

GRACE episcopal church



The First Sunday of Advent

Year A

November 30, 2025

Service Program for the 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass
Event Announcements
Grace Notes
This Week at Grace
Home Blessing of the Advent Wreath

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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.

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, *Rector*  
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The Rev. Marta S. Rivera Monclova, PhD, *Curate*  
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  
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,  
Sheryl Rifkin, Sr. Gregory Simmons

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WELCOME 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.

GRACE EPISCOPAL church

The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

Solemn High Mass, 10:30 A.M.

Propers of Year A

Mass Setting: *Communion Service in D major*

Leo Sowerby (d. 1968)

This setting of the Ordinary of the Mass will be sung by the choir.

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.

Officiant *People*



O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant *People*



O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant *People*



O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faith - ful, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant *People*



O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant



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

People



preserve us for ev - er. Spare us, good Lord.

Officiant



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



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

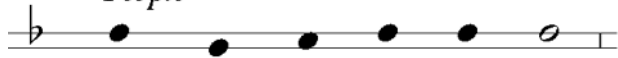
People



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,

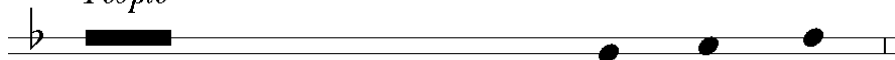
Good Lord, deliver us.

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,

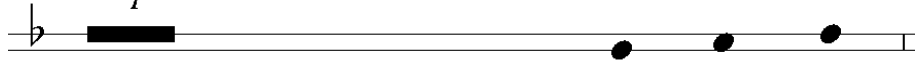
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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.



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

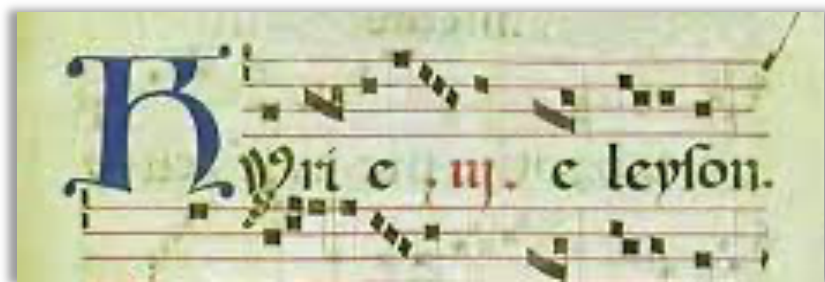
People O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.



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



Officiant O Christ, hear us. *People* O Christ, hear us.



Kyrie eleison (*choir*)

L. Sowerby

KYRIE eleison. Christ eleison. Kyrie eleison.
[Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy]



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 upon 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.*

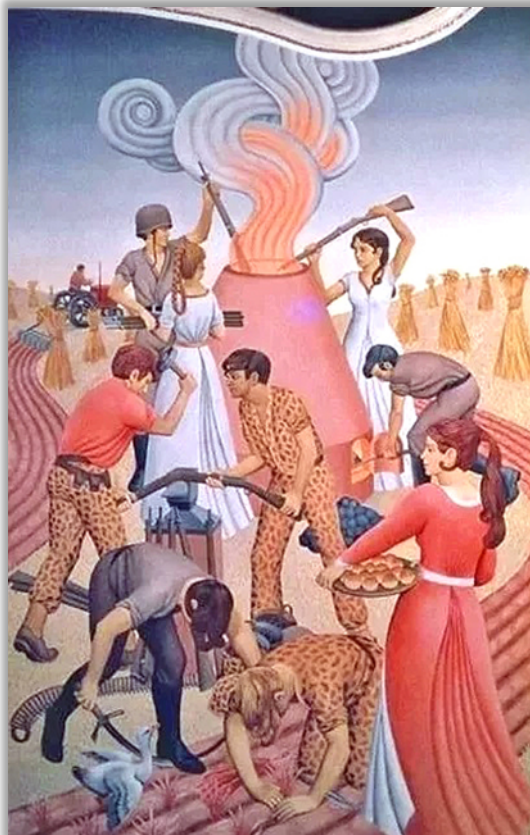
The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 2: 1-5 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

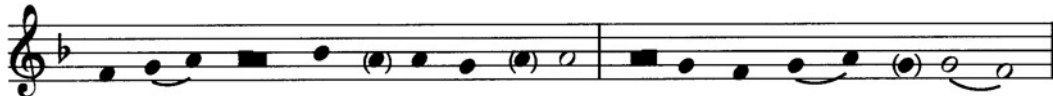
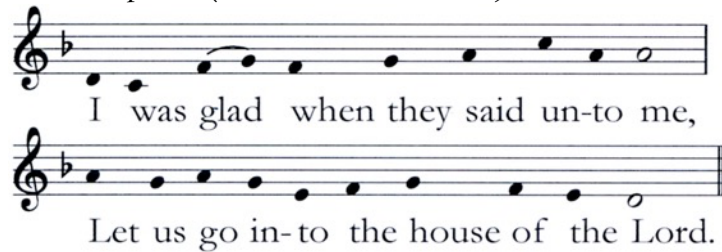
THE WORD that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.



Swords into Ploughs ~ Peter Koenig

*(Congregation sings the italicized verses)**Antiphon (Cantor first, then all)*

2 OUR FEET shall | stand in thy gates,

* — / O Jerusa^lēm.

3 Jerusalem is | built as ^ a city

* that is at u- / nity in it^self.

4 For thither the tribes go up, even the | tribes of the LORD,

* to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the | Name of thē LÖRD.

5 For there is the | seat of judgment,

* even the seat of the | house of Dävid.

6 O pray for the | peace of ^ Jerusa^lēm;

* they shall pros- | per that löve thëe.

7 Peace | be with-in thy ^ walls,

* and plenteousness with- / in thy päla^cës.

8 For my brethren | and companions' ^ sakes,

* I will wish | thee prosperity.

9 Yea, because of the | house of ^ the LORD our ^ Göd,

* I will | seek to dö thee ^ gööd.

[All repeat antiphon]

The Epistle: Romans 13: 11-14 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

YOU know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desire.

The Word of the Lord.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.

Cantor: Al- le- lu- ia.

People: Al- le- lu- ia.

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

People: Al- le- lu- ia.



The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 24: 36-44 [RSV]

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

People: ✠ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

[JESUS said,] "BUT of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of man. Then two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left. Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The Gospel of the Lord.

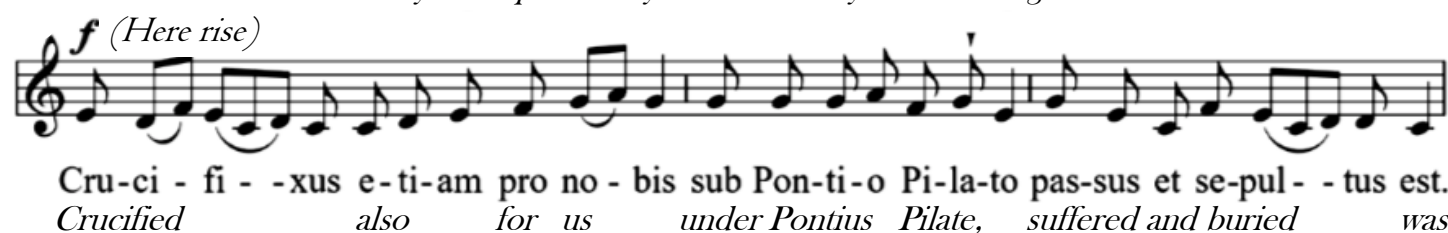
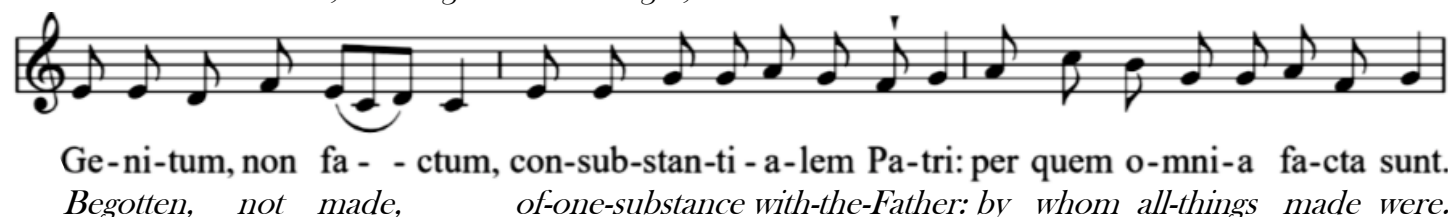
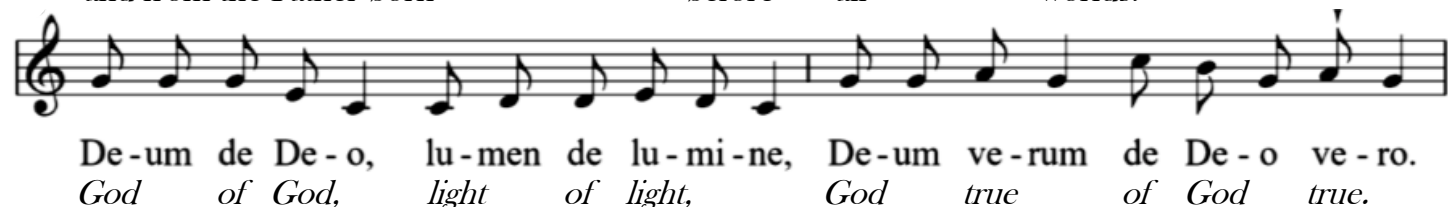
People's Response: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Sr. Gregory Simmons, *Haven Religious*

The Nicene Creed from *Missa de Angelis* (sung by all)
Cantor

See standard translation on Prayer Book p. 326
All





Et re-sur-re-xit ter-ti-a di-e, se-cun-dum Scri-ptu-ras. Et a-scen-dit in coe - - lum:
And rose-again the-third day, according-to the-Scriptures. And ascended into heaven:



se-det ad dex-te-ram Pa - - tris. Et i - te-rum ven-tu-rus est cum glo-ri - a
he-sits at the-right-hand of-the-Father. And again to-come is with glory



ju - di - ca - re vi - vos et mor-tu - os: cu - jus re - gni non e - rit fi - nis.
to judge the-living and the-dead: of-whose kingdom not shall-be an-end.



Et in Spi - ri - tum San-ctum, Do - mi - num, et vi - vi - fi - can - tem:
And in the-Spirit Holy, the-Lord, and giver-of-life:



qui ex Pa-tre. Fi - li - o - que pro - ce-dit. Qui cum Pa-tre et Fi - li - o
who from the-Father and-the-Son proceeds. Who with the-Father and the-Son



si-mul a-do-ra-tur, et con-glo-ri - fi - ca-tur: qui lo-cu-tus est per Pro - phe-tas.
alike is-worshiped, and together-is-glorified: who spoken has by the-Prophets.



Et u - nam, san - ctam, ca - tho - li - cam, et a - po - sto - li - cam Ec - cle - si - am.
And in-one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.



Con - fi - te - or u - num ba - ptis - ma in re - mis - si - o - nem pec - ca - to - rum.
I acknowledge one baptism for the-remission of-sins.



✠ Et ex-pe-cto re-sur-re-cti-o-nem mor-tu-o-rum. Et vi - tam ven-tu-ri sae-cu-li.
And I-look-for the-resurrection of-the-dead. And the-life to-come of-the-world.



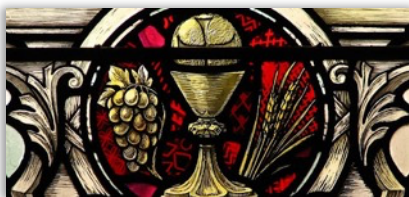
A - - - - - men. 11

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

U NTO 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.

Hymn 61

"Sleepers, wake! A voice astounds us"

Wachet auf

1 "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: "A -
heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she
saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their
wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her
harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -
 Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -
 ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
 rious: her as star we has is risen, O her light grows bright.
 tals thes: with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."
 heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
 greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

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: The LORD be with you. *People:* And with thy spi - rit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts. *People:* 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,

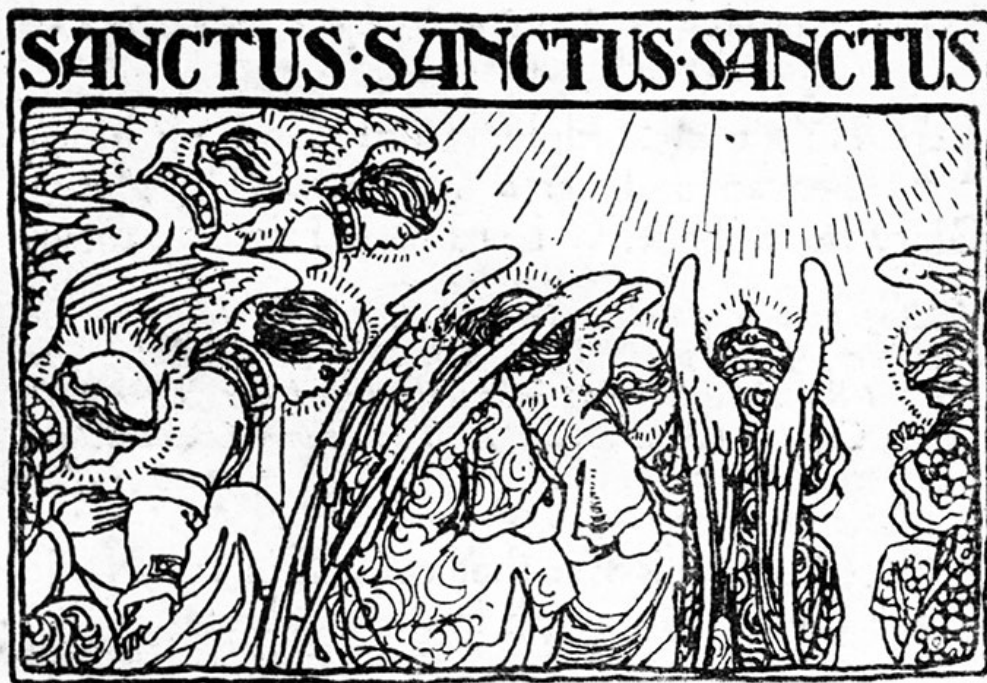
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

BECAUSE thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus and Benedictus (*choir*)

L. Sowerby

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. ✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.



ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender
A 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
B unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People
● — ○ — ○ — +
A- men.



The Lord's Prayer

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

(All)

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.

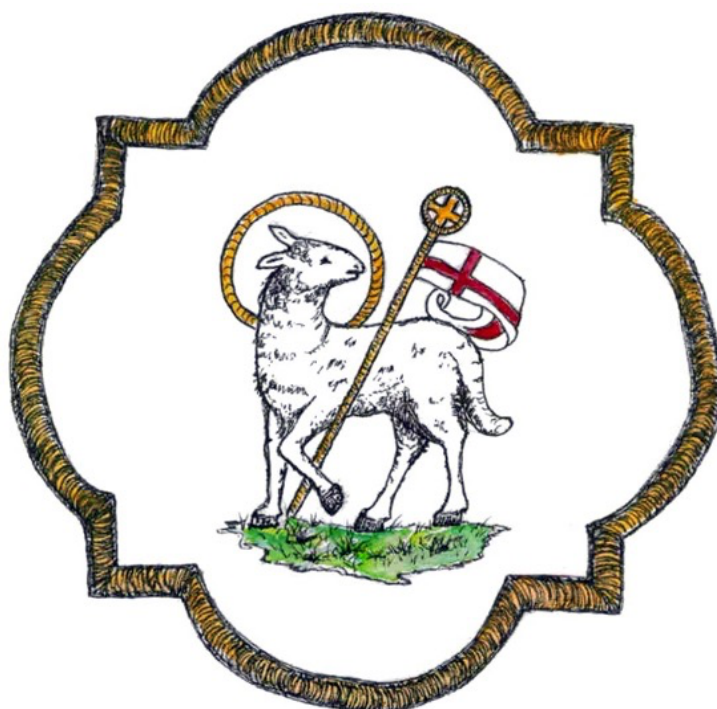
The Fraction

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 (*choir*)

L. Sowerby

O LAMB OF GOD, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O
 Lamb of God, that takest away 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*) *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 Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.* 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 Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God.



The Last Gospel

St. John I:I-I4

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 life 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.

ALMA REDEMPTÓRIS MATER, quæ pèrvia cæli porta manes, et stella maris, succúrre Acadénti, Súrgerè 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.*

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.



**Join us for an Advent program discussing
Dietrich Bonhoeffer's landmark work:**



Life Together

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Life Together" explores the nature of Christian community, emphasizing that it is a divine reality created by God rather than a human ideal. The book highlights the importance of mutual support among believers, the necessity of worship and prayer together, and the need for personal devotion, ultimately arguing that true community is rooted in Jesus Christ.

December 5, 2025 at 5:30 PM

December 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM

December 19, 2025 at 5:30 PM,

the last session followed by a fellowship meal

at Grace Episcopal Church

55 New Park Avenue, Hartford CT

~~~~~✠✠~~~~~ **GRACE NOTES**~~~~~✠✠~~~~~

November 30 *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:* Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury designate; Sean, Presiding Bishop; Jeffrey and Laura, Bishops of ECCT; Rowena, Jerry, Annika, and Joseph, our priests, and Marta, our curate.
- *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 Parish: St. Paul's Church with Christ Church Chapel, Bantam; postulants & candidates for Holy Orders; and the Commission on Ministry & its members. *The Anglican Church of Australia.*
- *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, 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 (Wed.), and Elaine Phillips (Fri.), whose birthdays we celebrate this week).
- *Sick or in need:* Stephen & Ratana; Peter; Veronica & the Rovetti Family; Kathy; Lucy; Jane; Paulo Junior; Felix & Carmen; Mark; Jerry; Tom & Elaine; Ellen; Sally; Errol, Norma & the Kemp Family; Barbara; Nigel, Kraig & Deidre; Mary; Josephine, Melissa, Jaden, Tay, Soraya & Rapael; Linda, Tiffany & the Galarza Family; Tom; Kristen & Quintin; Julia, Mike, André & Maria; Soncia; Tom; Gail; Camden; Joan; David; Neil; Lea; Megin; Kathy; Patti; Delores; Nancy; Marcolina; Sr. Linda; Leonard; Joy; Cori and the Mackey Family; Judy; Jane; Bill, Carolyn & Susan; McJohn; Doreen; Ted; Kanata; Betty & John; Mary & Lou; Nelda Sue; Diane; Michael; Mark & Diane; Jean; and all victims of natural and man-made disasters.
- *The Deceased:* We pray for the repose of Nancy Grace Garrison, 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.

~~~~~✠✠~~~~~  
**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**~~~~~✠✠~~~~~

THE REV. ROWENA J. KEMP, RECTOR

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Visit "Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford, CT" on [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/GECHartford> ; <https://www.youtube.com/@GraceEpiscopalHartford>

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

**Sunday, November 30** *The First Sunday of Advent*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

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

**Tuesday, December 2** *Channing Moore Williams,*

*Missionary Bishop in China and Japan, 1910*

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

**Wednesday, December 3** *Francis Xavier, Priest, Missionary to Japan, 1552*

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

7:00 p.m.: *Choir Rehearsal*

**Thursday, December 4** *John of Damascus, Priest, c.760*

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

**Friday, December 5** *Clement of Alexandria, Priest, c.210*

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

5:00 p.m.: **Advent Series ~ LIFE TOGETHER**

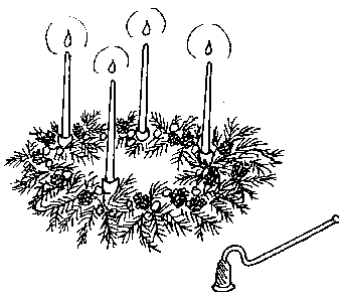
**Sunday, December 7** *The Second Sunday of Advent*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

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



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



### 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.

O 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.

✠ Our King and Saviour draweth nigh:

✠ O come, let us adore him.

✠ Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness:

✠ 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.*