

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 31, 2023

Service Program for the 10:30 a.m. Sung Mass
Bulletin Insert from the Episcopal Church
Grace Notes
This Week at Grace

pp. 3-18
p. 19
p. 20
p. 21



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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.

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The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon, *Associate Priest*
The Rev. Canon Annika Warren, *Associate Priest*
The Rev. Joseph L. Pace, *Associate Priest*
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, Pamela Glasner,
Claudia Gwardyak, Nadia Holmes, Sandra Morgan



WELCOME to all who are joining with us virtually as we celebrate *THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER 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 First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 31, 2023

Sung Mass, 10:30 A.M.

Propers of Year B

Mass Setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*

Healey Willan (d. 1968)

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

Voluntary: Joseph dearest, Joseph mine

arr. Keith Chapman (d. 1989)

Entrance Rite and The Liturgy of the Word

Introit (*choir*)

Tone VII

[*Antiphon*] Dum médium siléntium tenérent omnia, et nox in suo cursu médium iter habéret: Omnípotens sermo tuus, Dómine, de cælis a regálibus sédibus venit. [*Psalm*] Dóminus regnávít, decórem indútus est: indútus est Dóminus fortitúdinem, et præcínxit se. Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spirítui Sancto. Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in saécula sæculórum. Amen. [*Repeat antiphon.*]

[*Ant.*] Whenas all the world was in profoundest quietness, and night was in the midst of her swift course: thine almighty Word, O Lord, leaped down from heaven out of thy royal throne. [*Ps.*] The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel: the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength. 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.

Kyrie eleison (*sung by all*)

H. Willan

Ky- ri- e e- le- i- son. Ky- ri- e e- le- i- son. Ky- ri- e e- le- i- son.
Chri- ste e- le- i- son. Chri- ste e- le- i- son. Chri- ste e- le- i- son.
Ky- ri- e e- le- i- son. Ky- ri- e e- le- i- son. Ky- ri- e e- le- i- son.



Gloria in excelsis (*sung by all*)

H. Willan

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 poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word: Grant that the same light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my GOD; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Congregation's Response: Thanks be to God.

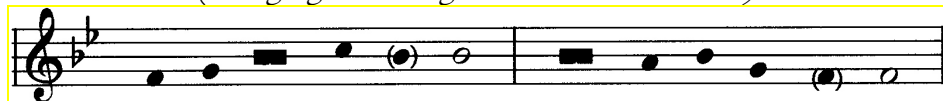


The Gradual: Psalm 147

Laudate Dominum

Tone VIII.1

(Congregation sings the italicized verses.)



- 12 PRAISE THE LORD, O Je- | rusa^lem;
* *praise thy | God, O Sion.*
- 13 *For he hath made fast the bars of thy | gates,*
* *and hath bless'd thy chil- | dren within thee.*
- 14 He maketh peace in thy | borders,
* and filleth thee | with the flour of ^ wheat.
- 15 *He sendeth forth his commandment upon | earth,*
* *and his word runneth | very swiftly.*
- 16 He giveth snow like | wool,
* and scattereth the hoar- | frost like ashes.
- 17 *He casteth forth his ice like | morsels:*
* *who is able | to abide his ^ frost?*
- 18 He sendeth out his word and | melteth ^ them:
* he bloweth with his wind | and the waters ^ flow.
- 19 *He showeth his word unto | Jacob,*
* *his statutes and ordinances | unto Isra^el.*
- 20 He hath not dealt so with any | nation;
* *neither have the heathen | knowledge of his ^ laws.*

The Epistle: Galatians 3: 23-25; 4: 4-7 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians.

NOW before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia *Dominus regnavit*

Tone VI



Choir: The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel: the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength.



The Holy Gospel: St. John I: 1-18 [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.

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.' ") And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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



The Sermon

Gregory Simmons

The Nicene Creed (*sung by all*)

I be- lieve in one God, the Fa- ther Al- migh-ty, 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,

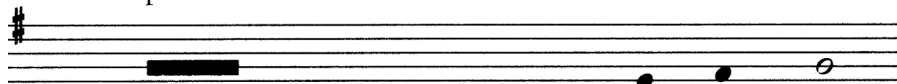
 be- ing of one sub- stance with the Fa- ther; by whom all things were made;

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

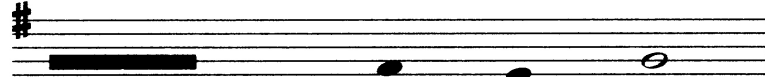
(kneel) and was in- car- nate by the Ho- ly Ghost of the Vir- gin Ma- ry, and was made man;

(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.

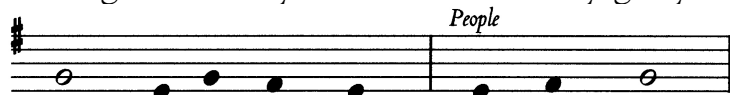




Leader: Let us pray for the Church and | for the world.



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 *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 children *Catherine, & Charles*, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days / of their lives. (*Silence*)
Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

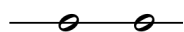
Leader: We pray for an increase in the membership of this parish; that we may have the hands and hearts to carry / out thy will. (*Silence*)
Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

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

Deacon: 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*)

Tone II

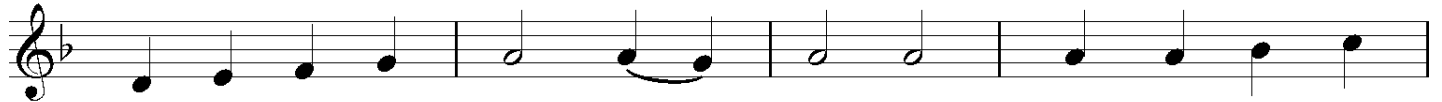
DEUS enim firmávit orbem terræ, qui non commovébitur: paráta sedes tua, Deus, ex tunc, a saéculo tu es.

God hath made the round world so sure that it cannot be moved: ever since the world began hath thy seat, O God, been prepared; thou art from everlasting.

Hymn 324 (*sung by all*)

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Picardy



1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
on the way, as the Light of Light de -
sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
he will give to all the faith - ful
that the powers of hell may va - nish
“Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!”



our full hom - age to de - mand.
his own self for heaven - ly food.
as the dark - ness clears a way.
Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!”

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 Canon of the Mass

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.

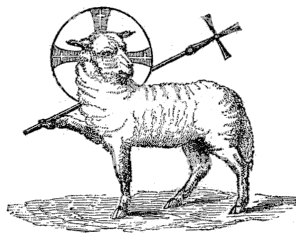
The Lord's Prayer (*sung by all*)

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 mercy 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*)

Tone I

TOLLE púerum et matrem éjus, et vade in terram Israel: defúnci sunt enim, qui quærébant ánimam púeri.

Take the young Child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young Child's life.

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 (*choir*)

Ottery St. Mary, Henry George Ley (d.1962)

WHERE is this stupendous stranger? Prophets, shepherds, kings, advise.
Lead me to my Master's manger, show me where my Savior lies.
O Most Mighty! O Most Holy! Far beyond the seraph's thought:
art thou then so weak and lowly as unheeded prophets taught?
O the magnitude of meekness! Worth from Worth immortal sprung;
O the strength of infant weakness, if Eternal is so young!
God all bounteous, all creative, whom no ills from good dissuade,
is incarnate, and a native of the very world he made.

Christopher Smart (1765)

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 and Dismissal

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.*

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

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: Thanks be to God.

ALMA Redemptóris Mater, quæ pèrvia cæli porta manes, et stella maris, succúrre cadénti, Súrgere qui curat pópulo: Tu quæ genuísti, natúra miránte, tuum sanctum Genitórem, Virgo prius ac postérius, Gabriélis ab ore Sumens illud Ave, peccatórum miserére.

[Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again, to the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before, You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.]



The Angelus

Celebrant: The Angel of the Lord announced unto Mary.

People: And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Celebrant: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

People: Be it unto me according to thy word.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

(Here genuflect) Celebrant: And the Word was made flesh.

(Here rise) People: And dwelt among us.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Celebrant: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

People: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts, that, as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his Passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Hymn 452 (sung by all)

“Glorious the day when Christ was born”

Frohlockt mit Freud'

1 Glo - rious the day when Christ was born to wear the
2 Glo - rious the day when Christ a - rose, the sur - est
3 Glo - rious the days of gos - pel grace when Christ re -
4 Glo - rious the day when Christ ful - fills what self re -

crown that Cae - sars scorn, whose life and death that
friend of all his foes; who for the sake of
stores the fal - len race, when doubt - ers kneel and
jects yet fee - bly wills; when that strong Light puts

love re - veal which mor - tals need and need to feel.
those he grieves tran - scends the world he nev - er leaves.
wa - verers stand, and faith a - chieves what rea - son planned.
out the sun and all is end - ed, all be - gun.

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



December 31, 2023 – 1 Christmas Anglican Cycle of Prayer

The below is the weekly calendar produced by the Anglican Communion for 2024. Over the course of each year, we pray for each of the provinces of the Communion. For more information, visit iam.ec/prayercycle.

January

- 7 The Scottish Episcopal Church
- 14 The Church of the Province of South East Asia
- 21 The Church of South India (United)
- 28 The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

February

- 4 The Anglican Church of South America
- 11 Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
- 18 Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
- 25 The Anglican Church of Tanzania

March

- 3 The Church of the Province of Uganda
- 10 The Episcopal Church
- 17 The Church in Wales
- 24 The Church of the Province of West Africa
- 31 The Church in the Province of the West Indies

April

- 7 The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria
- 14 The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia
- 21 The Anglican Church of Australia
- 28 The Church of Bangladesh

May

- 5 Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil
- 12 The Anglican Church of Burundi
- 19 The Anglican Church of Canada
- 26 The Church of the Province of Central Africa

June

- 2 Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America
- 9 Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo
- 16 Iglesia Anglicana de Chile
- 23 The Church of England
- 30 Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

July

- 7 The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean
- 14 The Church of Ireland
- 21 Nippon Sei Ko Kai
- 28 The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

August

- 4 The Anglican Church of Kenya
- 11 The Anglican Church of Korea
- 18 The Anglican Church of Melanesia
- 25 La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico

September

- 1 Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola
- 8 The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)
- 15 The Church of Nigeria
- 22 The Church of North India (United)
- 29 The Church of Pakistan (United)

October

- 6 The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea
- 13 The Episcopal Church in the Philippines
- 20 Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda
- 27 The Scottish Episcopal Church

November

- 3 The Church of the Province of South East Asia
- 10 The Church of South India (United)
- 17 The Anglican Church of Southern Africa
- 24 The Anglican Church of South America

December

- 1 Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
- 8 Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
- 15 The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- 22 The Church of the Province of Uganda
- 29 The Episcopal Church

GRACE NOTES

December 31 *The First Sunday after 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, and please contact her immediately, should there be an illness, hospitalization, or any other pastoral emergency that she 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; and Rowena, Jerry, Annika, and Joseph, our priests.
- *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. *Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda.*
- *World & Community Concerns:* For peace throughout the world, especially between Israel and Gaza and in the Middle East; in Sudan; and between Russia and Ukraine; for Christians being persecuted around the world, particularly in China and Palestine; for those who are suffering because of extreme climate; for the hungry and poor in our midst; and the volunteers who serve *A Place of Grace* food pantry.
- *Serving Our Country in the Military (especially those associated with Grace Church):* Brian, Spencer, Bradley, Curtis, Jordan, John, Carrington, William, Noel, James, Ryan, Michael, Karl, Alec, Jeff, David, Tom, Michael, and Charles.
- *Thanksgiving and Celebrations:* We give thanks and ask for thy blessings upon Catherine Cohn (Sun.), and Charles Fisher (Mon.), whose birthdays we celebrate this week.
- *Sick or in need:* The Burt Family; Ruth; Adrienne & Ken; Pamela & Bob; Tom & Elaine; Ellen; Sally; Jerry; Bonnie & the Burns Family; Errol, Norma & the Kemp Family; Barbara; Nigel, Kraig & Deidre; Dick, Leanne, Aldon, Kim & Fiona; Carmen & Félix; Mary; Monica; Antoinette; Josephine, Melissa & Jaden; Julia, Mike, André & Maria; Linda & the Galarza Family; Sr. Linda Giuli; Leonard; Joy; David; Maureen & the Blake Family; Chazmin; Miguelina & Family, Anthony & Gail, Cori and the Mackey Family; Brad, Mary, & Leslie; Joe; Margaret; Judy; Peter; Doug; Jane; Bill, Carolyn & Susan; Lynn; McJohn; Doreen; Karen; Terra; Ted; Kanata; Betty & John; Mary & Lou; Nelda Sue; Nazra; Diane; Nina; Ellen and Jim; Lauren, Alexandra & Anna; Mark & Diane; Jean; and all victims of natural and man-made disasters.
- *The Deceased:* We pray for the repose of Richard Burt, Michael J. Sullivan Sr., Leonie McCartney, all soldiers and civilians killed in war or civil strife, and in memory of Eleanor Ruta, Jacquelyn Jarrett, Linda Howell Hines, Mary & Daniel Landerfin, and James E. Murphy.

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

Church e-mail: church@gracehartford.org Website: www.gracehartford.org



Visit "Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford, CT" on FACEBOOK.
Please join and help us spread the good news online!



THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, December 31 *The First Sunday after Christmas Day*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

10:30 a.m.: Sung Mass (*also on Facebook Live*)

Tuesday, January 2 *Christmas Feria*

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Office Hours

Wednesday, January 3 *Christmas Feria*

9:15 a.m.: Low Mass (*also on Facebook Live*), followed by breakfast at Effie's

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Office Hours

7:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 4 *Christmas Feria*

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

Friday, January 5 *Christmas Feria, Vigil*

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Office Hours

Saturday, January 6 *THE EPIPHANY ~*

THE MANIFESTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST TO THE GENTILES

6:00 p.m.: SOLEMN HIGH MASS (*also on Facebook Live*), followed by reception

Sunday, January 7 *The First Sunday After the Epiphany*

~ *The Holy Family*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

10:30 a.m.: Sung Mass (*also on Facebook Live*)



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

Please join, and help us spread the good news online!



JOIN US FOR THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 6th

**6:00 p.m. Solemn High Mass with Choir
and Procession of the Three Kings**