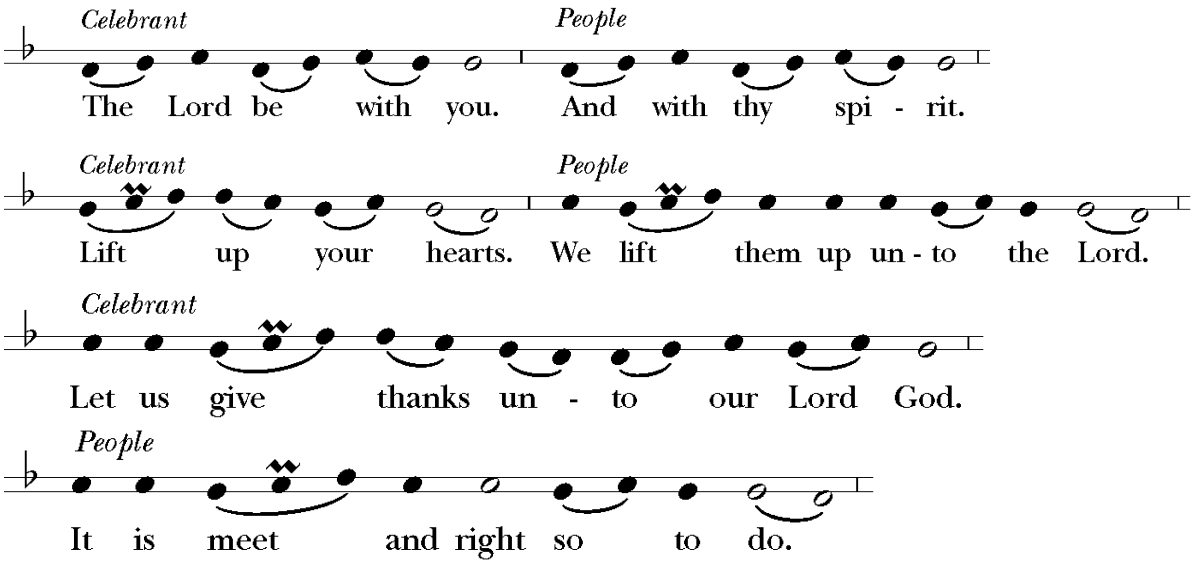
OFFERTORY ANTHEM Sleepers, wake! *Mendelssohn*

Sleepers, wake! a voice is calling, It is the watchman on the walls: Thou City of Jerusalem!
For lo! the Bridegroom comes! Arise, and take your lamps! Hallelujah!
Awake! His kingdom is at hand! Go forth, go forth to meet your Lord!

The people stand and sing the hymn

HYMN 68 Rejoice! Rejoice believers *Llangloffan*

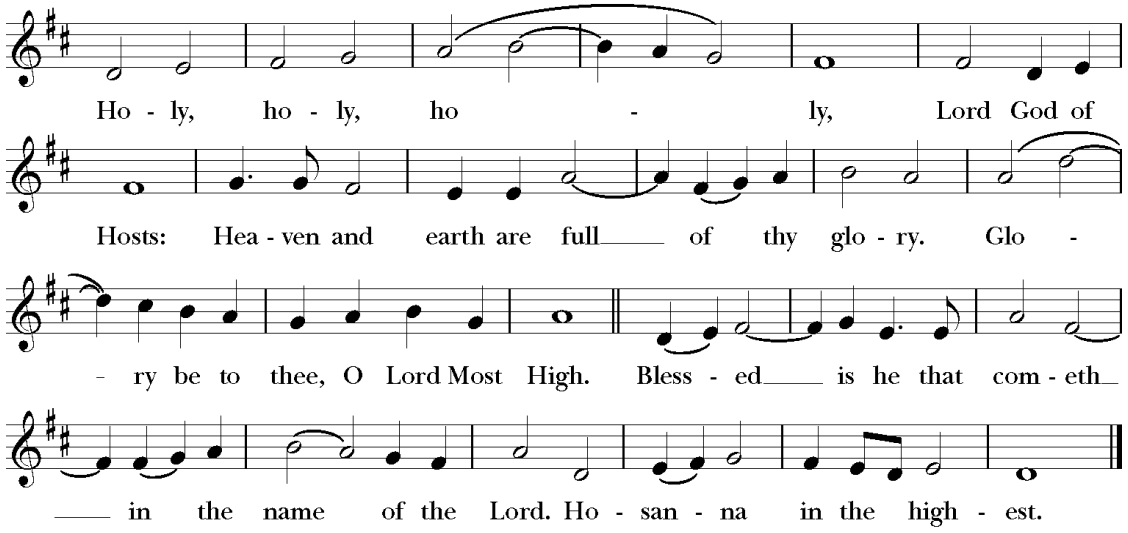
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II BCP, p. 340



The Celebrant continues.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus and Benedictus Hymnal S-114



The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues.

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

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

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

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

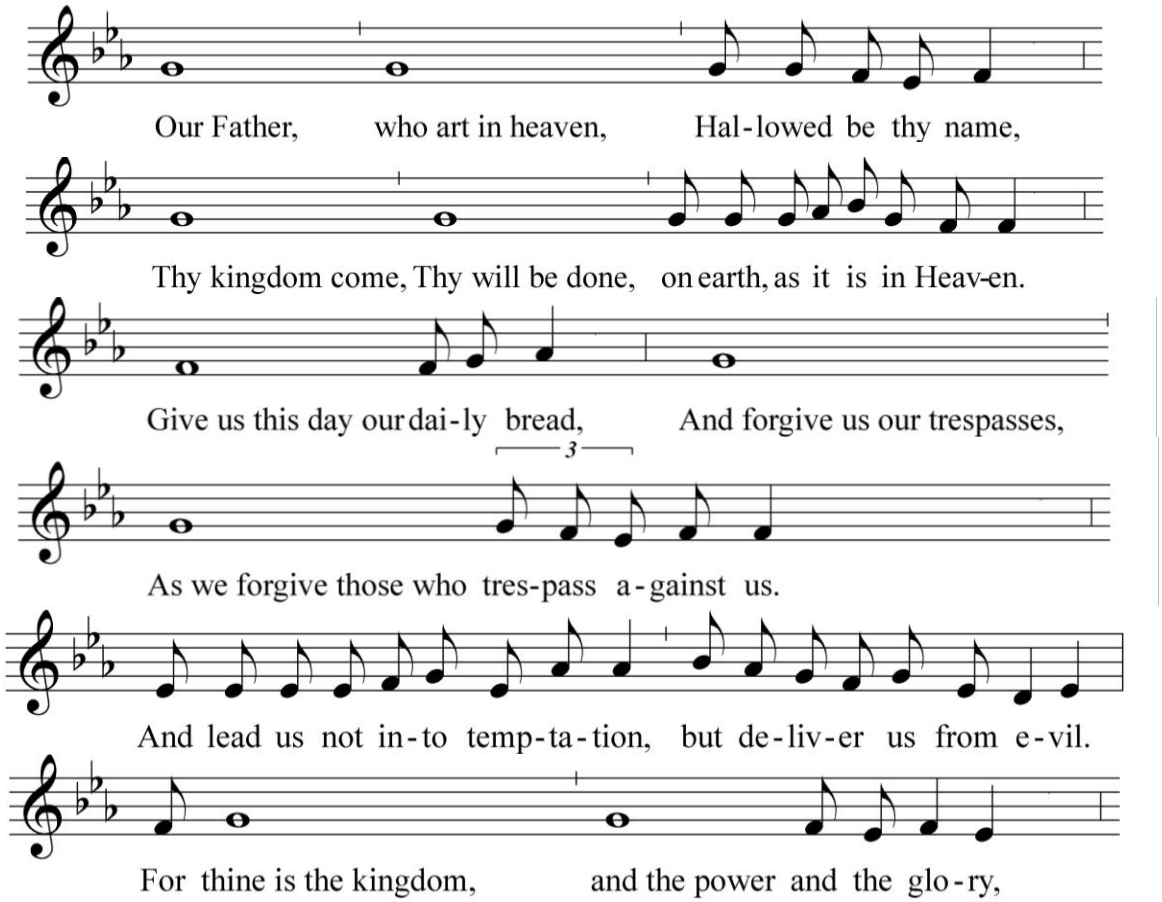
And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

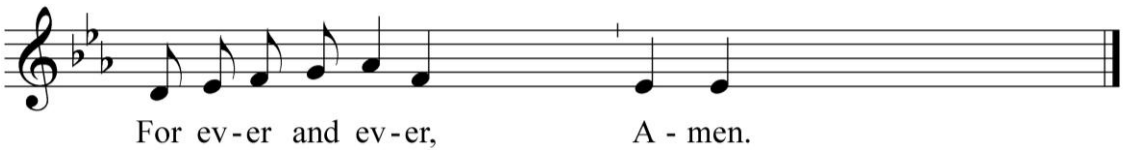
And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and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

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

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

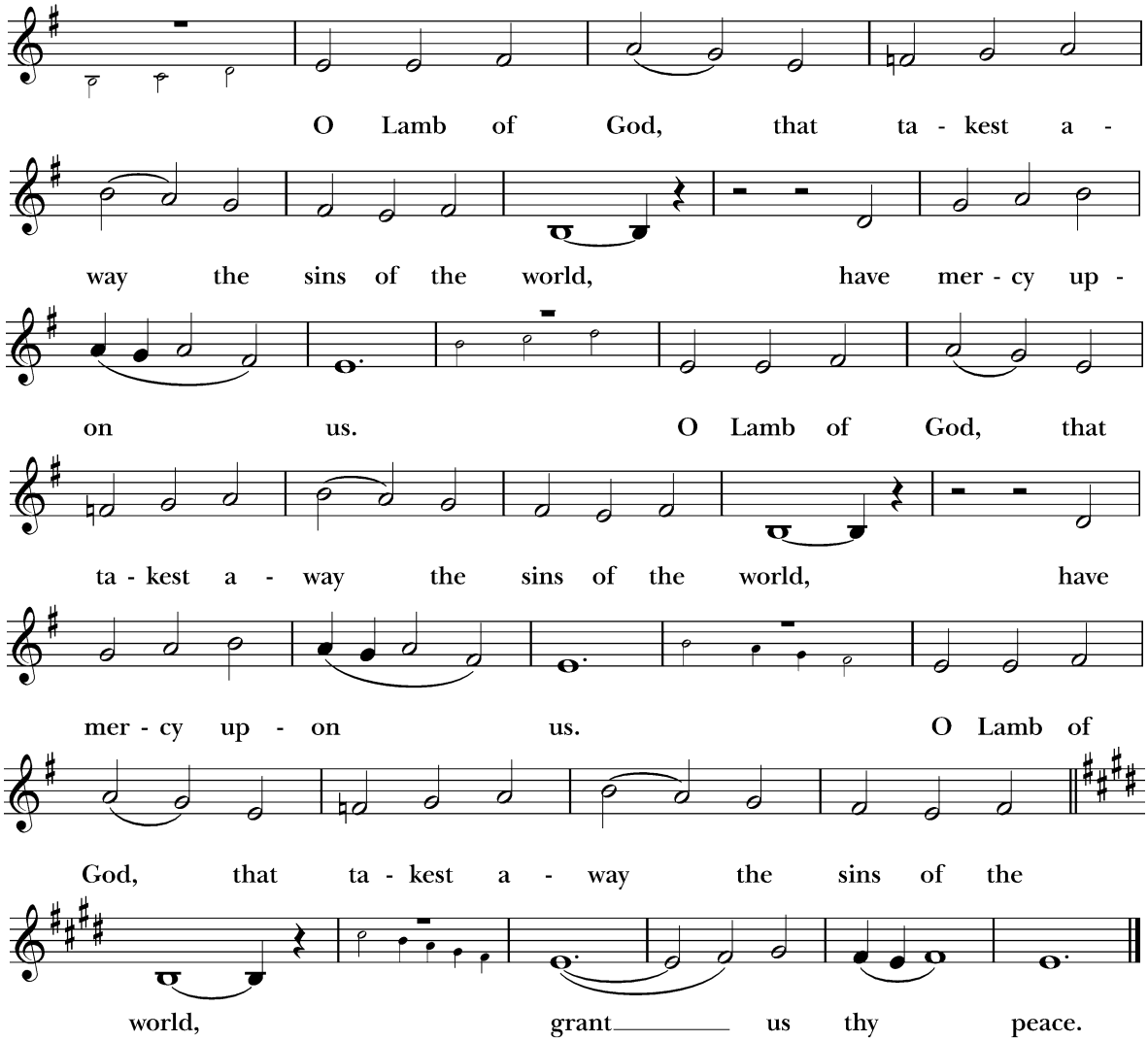
THE LORD'S PRAYER — William H. Plant





THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM HYMNAL S-158



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

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION BCP, P. 338

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 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, let an usher know, and communion can be brought to you in your pews.

COMMUNION HYMN LEVAS 13 My Lord, What a Morning *Spiritual*

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 57 Lo, he comes, with clouds descending *Helmsley*

THE DISMISSAL BCP, p. 366

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

SERVING @ GRACE TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Jon Scarffe
Deacon & Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Anne M. Turner
Subdeacon	Samuel Manirakiza
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Hannah Sternberg
Lector	Jonathan Doelp
Intercessor	Khacki Berry
Director of Music	Josh Harrington
Altar Guild Crew Leaders	Sherryl Dodd, Eleanor Reed
Ushers	Cleveland Eason, Steve Lovell

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF NOVEMBER 29, 2026 - *headings for new announcements are shaded.*

The weekly announcement deadline is Monday at 12 p.m.

Submissions after the deadline will be held for the following week. Please limit submissions to 75 words. Announcements will be edited for content/length. Email requests to announcements@gracealex.org.

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

If you would like to dedicate Altar Flowers for an upcoming Sunday, scan the QR code on the right.

VESTRY NOTES: A monthly brief from our Senior Warden on our latest Vestry meeting.

- **Erin White** shared a comprehensive audit of our kitchen and parish needs for the space. She made recommendations for things that need to be addressed now (e.g., water) and some suggestions on how to proceed with a more comprehensive plan. Vestry is considering next steps and funding. We are grateful to Erin for this report, and her continued leadership on this exciting project--stay tuned for more!
- The Vestry supported Mother Anne and Sarah Schultz signing a letter of complaint to various city, state, and federal agencies after ICE used our private parking lot for their actions in the neighborhood. Thank you to **Elizabeth Legere** for drafting this letter.
- The Vestry celebrated progress against the 2027 Pledge goal, and each wrote several handwritten notes to parishioners that have previously pledged but have not yet for 2027. On 12/17 we will make live calls together to members of the church that have perhaps given before, but not as a pledge, in the hope they consider formally pledging. I didn't quite understand the value of pledging until I was on the vestry, and now see it gives us insight into planned income so that we can make wise and responsible decisions for the church. All giving is good giving! But a pledge is also an investment in a more thoughtful future for our church. Pledge by scanning the QR code on the right or use a pew card.
- We then went into Executive Session to consider budget planning for 2027, led by **Ramee Gentry.**
- We concluded with Annual Report planning for the Annual Meeting on January 24.

Please reach out to Senior Warden Sarah Schultz, or any member of the vestry, with questions.

STAFF UPDATE FROM MOTHER ANNE TURNER, RECTOR, AND SARAH SCHULTZ, SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we have been discussing, for most of the year Grace has searched for a Pastoral Associate and Outreach Coordinator–a bilingual individual that would be a leader at Grace Church as a whole and for our Spanish-speaking La Gracia congregation in particular. Our budget allowed for this to be a half-time position, open to both ordained and lay candidates. While we explored a number of creative options, we have not been successful in finding the right candidate. As such, we have come to the tough decision that this role is not currently viable and will stop pursuing candidates and not budget for it in 2027. Our future budget choices will dictate whether we open a search again for this or other clergy roles.

So what does this mean?

Father Jon's extended time with us comes to an end on January 3, as planned, with more to come on how we will celebrate his many contributions to our community. Aubrynn Hayden-Sloat joined Grace as a part-time formation assistant, and we will continue to include this role in 2027. This will afford Mother Emma increased capacity to support La Gracia. Mother Emma will continue to oversee children and youth ministries, as well as adult formation, evangelism, and fellowship. Mother Anne will offer leadership in worship, stewardship, pastoral care, outreach, and governance. The move to two clergy will, of course, necessitate us to be very clear about priorities and the use of our resources, and these are active conversations with the Clergy, Vestry, and Personnel Committee, mindful of the core values articulated in our 2025 Grace Vision.

We are grateful for the community of Grace Church–for your commitment to the ministry of all the baptized, for your care of staff and clergy, and above all for your faithfulness to the gospel.

Announcements As Of November 29, 2026 *(Continued)*

A Message From Your Stewardship Team

The 2027 Stewardship Campaign is off to a great start! (Please check the bright red thermometer outside the church office for the latest numbers.) But we still have a bit more work to do. If you have not already made a pledge for 2027, please consider doing so at your earliest opportunity. If you have any questions about the mechanics of pledging, please contact the church office or the stewardship team (stewardship@gracealex.org).

Join Us for Advent Wreath Making & Card Signing Today, November 29

Celebrate a cherished tradition with us at Grace Church! Our annual Advent Wreath Making event is today, November 29, from 9:30 to 10:20 am. Join us in the Merrow Hall Auditorium to create your own Advent wreath—supplies provided! Would you like to help cover the cost of this event? A suggested donation of $20 per family will help defray the cost of materials. You can scan the QR Code to access our secure giving portal (add "Advent Wreath" in the memo) or you can give cash at the collection box on November 29. We will also have our annual Advent card signing sponsored by COHI, Community Of Hope, Intl, our pastoral care ministry. We look forward to welcoming the Advent season with you!

Adult Forum Schedule

Adult forum is offered Sundays 9:40 - 10:15 a.m. 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.

- November 29: Intergenerational Event in Merrow Hall – **No Separate Adult Forum Today**
- December 6: Advent: A Season of Hope, *by Mother Anne Turner*
- December 13: Bedtime Prayer Round Robin: Exploring the Episcopal Tradition for Little Ones, *by Jessica Dickinson Goodman*
- December 20: What Does Hope Look Like?, *by Anne Clift Boris*
- December 27: No Adult Forum, Forum resumes on January 3.

If you have an idea for a topic you'd like to hear presented, or present yourself, please get in touch with Anne Boris at awcboris@hotmail.com.

Advent Word Devotional

During the season of Advent, our clergy will be creating visual prayers for the season, following the online Advent calendar adventword.org. Look for reflections in your inbox as well as posts on Grace's social media.

Discuss A Classic Book About Religion And The Future

Sixty-five years ago Walter Miller Jr wrote A Canticle for Leibowitz, addressing what might happen to religion and civilization after a nuclear disaster. On December 3 at 7 p.m., join us to discuss the themes raised in A Canticle for Leibowitz. Contact Eric Waskowicz Ericwaskowicz@gmail.com with questions and to RSVP.

The Youth Acolyte Corps Wants You!

Are you tired of sitting in a pew with your parents? Or are curious about how things work behind scenes? Please join us for pizza and Acolyte Information & Training on December 6. We'll gather in the St. John Room for pizza at 11:45 then move to the Nave for training. The Youth Acolyte Corps is open to all youth between 3rd and 12th. We also welcome adults to serve as Master of Ceremonies. Scan the QR Code to RSVP or contact Molly Sim at molly.sim@gracealex.org if have any questions.

Annual Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 13, 5 p.m.

The annual children & youth Christmas Pageant is coming soon! Scan the QR code to sign-up to participate. Our first rehearsal is Sunday, December 6 from 9:40-10:20 a.m. in the Sunday School classrooms, and our second rehearsal is Sunday, December 13 from 9:40-10:20 a.m. The call time is 3:30 p.m. for children and youth for the 5 p.m. pageant so that we have time for costumes, rehearsal, and snack before the service at 5 p.m. Following the pageant there is a festive cookie reception, so bring some Christmas cookies to share! Questions? Talk to Katy Kelly or Aubrynn Hayden-Sloat.

Announcements As Of November 29, 2026 *(Continued)*

Eucharist For Longest Night on the Feast of Saint Thomas

On December 21 at 7 p.m., we will celebrate the Feast of St. Thomas. The service will also include prayers and liturgy for "The Longest Night." The Longest Night is a time of holy remembrance and lament, observed during Advent, usually on the Winter Solstice. Within the context of the Holy Eucharist, it will be an opportunity to acknowledge that, for many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, and sadness. This service offers a way for people to claim those feelings while being surrounded by God's compassionate love and healing.

Farewell to Father Jon

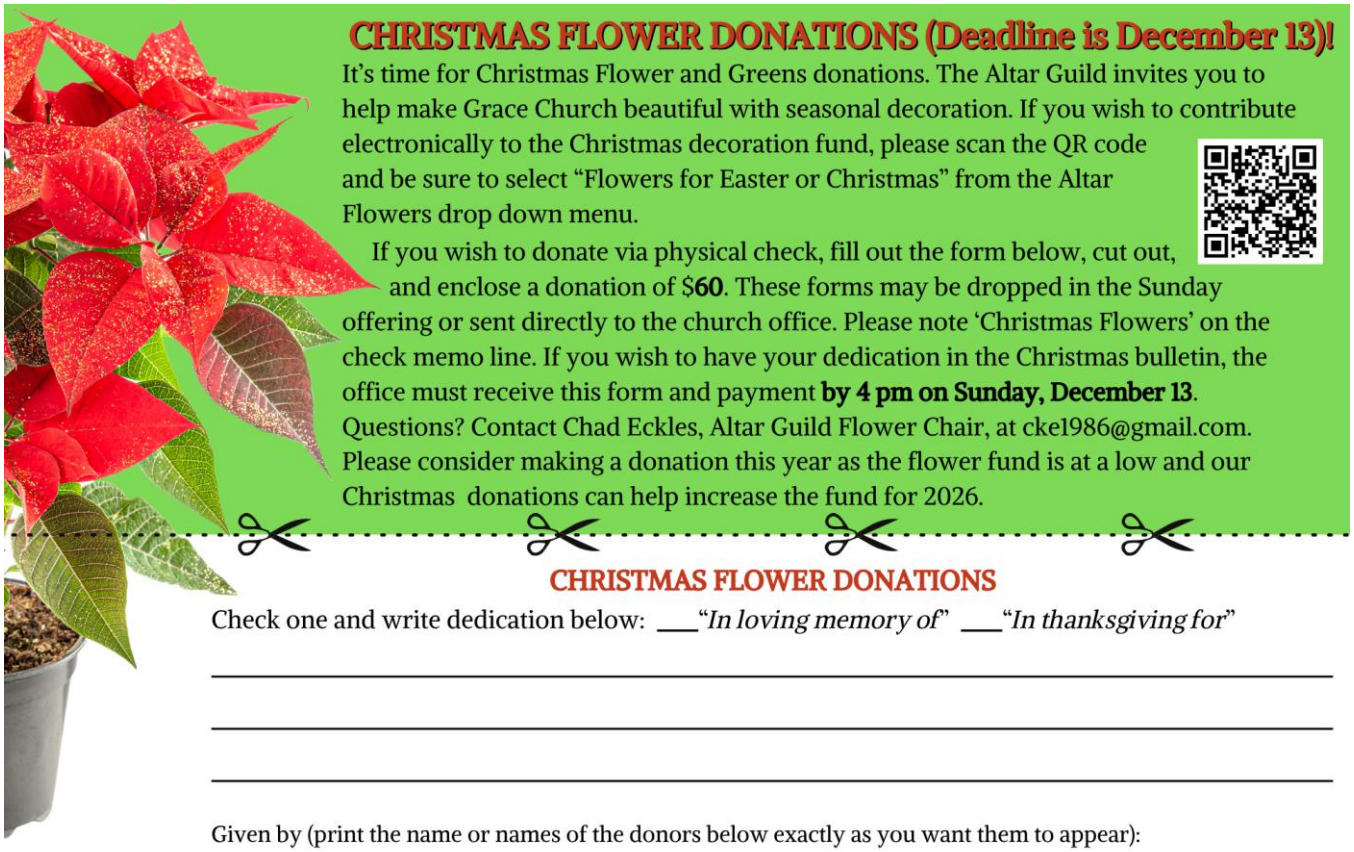
Father Jon's last Sunday with us will be January 3. Please join us for a festive coffee hour that day after the 10:30 a.m. service to wish him well.

Update From Drs. Henry & Priscilla Ziegler About the Health Tanzania Foundation

We are Drs. Henry and Priscilla Ziegler, members of Grace Church's Outreach Team, who have worked in Tanzania for over 20 years as medical missionaries. Tanzania is one of the world's poorest countries with over 70,000 people. We've been helping our Tanzanian partners develop a hospital for a large poor urban community and community health programs. To be effective, our health approach includes education and development of self-sustaining incomes. We assist needy Tanzanians such as the poor, widows and orphans and their communities as they help themselves. Our partnership includes the poor urban neighborhoods in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's largest city and isolated villages in the surrounding coast region.

In Christian terms, we walk in love together learning from and helping other. There are opportunities to partner with individuals and families in need, learning about their lives and sharing about yours. If you or your family members have an interest Tanzania, we would love to connect.

We will be setting up a meeting at church with those who would like to hear about Tanzania and discuss ideas of what people attending might like to do. The Health Tanzania Foundation website, www.healthtanzania.org has pictures, stories, and donation options. Henry is also available to talk individually about questions, ideas, and involvement. Henry's cell is 703-887-1574, email: hdziegler@yahoo.com. Please, identify yourself so it does not look like spam.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS (Deadline is December 13)!

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 scan the QR code and be sure to select "Flowers for Easter or Christmas" from the Altar Flowers drop down menu.

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 13**. Questions? Contact Chad Eckles, Altar Guild Flower Chair, at 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 2026.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Check one and write dedication below: ___"*In loving memory of*" ___"*In thanksgiving for*"

_____

_____

_____

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

_____



In addition to our regular service offerings, we invite you to experience the seasons of Advent and Christmas here at Grace Church with special events and services, outlined below.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services

Held in the nave

Christmas Eve, 3 p.m., Rite II

Little Church Service with Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve, 5 p.m., Rite II *

Festival Eucharist, with procession to the Creche LIVE

Music Prelude starts at 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve, 7:30 p.m., Rite I

Festival Eucharist

Christmas Eve, 11 p.m., Rite I

Festival Eucharist LIVE

Music Prelude starts at 10:30 pm

Christmas Day, 12 p.m., Rite I

Festival Eucharist LIVE

**** Childcare provided*** ***LIVE = Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel***

Sunday, November 29, Advent I

9:30 a.m.- Intergenerational Wreath Making Event

Sunday, December 6, Advent II

8:45, 9, & 10:30 a.m.- Saint Nicholas visits these services*

5 p.m.- Advent Lessons & Carols with Choral Eucharist LIVE

Sunday, December 13, Advent III

5 p.m.- Youth & Children's Christmas Pageant

A reception follows in the Auditorium.

Monday, December 21

6 p.m.- Feast of St. Thomas including Liturgy for the Longest Night

Tuesday, December 22

5 p.m.- Greening of the Church

Join us as we decorate the nave for Christmas Services.

Wednesday, December 23

7 p.m.- Las Posadas & Santa Eucaristía, Rito II

Servicio en español.

Sunday, December 27

10:30 a.m.- Christmas Lessons & Carols* LIVE

8:45 a.m. Spanish Service & 9 am Little Church held as usual.

No 7:30 a.m. or 5 p.m. serivces.

Friday, January 1, Feast of the Holy Name

Noon- Festival Eucharist LIVE

Wednesday, January 6, 2027

7 p.m.- Holy Eucharist for Epiphany LIVE

Our youth will lead this service.

3601 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22305

703.549.1980

www.gracealex.org

Birthdays @ Grace This Week

Monday, November 30	*Todd Egaas, Liz Myers*
Tuesday, December 1	*Lucy Humphries*
Wednesday, December 2	*John Bertram Serke*
Friday, December 4	*Clara "Glory" Shriner, Nicholas Shriner*



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, 11/29	7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I	Nave	
	8:45 a.m. La Gracia Santa Eucaristía	Nave	
	9:00 a.m. Little Church, Rite II	Amphitheater	
	Intergenerational Wreath Making - *9:30 a.m.*	Auditorium	
	10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist, Rite I	Nave	
	5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist	Nave	
Monday, 11/30	Grace School Board Meeting – *6:30 p.m.*	St. Mark Room	
Tuesday, 12/1	Morning Prayer – *9 a.m.*	Malm Narthex	
	Food Pantry Bagging – *3:30 – 5:30 p.m.*	1st floor Lobby	jennifer.pease@gracealex.org
	Food Pantry Distribution – *6 p.m.*	1st floor Lobby	jennifer.pease@gracealex.org
	Men's Group Fellowship – *7 p.m.*	Offsite	todd.egaas@gracealex.com
Wednesday, 12/2	Morning Prayer – *9 a.m.*	Malm Narthex	
	Evening Prayer – *5:30 p.m.*	Zoom	Lucy-Lee Reed– 703.842.3121
	Community Of Hope, Int'l Meeting – *6:30 p.m.*	St. Mark Room	Jon.scarffe@gracealex.org
	Bible Study – *7:30 p.m.*	Zoom	stephen.lovell@gracealex.org
	Alcoholics Anonymous – *8 p.m.*	MH Auditorium	
	Alanon – *8 p.m.*	St. Luke Room	
Thursday, 12/3	Morning Prayer – *9 a.m.*	Malm Narthex	
	12:00 p.m. Midweek Eucharist	Lady Altar	
	Food Pantry Bagging – *3:30 – 5:30 p.m.*	1st floor Lobby	jennifer.pease@gracealex.org
	Choir Rehearsal – *7 p.m.*	Choir Room	josh.harrington@gracealex.org
Friday, 12/4	Food Pantry Bagging – *3 – 5 p.m.*	1st floor Lobby	jennifer.pease@gracealex.org
	Food Pantry Distribution – *6 p.m.*	1st floor Lobby	jennifer.pease@gracealex.org
Saturday, 12/5	Altar Guild Set Up – *9 a.m.*	Narthex, Sacristy	
	Bible Study – *10 a.m.*	Zoom	cmcfaddencrosby@gmail.com

PRAYER @ GRACE THIS WEEK

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

- **Parishioners:** Hector, Debbie, Ed, Colin, Jennifer, Linda, John, Ismael, Wendy, Lisa, Liz, Claire, Lesley & Kelly, June, Alex, Cristina, Bob, Lisa, Jennifer, Blanca, Reba, Cricket, Phil, Doug, Lucy-Lee, Bette, Suzi & Jen, Jan, Lisa, Chrissie, Phil & Sharon, Colleen, Otto, Delia, Mary, Erin.

- **Parishioners and others in assisted living:** Margaret, Sally, Clare, Marilyn, James, Vylma, Elly, Valerie, José, Madison, Henry, Gustavo, Félix, Don.

- **Family & friends:** Klaus, Michael, Sharon, Troy, Cathie, Cameron, Amy, Bill, Theresa, Rob & Sherry, Jack, Eileen, Deanna, Leslie, Sam, Lisa, Margianne, Courtney, Gina, Joanne, Jim, Theresa, Charlotte, Robert, Barbara, Shelton, Chrissy, Dave & Donna, Carole, Gretchen, Jack & Susan, Frank, Bob, Elaine & Bill, Miles, Bill, Michael, Velma, Paul J., Holly, Key, Susan, Andy, Martha, Kristal, Doug and Martha, Lizabeth, Maureen and Roy.

- **Members of our staff:** Amorita, Mother Anne, Aubrynn, Betsy, Duncan, Mother Emma, Jane, Father Jon, Josh, Kevin, Kim, Pedro, Samuel, 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**: Parishioner Walter "Peck" Davis Jr.; 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:** Noah and Kristen Woodiwiss, Dan and Katy Pattarini, Karen & Eric Coulson, Erika Olander, Charles Lewis, Jr.; 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, the Epifanovskiye family.

- **Diocese of Virginia Prayer Cycle**: thanksgiving for God's creation and those who care for it.

- **Anglican Prayer Cycle**: Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui; Diocese of Colorado, Episcopal Church; Diocese of Congo Brazzaville, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo; Diocese of Connecticut, Episcopal Church; Diocese of Connor, Church of Ireland; Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Church of Ireland; Diocese of Costa Rica, Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America.

You can fill out a Prayer Request Form on our website or email your request to prayers@gracealex.org.