# grace episcopal church



"There will be signs in sun and moon and stars . . . "

The First Sunday of Advent

December I, 2024

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## Grace Episcopal Church

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/GECHartford

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* 

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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
The Rev. Deacon Marta S. Rivera Monclova, PhD, Deacon
Mr. Kyle Swann, Choirmaster and Organist

The Vestry

Claudia Gwardyak, *Senior Warden*; Barbara Galbreath, *Junior Warden* Katharine Rovetti, *Parish Clerk* 

Mark Lacedonia, *Treasurer*; Barbara Galbreath, *Assistant Treasurer* Adrianne Brown, Josephine Dominguez, Linda Galarza-Rosa, Gregory Simmons

**TELCOME** to all who are joining with us virtually as we celebrate *THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT*. 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.

Cover: The Starry Night, Vincent Van Gogh, 1889

## grace episcopal church

## The First Sunday of Advent

December I, 2024

Solemn High Mass, 10:30 A.M.

Propers of Year C

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Mass Setting: Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena

Healey Willan (d. 1968)

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

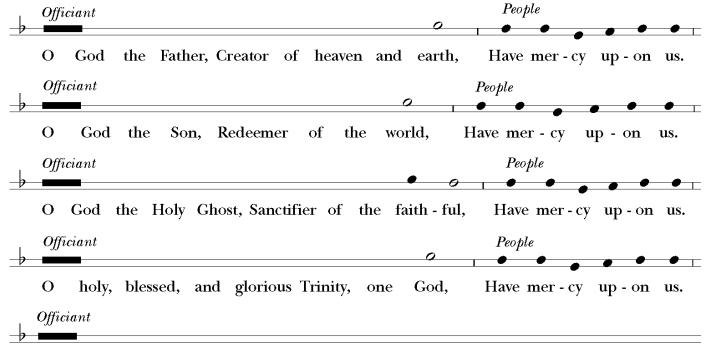
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Voluntary: "Wachet auf!" ruft uns die Stimme

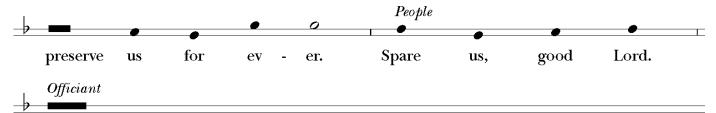
Johann Sebastian Bach (d. 1750)

#### The Great Litany

The congregation joins in singing the responses of the Litany with the choir.



Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy



From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the

devil; and from everlast - ing dam - na - tion,

People

Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

People

Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine, Good Lord, deliver us.

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost, Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

People

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

People

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

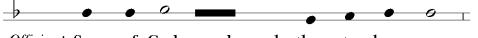
That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.



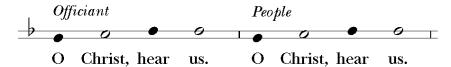
Officiant Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us. People Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.



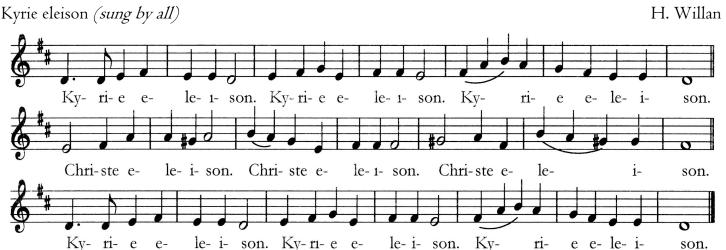
- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.
- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.



O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.







## The Liturgy of the Word

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 that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put Jupon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.* 

The Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

THE days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.

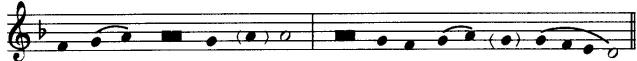


The Gradual: Psalm 25

Ad te Domine

Tone I.5

(Congregation sings the italicized verses.)



I UNTÖ thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul;

my God I have put my trust | in thee.

- \* O let me not be confounded, neither let mine enemies / triumph över ^ më.
- 2 For all they that hope in thee shall not be | asham'd,
  - \* but such as transgress without a cause shall be put | to confüsiön.
- 3 Show me thy ways O LORD
  - \* and | teach me thÿ päths.
- 4 Lead me forth in thy truth and | learn me:
  - \* for thou art the God of my salvation;

in thee hath been my hope | all the däy löng.

- 5 Call to remembrance O LORD, thy tender | mercies,
  - \* and thy loving-kindnesses which have been | ever of old.
- 6 O remember not the sins and offences of | my youth;
  - \*but according to thy mercy think thou upon me O LORD | for thy göodnëss.
- 7 Gracious and righteous is | the LORD;
  - \* therefore will he teach | sinners in the ^ wäy.
- 8 Them that are meek shall he guide in | judgment;
  - \*and such as are gentle, them | shall he learn his ^ wäy.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are mercy | and truth,
  - \* unto such as keep his covenant and his | testimönïes.

The Epistle: I Thessalonians 3: 9-I3 /NRSV/

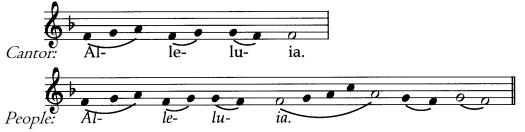
A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

HOW can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Ostende Tone VI



Choir: Show us thy mercy, O Lord: and grant us thy salvation.



The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 21: 25-36 [RSV]

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

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

[ ESUS said,] "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your

heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

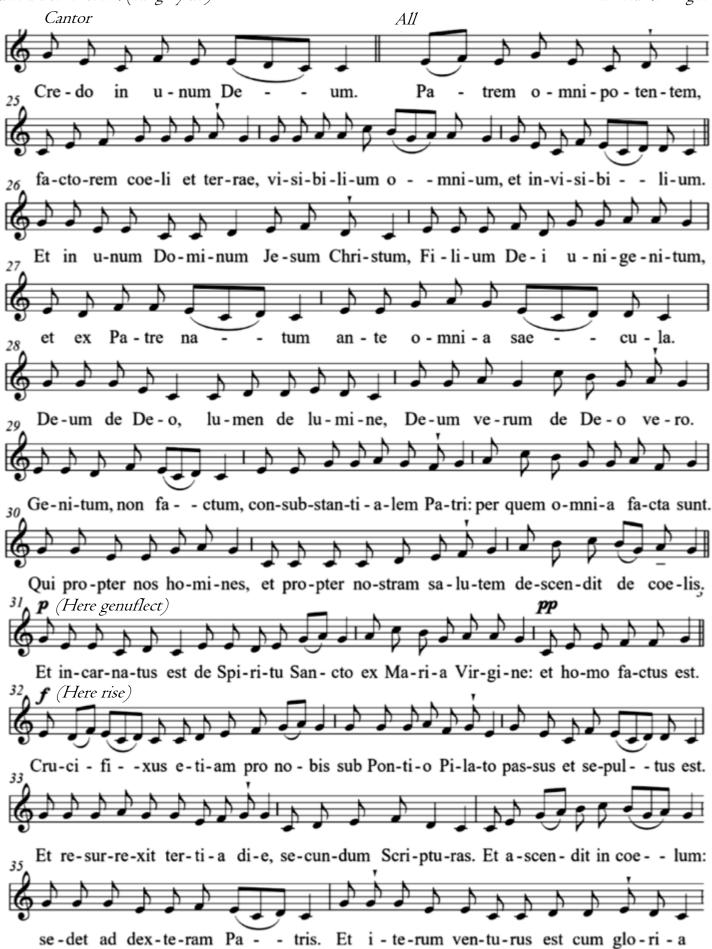
And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees; as soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day

come upon you suddenly like a snare; for it will come upon all who dwell upon the face of the whole earth. But watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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





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) Ad te levavi

Mode II

UNTO thee, O Lord, lift I up my soul: O my God, in thee have I trusted, let me not be confounded: neither let mine enemies triumph over me: for all they that look for thee shall not be ashamed.





Presentation of the alms and oblations

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

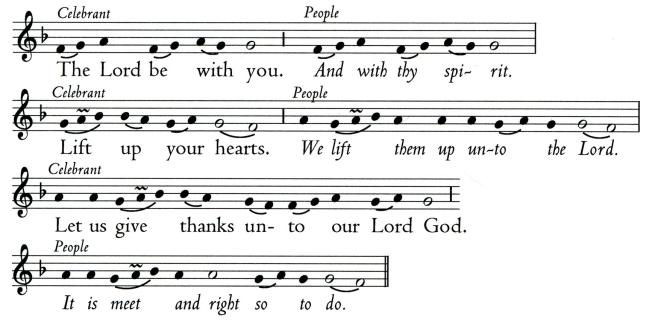


#### Orate

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

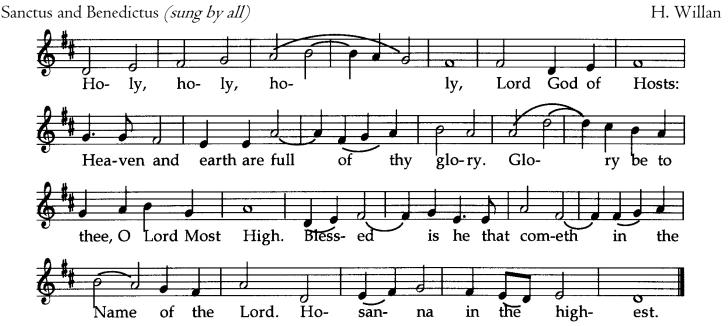


Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant says,

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 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,



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.

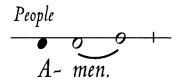
And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance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

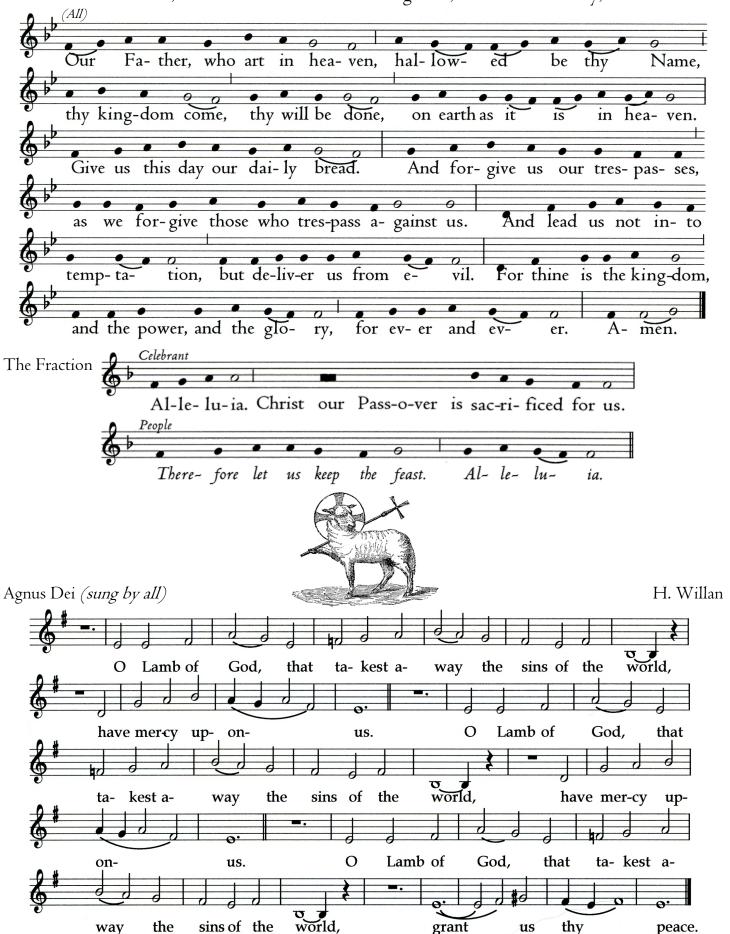
And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

 $B^{\rm Y}$  whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.



The Lord's Prayer

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



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 shouldest come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

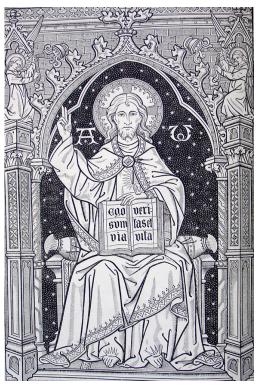
Communion (choir) Dominus dabit

Mode I

THE LORD SHALL SHOW loving kindness: and our land will yield its increase.

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.



Motet (choir) Healey Willan, 1929

Lo, in the time appointed the Lord will come; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands: for the Lord God shall come into his everlasting kingdom, and upon the throne of David shall he reign for ever. Alleluya.

Sarum antiphon

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

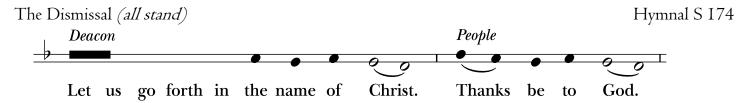
People: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these Holy Mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members 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 Advent Blessing

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

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

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



The Last Gospel *Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: The Beginning of the holy Gospel according to John.

*People:* ▶ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him: and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the light was the light of men: and the light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light.

That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

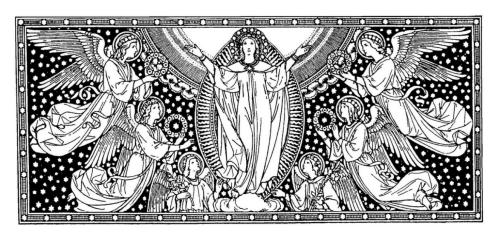
(Here genuflect) AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, (Here rise) and dwelt among us: and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

People: Thanks be to God.

St. John I:I-I4

A LMA Redemptóris Mater, quæ pérvia 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.

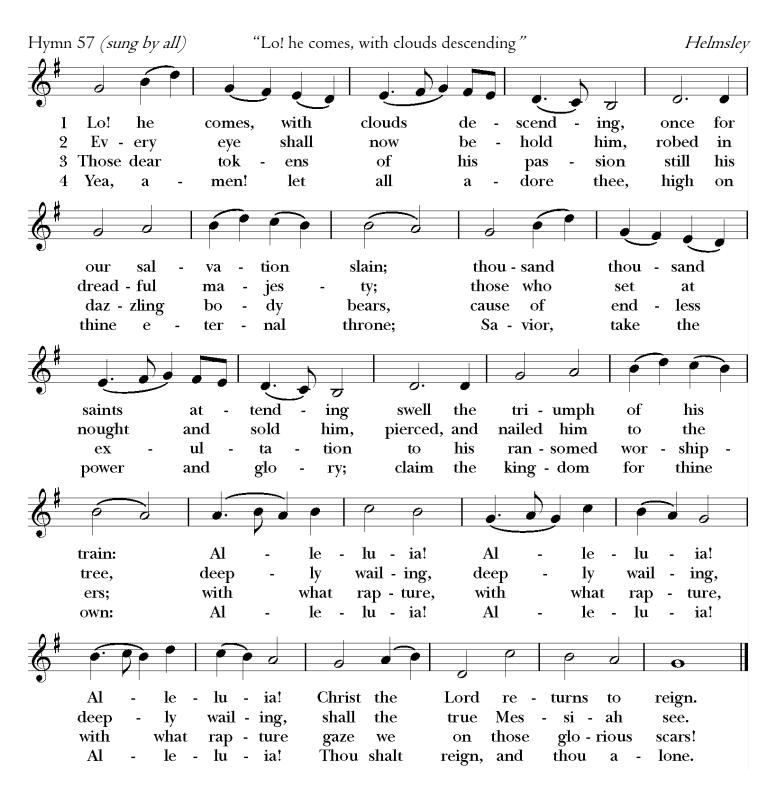
Celebrant: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

*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.



Voluntary: Chaconne in E minor

Dieterich Buxtehude (d. 1707)





#### December 1, 2024 – Advent 1 (C) First Week of Advent: Saying "Yes" to the Journey

As Advent begins this week, we invite you to orient yourself to the coming of Jesus at Christmas through the practices of *Journeying the Way of Love*. This journey begins by saying "yes" to God's call to birth new life into the world—a call that is both powerful and gentle, a call that will, if fully embraced, grow beyond our imaginations, spilling out of ourselves and into our family, friends, community, and the whole world. Over the course of this holy season, we invite you to respond to that call using these daily practices, and encourage you to offer them to your friends, family, and neighbors.

For more Advent resources related to the Way of Love, visit episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove. There, you'll find links to the full Advent curriculum *Journeying the Way of Love*, as well as *Living the Way of Love in Community*, a ninesession curriculum for use anytime.

## Sunday, December I WORSHIP

Read Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus? Where do you see them in your worship today?

## Monday, December 2 **PRAY**

Pray along with the Collect for Advent I, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. Set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you.

## Tuesday, December 3 TURN

Read Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently? How might this lesson change the way you celebrate or recognize this holy season?

## Wednesday, December 4 **BLESS**

Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.

## Thursday, December 5 **REST**

Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two. Whatever happens in that time, you can handle later. Give this time to yourself and Jesus, to rest and recharge for the week ahead.

## Friday, December 6

Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God's presence in your community.

## Saturday, December 7 **LEARN**

Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah's speech returns, he praises God. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.



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Join us for an ADVENT study of writings from women mystics and passages from Scripture, concluding with an ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT meal on December 13th.

# Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Silent meditation in the Church, with short prayers to open and close.

5:30-6:30pm, Wednesdays in Advent: Dec 4, 11, 18 Drop in at any time & stay as long as you like

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is a traditional practice of spending time with Christ, embodied in the Eucharist, in silence and contemplation. The time will open and close with simple prayers, and a booklet of suggested personal devotions will be provided. Please feel free to enter or leave quietly at any time during the hour, and stay as long (or as short) as you like.



## December 1 The First Sunday of Advent

#### 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; Sean, Presiding Bishop; Jeffrey and Laura, Bishops of ECCT; Rowena, Jerry, Annika, and Joseph, our priests, and Marta, our deacon.
- 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; Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam; Christ Church, Bethany; postulants & candidates for Holy Orders; and the Commission on Ministry & its members. Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.
- World & Community Concerns: For peace throughout the world, especially between Iran, 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 Elizabeth Chicares (Tue.), and Elaine Phillips (Fri.), whose birthdays we celebrate this week.
- Sick or in need: David; Kathy; Neil; Kenneth T., Mary & Ken J.L.; Lea & the Rivera Family; Mark; Jerry; Bonnie & the Burns Family; Megin; Patti; Walter & Claudia; Tom & Elaine; Ellen; Sally; Errol, Norma & the Kemp Family; Barbara; Nigel, Kraig & Deidre; Mary; Antoinette; Josephine, Melissa, Jaden, Tay, Soraya & Rapael; Julia, Mike, André & Maria; Linda, Tiffany & the Galarza Family; Delores; Nancy; Marcolina; Peter; Sr. Linda; Leonard; Joy; Cori and the Mackey Family; Brad & Mary; Judy; Jane; Bill, Carolyn & Susan; McJohn; Doreen; Ted; Kanata; Betty & John; Mary & Lou; Nelda Sue; 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 Jerry Holmes, The Rev. Richard Alton, all soldiers and civilians killed in war or civil strife, and in memory of John Cotton, Standish McIntosh, +Priest, Bradford Hastings, +Bishop, Barbara Merkent, Marvin Cohn, Mary Anna Morse Ballentine, Adelma Simmons, Michael Warren, Frank Geerts, and J. Archibald McNulty, +Priest.



THE REV. ROWENA J. KEMP, RECTOR 55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106-2123

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



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### THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, December 1 The First Sunday of Advent

**8:00 a.m.:** Low Mass

**10:30 a.m.**: The Great Litany & Solemn High Mass (also on Facebook Live)

Tuesday, December 3 Francis Xavier, Priest, Missionary to Japan, 1552

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

Wednesday, December 4 John of Damascus, Priest, c.760

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

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

7:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5 Clement of Alexandria, Priest, c.210

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

Friday, December 6 Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.342

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

6:00 p.m.: Advent Bible Study ~ WOMEN, MYSTICS & SCRIPTURE

Sunday, December 8 The Second Sunday of Advent

**8:00 a.m.:** Low Mass

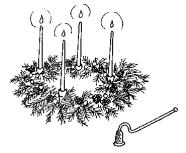
**10:30 a.m.**: Solemn High Mass (also on Facebook Live)





Visit "<u>Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford CT</u>" on FACEBOOK. Please join, and help us spread the good news on line!





The Blessing of the Advent Wreath

To be used in the home the first night the wreath is lighted.

▶ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.* 

Let us pray.

most blessed Light, who lighteth every one that cometh into the world, bless # these candles which we light in preparation of thy coming, and so enkindle our hearts with the fire of thy love that we receive thee with joy and gladness and hold thee fast with a firm faith.

- V Our King and Saviour draweth nigh:
- R O come, let us adore him.
- Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness:
- R Let the earth open and let them bring forth a Saviour.

VISIT, we beseech thee, O Lord, this habitation and family indwelling; drive from it all snares of the enemy; let thy holy Angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace, and let thy blessing be ever upon us; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*