

GRACE episcopal church



The Third Sunday of Advent

~ GAUDETE SUNDAY

December 14, 2025

Service Program for the 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass
Advent Event Announcement
Grace Notes
This Week at Grace & Grace at Christmas

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**W**E 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. 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*  
Adriianne 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 THIRD 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 Third Sunday of Advent ~ Gaudete Sunday

December 14, 2025

Solemn High Mass, 10:30 A.M.

Propers of Year A

Mass Setting: *Mass of the Quiet Hour*

George Oldroyd, 1928

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

Voluntary: *Veni Emmanuel*, from Three Short Preludes

Edward Bairstow (d. 1946)

ENTRANCE RITE AND THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Introit (*choir*) *Gaudete*

Mode I

(Antiphon) **R**EJOICE YE in the Lord alway: and again I say, rejoice ye. Let your moderation be known unto all people: for the Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing, nor troubled, but in all things by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. (*Psalm*] Thou hast been gracious to thy land, O Lord, thou hast restored the good fortune of Jacob. Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. (*Repeat antiphon.*)



Opening Acclamation

Hymnal S 76

Celebrant: Bless-ed be God: ✕ Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.

People: And bles-sed be his king-dom, now and for e-ver. A-men.

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 (*choir*)

G. Oldroyd

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

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: (monotoned) And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

STIR up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35: 1-10 *[NRSV]*

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

THE wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the LORD.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.

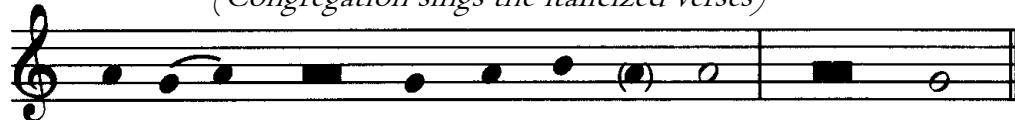


The Gradual: Psalm 146

Lauda, anima mea

Tone IV.6

(Congregation sings the italicized verses)



4 Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob | for his help,
* and whose hope is in the *LORD* his / God:
5 Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that / therein is;
* who keepeth his promise for e- / ver;
6 Who helpeth them to right that | suffer wrong;
* who feedeth the hun- | gry.
7 The *LORD* looseth men / out of prison;
* the *LORD* giveth sight to the / blind.
8 The *LORD* helpeth them | that are fallen;
* the *LORD* careth for the right- | eous.
9 The *LORD* careth for the strangers†;
he defendeth the father- / less and widow:
* as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside / down.
10 The *LORD* thy God, O Sion, shall be King for | evermore,
* and throughout all genera- / tions.



Wheat Field in Rain ~ Vincent van Gogh, 1853-1890

The Epistle: James 5: 7-10 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Letter of James.

BE patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia *Excita Domine*

Tone VI; v. harm. H. Willan

Music notation for the Alleluia 'Excita Domine'. It consists of three staves. The top staff is labeled 'Cantor' and shows the text 'Al- le- lu- ia.' with musical notes. The middle staff is labeled 'People' and shows the same text. The bottom staff is also labeled 'People' and shows the text again. The music is in common time, treble clef, and includes various note heads (circles, ovals, and dots) and rests.

Choir: STIR UP THY STRENGTH, O LORD: and come and help us.



The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew II: 2-II [RSV]

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

NOW when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? Why then did you go out? To see a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who wear soft raiment are in kings' houses. Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.' Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

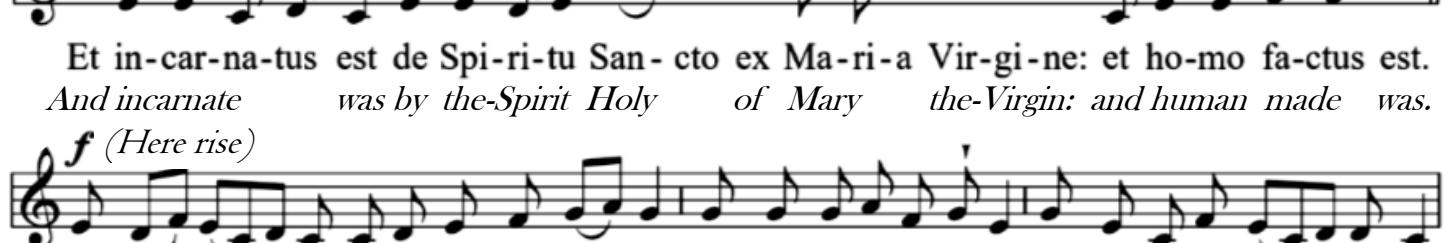
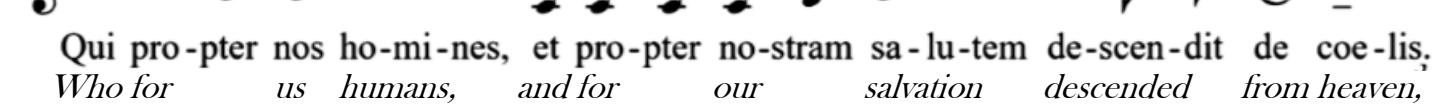
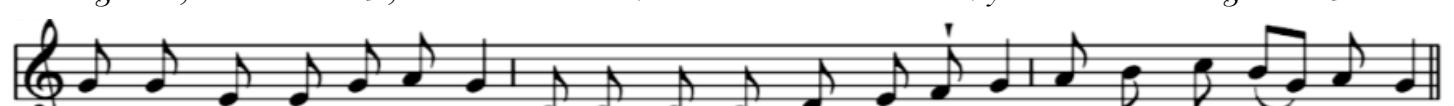
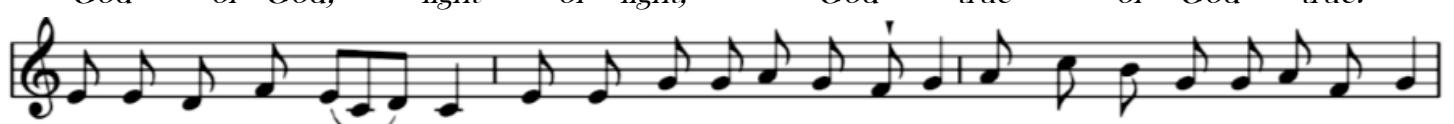
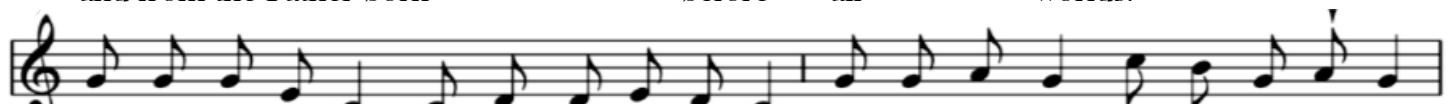
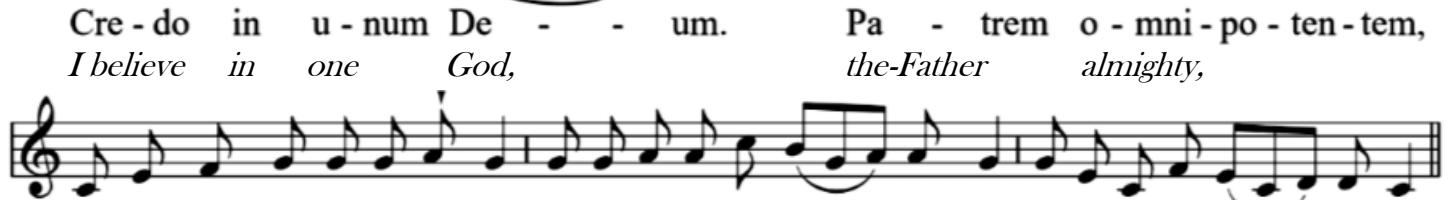
People's Response: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, Rector

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

See standard translation on Prayer Book p. 326
All



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 bear our prayer. (*Sung after every intercession*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 eternal 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*

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.*

Comfortable Words

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

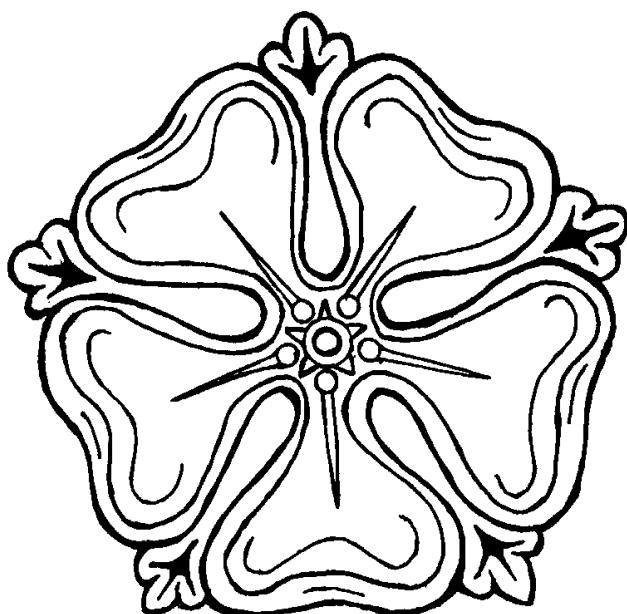
Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew II: 28*
God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3: 16*

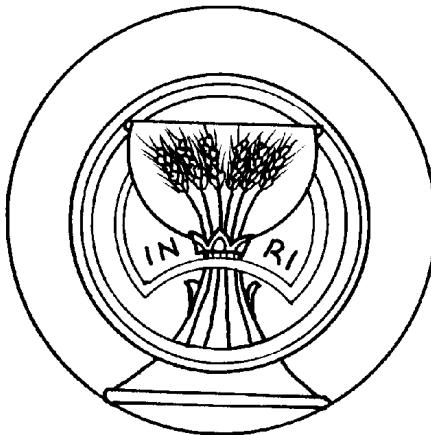
The Peace

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

People: And with thy spi - rit.

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) *Benedixisti*

Mode IV

THOU HAST BEEN GRACIOUS, O Lord, unto thy land; thou hast restored the good fortune of Jacob; thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people.



Anthem (choir)

Charles Wood (d. 1926)

O THOU, THE CENTRAL ORB of righteous love, pure beam of the most high, Eternal light of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above. Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine. Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove. Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin; our nature all shall feel eternal day in fellowship with thee, transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within.

H. R. Bramley

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



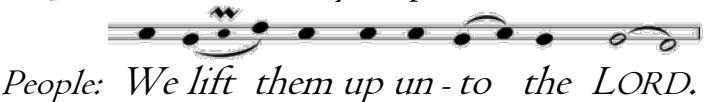
Celebrant: The LORD be with you.



People: And with thy spirit.



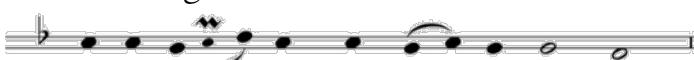
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.



People: We lift them up unto the LORD.



Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.



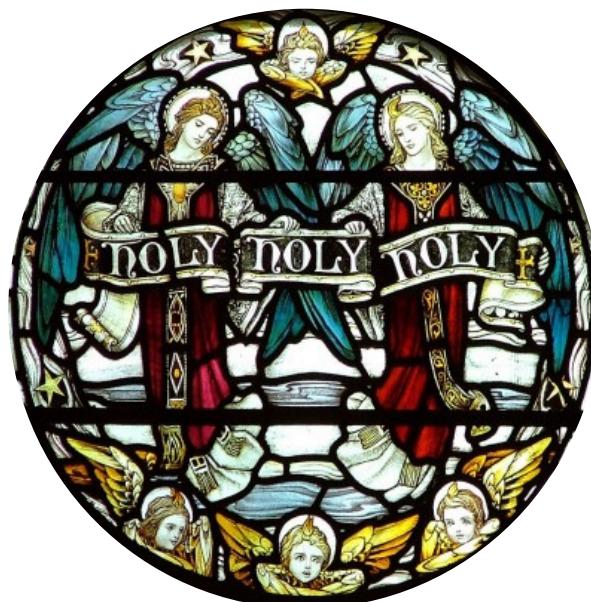
People: It is meet and right so to do.

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*)

G. Oldroyd

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 in the highest.

The Canon of the Mass

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

— o —
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.



Ecce Agnus Dei, Dieric the Elder, 1468

Agnus Dei (*choir*)

G. Oldroyd

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

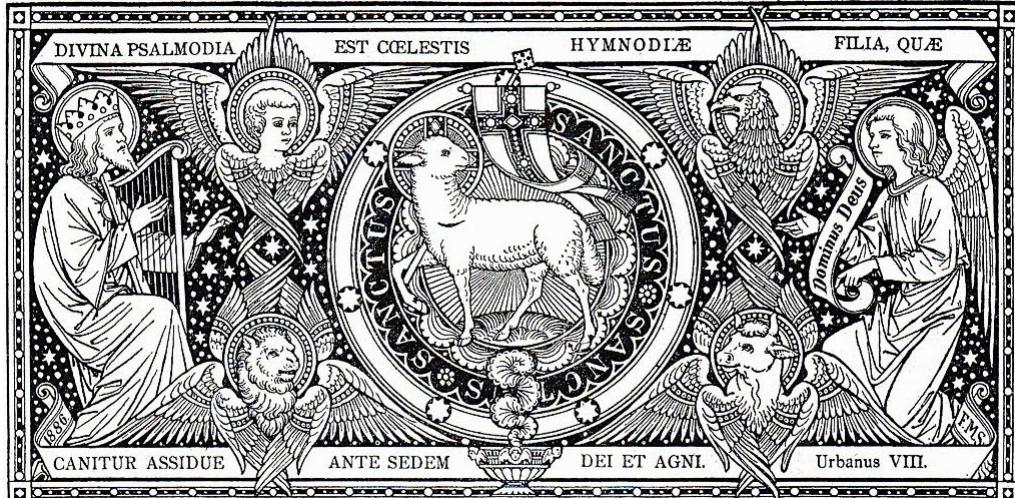
Communion (*choir*) *Dicite pusillanimes*

Mode VII

SAY TO THEM THAT ARE OF A FEARFUL HEART: "Be strong and fear not! Behold, here is our God; he comes to save you."

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.



The Great Antiphons (*choir*)

Come and save us.

○ Wisdom, breath of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation:
○ Come and save us.

○ Lord of lords and Leader of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai:

○ Root of Jesse, standing as a signal to the nations, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage:

○ Key of David and Ruler of the house of Israel, who opens and no one can close, who closes and no one can open:

○ radiant Dawn, Splendor of eternal light and Sun of justice to those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death:

○ King of the nations, the Ruler they long for, the Cornerstone bringing all peoples together:

○ Emmanuel, our King and our Law-giver, the Anointed of the nations and their Savior:
○ Come and save us.

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 and Dismissal

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.*

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

People: Thanks be to God.



The Last Gospel

St. John I:I-14

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 REDEMPTORIS MATER, quæ pæria cæli porta manes, et stella maris, succurrere Acadenti, Súrgere qui curat populo: Tu quæ genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem, Virgo prius ac posterior, Gabrialis ab ore Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

[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 72 (*sung by all*)

"Hark! the glad sound!"

Richmond

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
 2 He comes, the pri - soners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

prom - ised long: let ev - ery heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Voluntary: Prelude in E minor, BuxWV 143

Dieterich Buxtehude (d. 1707)



**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 ♪ ♪ ♪ ~~~~~

December 14 *The Third Sunday of Advent ~ Gaudete Sunday*

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; Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely & the oppressed; and Swords to Plowshares. *Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.*
- **World & Community Concerns:** For peace throughout the world, especially between Iran, Israel, and Gaza, and in the Middle East; in Sudan the Congo and Somalia; 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 Josh Rowland (Wed.) whose birthday 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 Leonard Bagni, Sandra & Dana "Rick" Richardson, all soldiers and civilians killed in war or civil strife, and in memory of Fred Morhardt, Sr., Eugene Michaud, Wallace Aitcheson, and Kathleen Phillips.

~~~~~♪ ♪ ♪ GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ♪ ♪ ♪ ~~~~~

THE REV. ROWENA J. KEMP, RECTOR

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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](mailto:RevRowena@gracehartford.org)

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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, December 14** *The Third Sunday of Advent ~ Gaudete Sunday*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

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

**Tuesday, December 16**

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

**Wednesday, December 17** *John of the Cross (Ember Day)*

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

7:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, December 18** *Advent Feria*

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

**Friday, December 19** *Jane Frances de Chantal, 1641*

10:00 a.m.: Vestry Meeting in Nason Hall

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

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

**Sunday, December 21** *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

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

~12:00 noon: **THE GREENING OF THE CHURCH**



Visit “[Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford CT](#)” on FACEBOOK & “[@GraceEpiscopalHartford](#)” on YOUTUBE

Please join and help us spread the good news online!



## Grace at Christmas



### CHRISTMAS EVE

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**8:00 P.M. MUSICAL PRELUDE WITH CAROLS OF THE SEASON**

for choir and congregation by candlelight

**8:30 P.M. SOLEMN HIGH MASS**

Also streamed on YouTube



### CHRISTMAS DAY

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25**

**10:00 A.M. LOW MASS WITH HYMNS**

Also streamed on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/@GraceEpiscopalHartford](https://www.youtube.com/@GraceEpiscopalHartford)