

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Christmas Day

A.D. 2022



Grace Episcopal Church

55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Office: (860) 233-0825 Fax: (860) 233-5082

E-mail: church@gracehartford.org Web site: www.gracehartford.org

WE are a diverse community united by our commitment to Jesus Christ and our desire to live the Christian life. Our prayers and the Sacraments help us find Christ in church and in the world. Seeing Christ in each other and in the faces of strangers, we are inspired to reach out in love and service.

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, *Rector*

Cell phone: 203-209-4178 Church office: 860-233-0825

Email: RevRowena@gracehartford.org

The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon, *Associate Priest*

The Rev. Dr. Molly James, *Associate Priest*

The Rev. Canon Annika Warren, *Associate Priest*

The Rev. Joseph L. Pace, *Associate Priest*

Mr. Aldon Hynes, *Post Seminary Resident*

Chuck Sharpe, *Vocational Deacon Intern*

Mr. Kyle Swann, *Choirmaster and Organist*

The Vestry

Douglas Bowman, *Senior Warden*; Thomas Phillips, *Junior Warden*

Katharine Rovetti, *Parish Clerk*

Mark Lacedonia, *Treasurer*; Barbara Galbreath, *Assistant Treasurer*

Adrienne Brown, Josephine Dominguez, Claudia Gwardyak, Nadia Holmes

In Memoriam ~ Kathy Jaeger



WELCOME to all who are joining with us virtually as we celebrate *THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ~ Christmas Day*. We hope you feel at home with us and that you find the love, peace, inspiration, and strength to meet the challenges of your daily life.

We hope that you will take part in our worship by making the Peoples' responses as indicated and joining in the hymn-singing.

If you would like more information about Grace Church, or the Episcopal Church, please communicate with our Rector, The Rev. Rowena Kemp, or make an appointment with her to discuss any questions you have.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ ~ Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

Solemn High Mass, 10:30 A.M.



Mass Setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*

Healey Willan (d. 1968)

This setting of the Ordinary of the Mass is for congregational singing.



Voluntary: Noël Suisse

Louis-Claude Daquin (d. 1772)

Entrance Rite and Liturgy of the Word

Introit (*choir*) *Puer natus est*

Tone VII

[*Antiphon*] Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his Name shall be called, Angel of mighty counsel. [*Psalm*] O sing unto the Lord a new song: for he hath done marvellous things. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. [*Repeat antiphon.*]

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: ✠ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.*

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.

Cantor *All*

[Glo-ry be to God on high,] and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor-ship thee, we glo-ri-fy thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glo-ry, O Lord God, heaven-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al-might-ty. O Lord, the on-ly be-got-ten Son, Je-sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. Thou that tak-est a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer. Thou that sit-test at the right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mer-cy up-on us. For thou on-ly art ho-ly; thou on-ly art the Lord; thou on-ly, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most high in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 52: 7-10 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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

The Word of the Lord.

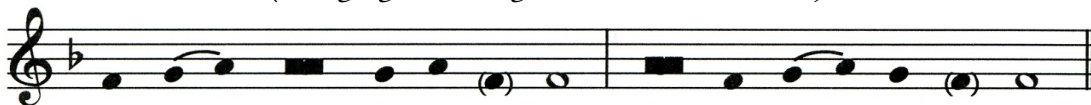
Congregation's Response: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: Psalm 98

Cantate Domino

Tone VI

(Congregation sings the italicized verses.)



- 1 O SING unto the LORD | a new song;
** for he hath | done mär-vel-lous ^ things.*
- 2 *With his own right hand and with his ho- | ly arm,*
** hath he gotten him- | self thë vic-to^ry.*
- 3 The LORD declared his | salvation;
** his righteousness hath he openly showed in the sight | of thë heathen.*
- 4 *He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house | of Isra^el;*
** and all the ends of the world have seen the sal- | va-tion of our ^ God.*
- 5 Show yourselves joyful unto the LORD, | all ye lands;
** sing re- | joice änd give thanks.*
- 6 *Praise the LORD upon | the harp:*
** sing to the harp with a psalm | of thänksgiving.*
- 7 With trumpets also | and shawms,
** O show yourselves joyful be- | fore thë LORD the ^ King.*
- 8 *Let the sea make a noise and all that there- | in is;*
** the round world and | they thät dwell there^in.*
- 9 Let the floods clap their hands
and let the hills be joyful together before | the LORD;
** for he is | come tö judge the ^ earth.*
- 10 *With righteousness shall he judge | the world,*
** and the peo- | ples with e-qui^ty.*

The Epistle: Hebrews I: 1-4, (5-12) [NRSV]

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

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

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

The Word of the Lord.

Congregation's Response: Thanks be to God.

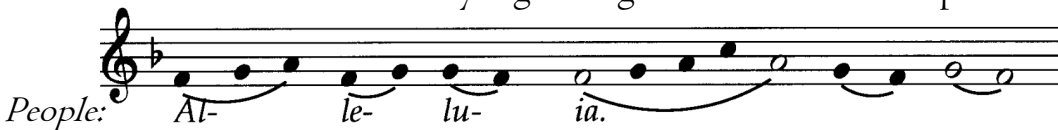


Alleluia (*people's part in italics*) *Dies sanctificatus*

Tone VI



Choir: A hallowed day hath dawned upon the earth; come, ye nations, and worship the Lord: for on this day a great light hath descended upon the earth.



The Holy Gospel: St. John I:1-14 [RSV]

Celebrant: The Beginning of the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People's response: ✠ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

IN THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (Here genuflect) And the Word became flesh (Here rise) and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People's Response: Praise be to thee, O Christ.





The Nativity ~ Comenico Ghirlandaio I

The Nicene Creed (*sung by all*)

I be- lieve in one God, the Fa- ther Al- mighty-y, Ma- ker of hea- ven and earth;

and of all things vi- si- ble and in- vi- si- ble; and in one Lord Je- sus Christ,

the on- ly- be- got- ten Son of God, be- got- ten of his Fa- ther be- fore all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light, ve- ry God of ve- ry God, be- got- ten, not made,

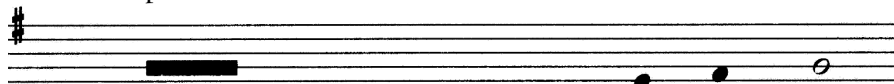
be- ing of one sub- stance with the Fa- ther; by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our sal- va- tion came down from hea- ven,

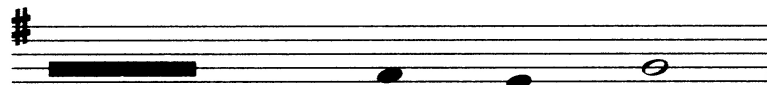
(kneel) and was in- car- nate by the Ho- ly Ghost of the Vir- gin Ma- ry, and was made man;

(stand) and was cru- ci- fi- ed al- so for us un- der Pon- tius Pi- late;
 he suf- fer- ed and was bu- ri- ed; and the third day he rose a- gain
 ac- cor- ding to the Scrip- tures, and as- cend- ed in- to hea- ven, and sit- teth on the
 right hand of the Fa- ther; and he shall come a- gain, with glo- ry, to judge both
 the quick and the dead; whose king- dom shall have no end. And I be- lieve in the
 Ho- ly Ghost the Lord, and Gi- ver of Life, who pro- ceed- eth from the Fa- ther and the Son;
 who with the Fa- ther and the Son to- ge- ther is wor- shipp'd and glo- ri- fi- ed;
 who spake by the Pro- phets. And I be- lieve one ho- ly Cath- o- lic and A- po- sto-
 lic Church; I ac- know- ledge one Bap- tism for the re- mis- sion of sins: and I look for
 the re- sur- rec- tion of the dead, * and the life of the world to come. A- - - men.

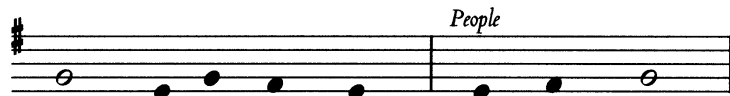




Leader: Let us pray for the Church and | for the world.



Grant almighty God, that all who confess thy Name may be united in thy truth, live together in thy love, and reveal thy glory / in the world. (*Silence*)



Lord, in thy mer - cy *People* hear our prayer. (*Sung after every intercession*)

Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the / common good. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as thine own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to thy hon- / or and glory. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

Leader: Watch over thy child *Kenneth*, O Lord, as his days increase; bless and guide him wherever he may be. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he falls; and in his heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days / of his life. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

Leader: We pray for an increase in the membership of this parish; that we may have the hands and hearts to carry / out thy will. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

Leader: We commend to thy gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad [*especially N.*]. Defend them day by day with thy heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of thine abiding presence wherever / they may be. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

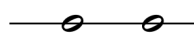
Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*pause*); give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of / thy salvation. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

Leader: We commend to thy mercy all who have died, that thy will for them may be fulfilled (*pause*); and we pray that we may share with all thy saints in thine e- / ternal kingdom. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

Celebrant: Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *People*



A - men.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Celebrant: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11: 28*
God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3: 16*

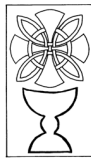
The Peace

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

People: And with thy spirit.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the Name of the Lord.





The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. *Psalm 50: 14*

Offertory (*choir*) *Tui sunt cæli*

Tone II

THE heavens are thine, the earth also is thine; thou hast laid the foundations of the round world, and all that therein is: righteousness and equity are the habitation of thy seat.

Hymn 94 (*sung by all*)

“While shepherds watched their flocks”

Winchester Old

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat-ed on the ground,
 2 “Fear not,” said he, for might-y dread had seized their trou-bled mind;
 3 “To you, in Da-vid’s town, this day is born of Da-vid’s line
 4 “The heaven-ly Babe you there shall find to hu-man view dis-played,
 5 Thus spake the ser-aph, and forth-with ap-peared a shin-ing throug

1 the an-gel of the Lord came down, and glo-ry shone a-round.
 2 “Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.
 3 the Sa-rior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
 4 all mean-ly wrapped in swath-ing bands, and in a man-ger laid.”
 5 of an-gels prais-ing God, who thus ad-dressed their joy-ful song:

6 “All glory be to God on high
and on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.”

Presentation of the alms and oblations

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

Orate

Celebrant: Pray that this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People: May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his holy Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.

Sursum corda

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.

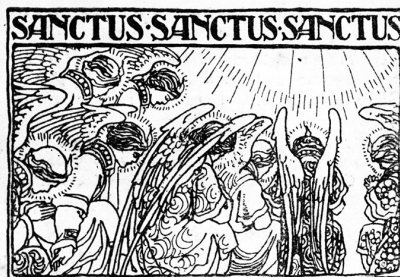
People
It is meet and right so to do.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant says,

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

BECAUSE thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



Sanctus and Benedictus (*sung by all*)

H. Willan

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

The Consecration

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

People

—●—○—○—
A- men.

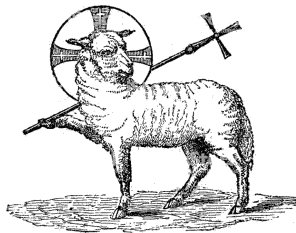
The Lord's Prayer (*sung by all*)

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

Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-low-ed be thy Name,
 thy king-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
 Give us this day our dai-ly bread. And for-give us our tres-pas-ses,
 as we for-give 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 king-dom,
 and the power, and the glo-ry, for ev-er and ev-er. A-men.

The Fraction

Celebrant
 Al-le-lu-ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us.
People
 There-fore let us keep the feast. Al-le-lu-ia.



Agnus Dei (*sung by all*)

H. Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world,
 have mercy 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.

Prayer of Humble Access (*said by all*)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

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.

People: Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

Communion (*choir*) *Viderunt omnes fines*

Tone I

ALL the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (*said by those worshipping virtually*)

In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of Thy Church, where Thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to Thee. And since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from Thee. Let me live and die in Thy love. Amen.

Hymn 101 (*sung by all*)

“Away in a Manger”

Cradle Song



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: 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 Christmas Blessing

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 Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

The People respond: Thanks be to God.

The Last Gospel

St. Matthew 2: 1-12

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: The Continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing,
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,



Christmas flowers and decorations are given in loving memory of



Kathryn Jaeger
Sarah "Sally" Killen May
Wayne Pokorny, Priest
Therese Ruta
Lawrenzo Knight
Cynthia Lyman
Marilyn Parker
Joseph Blacksten
Diane, Burnita, Audley Sr., & Alberta Kemp
Ida, Vernald, Godfrey, Oswald & Claudius Francis
Emily, Patrice & Roger Taylor, Jr. & Sr.
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Judy Highberger
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Howard Parsons, Jr.
Marguerite Sederquist
Ruth Rossini
Robert Berry
Richard & Ann Bragg
Barbara Conway
Gale Gilchrist
Miguel Soto Molina



December 25, 2022 – Christmas Day **The Presiding Bishop’s Christmas Message**

Hello. I’m inside St. James Church by-the-Sea, La Jolla, California. We thank the rector, the clergy, the staff, and the good people of this church for allowing us to bring this Christmas message to The Episcopal Church from this wonderful and beautiful congregation.

There is a Christmas carol not that well known here in the States, maybe better known in Great Britain, that says quite simply, “Love came down at Christmas. Love all lovely. Love divine. Love was born at Christmas. Star and angel gave the sign. Love came down at Christmas.” The older I get, the more I am convinced that God came into this world in the person of Jesus for one reason, and one reason alone: to show us the way to be reconciled and in right relationship with the God who is the creator of us all, and with each other as children of that one God who is the creator of us all, and of all things.

Jesus came to show us how to live, reconciled with God, and with each other, and He taught us that the way to do it is God’s way of love. For God’s way of love is God’s way of life. It’s our hope for our families, our communities, our societies. Indeed, it is our hope for the whole world. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, and love came down at Christmas.

Now, look, I’m 69 years old. I’ve been around the block a little bit. I know that sounds nice, sounds like the kind of thing we say in church. It sounds nice, but naive, idealistic but unrealistic, and yet, consider the alternative. Need I just simply say the names? Uvalde, Vestavia Hills, Tree of Life Synagogue, Club Q in Colorado Springs, Ukraine. Now, God’s way of love is not naive, it is not unrealistic, it’s the way. It’s the way to life for us all. Dr. King once said, “Darkness cannot cast out darkness; only light can do that. And hatred cannot cast out hatred; only love can do that.” Love came down at Christmas. And as some of us are beginning to say in this Episcopal church of ours, “Love always.”

Earlier this year, I went to Mother Emanuel AME in Charleston to be part of the seventh commemoration of the murders of the martyrs of Charleston. You may remember that a number of years ago, while members of that church had gathered for Bible study, a man came in and they welcomed him in, and invited him to join them, and he turned on them, and he killed many.

It was the seventh commemoration to both honor and remember those who had died, to give God thanks for those who helped—first responders, medical persons—but it was also something else. It was a time to commit ourselves, not simply to throw up our hands in despair, but to reach out our hands to each other, to roll up our sleeves, to take God’s hand and take each other’s hand and do the hard and holy work of love, which brings healing, which brings hope, which binds us together, and lifts us up to be all that God dreams and intends for us all to be.

Love came down at Christmas. Love always, because love is the way. It is the way that Jesus taught us based on the ancient teachings of Moses, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” for on these two hang, depend, all the law, all the prophets, everything that God intends because God is love.

Love came down at Christmas and so let this Christmas be a moment of rededication to the work of love in the world. As Howard Thurman wrote long ago, “When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star and the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are at home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, then the work of Christmas begins. To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others, to make music in the heart.” For love came down at Christmas, and our work is to love always. God love you. God bless you, and may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love. Merry Christmas.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church

Published by the Office of Formation of The Episcopal Church, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017

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GRACE NOTES

December 25, 2022 *The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ ~ CHRISTMAS DAY* FOR PASTORAL ASSISTANCE

THE REV. ROWENA KEMP welcomes hearing from you. Please don't hesitate to contact her if there's something you'd like to discuss. Please contact her immediately should there be an illness, hospitalization, or any other pastoral emergency that he should know about. For such emergencies, please note Rev. Rowena's cell phone number: 203-209-4178.

PEOPLE AND PLACES TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

A reminder: Tori Burns manages this list for us, and prayer requests need to be renewed after 2 weeks.

Please communicate all prayer requests & updates with her (860-539-8790): (tburns@gracehartford.org).

- *Bishops and Clergy:* Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, Presiding Bishop; Jeffrey and Laura, Bishops of ECCT; Rowena, Jerry, Molly, Annika, and Joseph, our priests, and Aldon, our Post Seminary Resident.
- *Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:* **We pray for an increase in the membership of this parish, that we may have the hands and hearts to carry out thy will;** for the Episcopal Church in CT & the Anglican Communion; St. Mark's, Bridgewater; Good Shepherd, Bristol/Plainville; St. Paul's, Brookfield; Trinity, Brooklyn; soup kitchens and food pantries, and all ministries that feed those who go without.
- *Serving Our Country in the Military (especially those associated with Grace Church):* Brian, Lars, Spencer, Bradley, Curtis, Jordan, John, Carrington, William, Noel, James, Ryan, Michael, Karl, Alec, Jeff, David, Tom, Michael, Charles, Warren, and Mike.
- *Thanksgiving and Celebrations:* We give thanks and ask for thy blessings upon Kenneth Brown (Sun.), Nadia Holmes (Tue), and Catherine Cohn (Sat.), whose birthdays we celebrate this week; and Paul Kline & Fr. Max Maxwell, celebrating their 23rd wedding anniversary on Friday.
- *Sick or in need:* The Ward & Chicares Families; James; Jerry; Tom & Elaine; Bonnie & the Burns Family; Richard; Errol, Norma & the Kemp Family; Stephen & Ratana; Ellen; Barbara; Nigel, Kraig, & Deidre; Dick, Leanne, Aldon, Kim & Fiona; Carmen & Félix; Mary; Nazra; Monica; Antoinette; Linda & the Galarza Family; Josephine, Melissa & Jaden; Maria; Judy; Doug; Raul & Néida; Jane; Bill, Carolyn & Susan; Dave; Robert; Jerome; Lynn; McJohn; Doreen; Karen; Terra; Betty & John; Cheryl; Mary & Lou; Diane; Nelda Sue & Larry; Frank; Hugh; Jean; Lesley; for peace throughout the world, especially between Russia and Ukraine and in the Middle East; for Christians being persecuted around the world, particularly in China and Palestine; and all victims of natural and man-made disasters, including those affected by the pandemic.
- *The Deceased:* We pray for the repose of William Ward, Mattie Smith, Melvus Furney, all soldiers & civilians killed in war or civil strife, all those who have died from Covid-19, and in memory of Ronald Merriman, Claire Hébert, Linda Howell Hines, and all those remembered in our Christmas Memorials.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE REV. ROWENA J. KEMP, RECTOR

55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106-2123

Church telephone: 860-233-0825 Church fax: 860-233-5082 Rectory telephone: 860-994-5022

Rector's cell phone: 203-209-4178 Rector's email: RevRowena@gracehartford.org

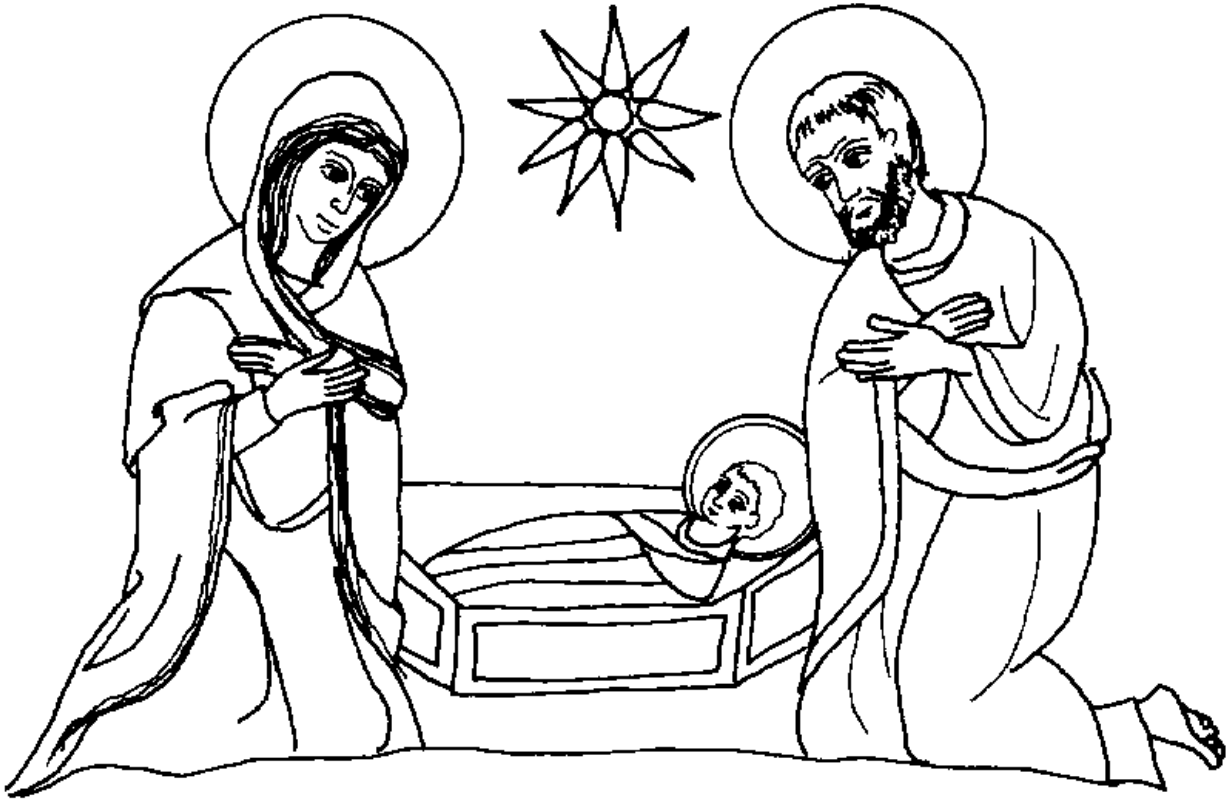
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The Wardens, Vestry and staff join the Rev. Rowena and all the clergy
in wishing you a Blessed Christmas!



THIS WEEK AT GRACE



Sunday, December 25 *THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST*

✧ **CHRISTMAS DAY** ✧



ONE MASS ~ 10:30 a.m.: SOLEMN HIGH MASS (also on Facebook Live)

Monday, December 26 *SAINT STEPHEN, DEACON AND MARTYR*

7:30 a.m.: Facebook Live Morning Prayer

6:00 p.m.: Facebook Live Evening Prayer

Tuesday, December 27 *SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE*

7:30 a.m.: Facebook Live Morning Prayer

Wednesday, December 28 *THE HOLY INNOCENTS*

9:00 a.m.: Low Mass in the Chapel, followed by breakfast at Effie's

6:00 p.m.: Facebook Live Evening Prayer

Thursday, December 29 *Of the Octave*

8:00 a.m.: Facebook Live Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m.: "A Place of Grace" food pantry distribution

Sunday, January 1 *THE HOLY NAME*

8:00 am: Low Mass

10:30 a.m.: Solemn High Mass (also on Facebook Live)



Visit "[Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford CT](#)" on FACEBOOK.



Please join, and help us spread the good news on line!