

# GRACE episcopal church



*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 21, 2025

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## Grace Episcopal Church

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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. 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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**W**ELCOME to all who are joining with us virtually as we celebrate **THE FOURTH 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 21, 2025

Solemn High Mass, 10:30 A.M.

Propers of Year A

Mass Setting: *Missa Advenio*

Plainsong, 10th c.

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

Voluntary: *Meine Seele erhebt den Herrn*

Johann Sebastian Bach (d. 1750)

### ENTRANCE RITE AND THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Introit (*choir*) *Rorate caeli*

Mode I

(Antiphon) **D**ROP DOWN, YE HEAVENS, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and blossom forth a Savior. (*Psalm*) The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament showeth his handiwork. 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

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

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

Collect for Purity

**A**LMIGHTY 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:

**T**HOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie eleison (*sung by all*)

*Missa Advenio*

4

7

The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

WE beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7: 10-16 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

**A**GAIN the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

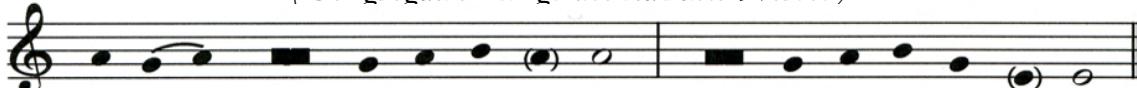
The Word of the Lord.

*People's Response:* Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: Psalm 80

*Qui regis Israel*  
(Congregation sings the italicized verses)

Tone IV.4



1 HEAR, Ö thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph | like a flock;  
\* *show thyself also, thou that sittest / upon the Cheru^bim.*

2 *Before Ephraim, Benjamin / and Manasseh,*  
\* *stir up thy strength / and come and help us.*

3 Turn us a- | gain O God;  
\* show us the light of thy countenance | and we shall be whole.

4 *O LORD / God of hosts,*  
\* *how long wilt thou be angry with thy / people that prayeth?*

5 Thou feedest them with the | bread of tears,  
\* and givest them plenteous- | ness of tears to drink.

6 *Thou hast made us a very strife un- / to our neighbours,*  
\* *and our en- / emies laugh us to ^scorn.*

7 Turn us again, thou | God of hosts;  
\* show the light of thy countenance, | and we shall be whole.

17 *Let thy hand be upon the man / of thy right hand,*  
\* *and upon the son of man, whom thou madest so / strong for thine own self.*

18 And so will not | we go back from ^ thee;  
\* O let us live and we | shall call upon thy ^ Name.

19 *Turn us again O LORD / God of hosts;*  
\* *show the light of thy countenance / and we shall be whole.*



*Isaiah Prophesying the Adoration of Christ*

The Epistle: Romans I: 1-7 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

PAUL, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

*People's Response: Thanks be to God.*

# ALBLELIA

Alleluia *Veni Domine*

Tone VI; v. harm. Healey Willan (d. 1968)

*Cantor:* Al- le- lu- ia.

*People:* Al- le- lu- ia.

*Choir:* COME, O LORD, make no long tarrying: deliver thy people from their misdeeds.

*People:* Al- le- lu- ia.



The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew I: 18-25 *[RSV]*

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

*People:* ♫ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

**N**OW the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Mr. Aldon Hynes

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

See standard translation on Prayer Book p. 326  
*All*



Cre - do in u - num De - - um. Pa - trem o - mni - po - ten - tem,  
I believe in one God, the-Father almighty,



fa-cto-rem coe-li et ter-rae, vi-si-bi-li-um o - - mni-um, et in-vi-si-bi - - li-um.  
maker of-heaven and of-earth, visible of-all-things and invisible.



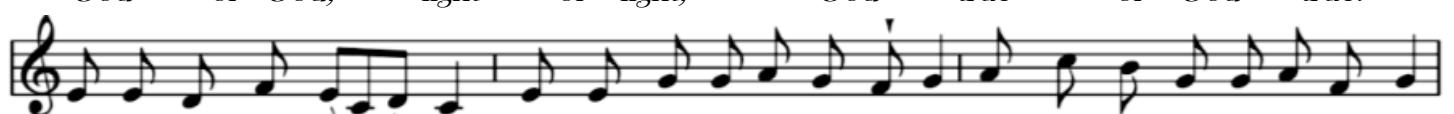
Et in u-num Do-mi-num Je-sum Chri-stum, Fi-li-um De-i u-ni-ge-ni-tum,  
And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the-Son of-God only-begotten,



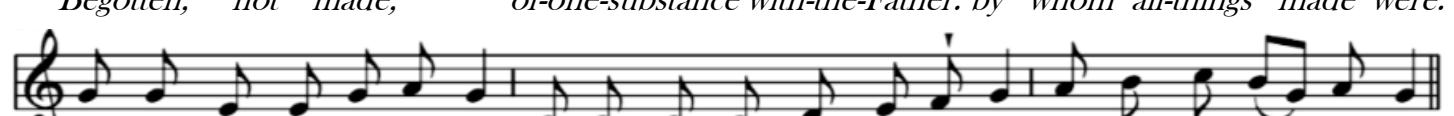
et ex Pa-tre na - - tum an - te o - mni - a sae - - cu - la.  
and from the-Father born before all worlds.



De-um de De-o, lu-men de lu-mi-ne, De-um ve-rum de De-o ve-ro.  
God of God, light of light, God true of God true.



Ge-ni-tum, non fa - - ctum, con-sub-stan-ti - a-lem Pa-tri: per quem o-mni-a fa-cta sunt.  
Begotten, not made, of-one-substance with-the-Father: by whom all-things made were.



Qui pro-pter nos ho-mi-nes, et pro-pter no-stram sa-lu-tem de-scen-dit de coe-lis.  
Who for us humans, and for our salvation descended from heaven,  
*p* (Here genuflect)



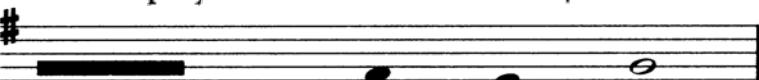
Et in-car-na-tus est de Spi-ri-tu San- cto ex Ma-ri-a Vir-gi-ne: et ho-mo fa-ctus est.  
And incarnate was by the-Spirit Holy of Mary the-Virgin: and human made was.



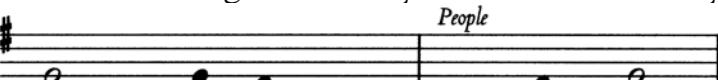
Cru-ci - fi - - xus e-ti-am pro no - bis sub Pon-ti-o Pi-la-to pas-sus et se-pul - - tus est.  
Crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and buried was.



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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## 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.

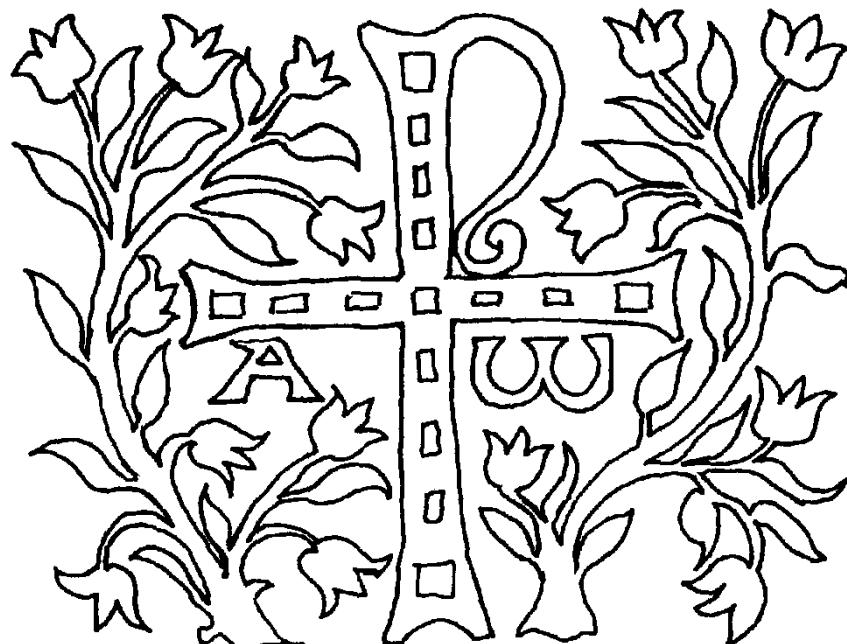
Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*  
God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

## The Peace

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

*People:* And with thy spirit.

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





## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### Offertory Sentence

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

### Offertory (*choir*) *Ave, Maria*

Mode VIII

**H**AIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.



### Carol (*choir*)

arr. Charles Wood (d. 1926)

HAIL! BLESSED VIRGIN MARY! For so when he did meet thee, Spake mighty Gabriel, And thus we greet thee. Come weal, come woe, Our hymn shall never vary. Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary! Ave, ave Maria! To gladden priest and people, The angelus shall ring from every steeple, To sound his virgin birth, Alleluia! Ave, ave Maria! Archangels chant Osanna, And, Holy, Holy, Holy, Before the Infant born of thee, thou lowly, Aye-maiden child of Joachim and Anna; Archangels chant Osanna.

### 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,

### Sanctus and Benedictus (*sung by all*)

## *Missa Advenio*

## 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 o  
A- men.



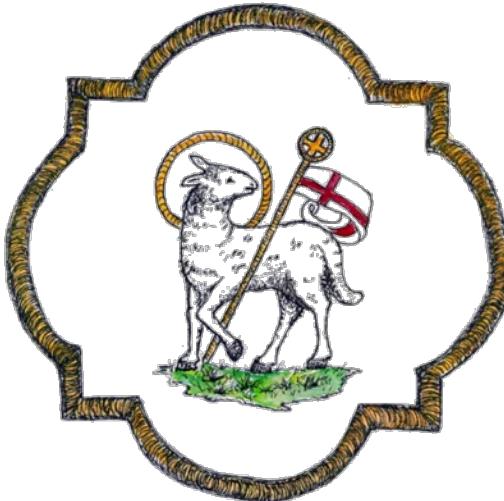
The Lord's Prayer (*sung by all*)

*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.



Agnus Dei (*sung by all*)

*Missa Advenio*

*Cantor*  
 (2x) O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, have mer- cy up-on us.

*Cantor*  
 (1x) O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Prayer of Humble Access (*said by all*)

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**W**E 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*) *Ecce virgo concipiet*

Mode I

**B**EHOLD, a virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel.

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.*

*Ecce virgo concipiet*



~ Salvador Dali

An Advent Prose (*choir*)

Mode I; arr. J. H. Arnold, 1933

[*Antiphon*] Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness. [*Prose*] Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee. [*Ant.*] We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away; thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. [*Ant.*] Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. [*Ant.*] Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. [*Ant.*]

Isaiah 40-64 passim

## 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

**M**AY 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 (*all stand*)

Hymnal S 174

*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-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.

**I**N 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.

**A**LMA REDEMPTÓRIS MATER, quæ pérvia cœli porta manes, et stella maris, succúrre Acadénti, Súrgere qui curat pôpulo: Tu quæ genuísti, natúra miránte, tuum sanctum Genítórem, 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.

**W**E 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 56 (*sung by all*)

## "O come, O come, Emmanuel"

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

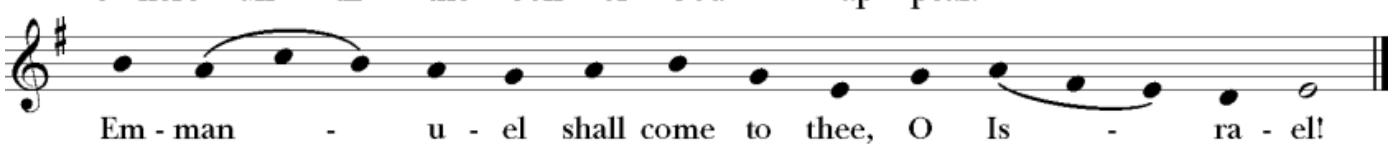
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - - - - u - el, and ran - som  
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - - - - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - - - - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - - ile  
 2 all things might - - i - ly; to us the path of know - - ledge  
 3 tribes on Si - - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 4 Sa - tan's ty - - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
 5 wide our heaven - - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
 6 by thy draw - - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - - - - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Voluntary: Fugue on *Magnificat*

J. S. Bach





# LAST DAY Novena for baby Jesus

Today we end our celebration of hope and faith in the arrival of Christmas. That every day we should come nearer to the peace and love that this special time holds.



## Hope

Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford  
55 New Park Avenue  
December 23, 2025  
6PM

This will be a bilingual event.





# *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:

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



## 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)

# ~~~~~♪ ♫ ♪~~~~~ **GRACE NOTES** ♪ ♫ ♪~~~~~♪

**December 21 The Fourth 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; Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; the children of the world & all ECCT ministries for children at risk. *The Anglican Church of Burundi.*
- *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 Kenneth Brown (Thu.), and Nadia Holmes (Sat.), 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 Leonard Bagni, Sandra & Dana "Rick" Richardson, all soldiers and civilians killed in war or civil strife, and in memory of Daphne Ross, Ronald Merriman, Claire Hébert, and Catherine Brown, in whose memory the sanctuary candle is given (by Ken T. and Adrienne Brown).

~~~~~♪ ♫ ♪~~~~~ **GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH** ♪ ♫ ♪~~~~~♪

THE REV. ROWENA J. KEMP, RECTOR

55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106-2123

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

Rector's cell phone: 203-209-4178 Rector's email: [RevRowena@gracehartford.org](mailto:RevRowena@gracehartford.org)

Church e-mail: [church@gracehartford.org](mailto:church@gracehartford.org) Website: [www.gracehartford.org](http://www.gracehartford.org)

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 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** ~ many hands make short work!

**Monday, December 22 *SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE***

6:00 p.m.: Low Mass (also on YouTube)

**Tuesday, December 23 *Advent Feria***

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

6:00 p.m.: **NOVENA DEL NIÑO DIOS** (also on YouTube)

**Wednesday, December 24 *The Eve of the Nativity***

★CHRISTMAS EVE★

**THE VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY**

8:00 p.m.: Musical Prelude with Carols of the Season for Choir and Congregation

8:30 p.m.: **SOLEMN HIGH MASS** (also on YouTube) followed by reception

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

★CHRISTMAS DAY★

10:00 a.m.: Low Mass with Hymns (also on YouTube)

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

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

**Sunday, December 28 *THE HOLY INNOCENTS***

8:00 am: Low Mass

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

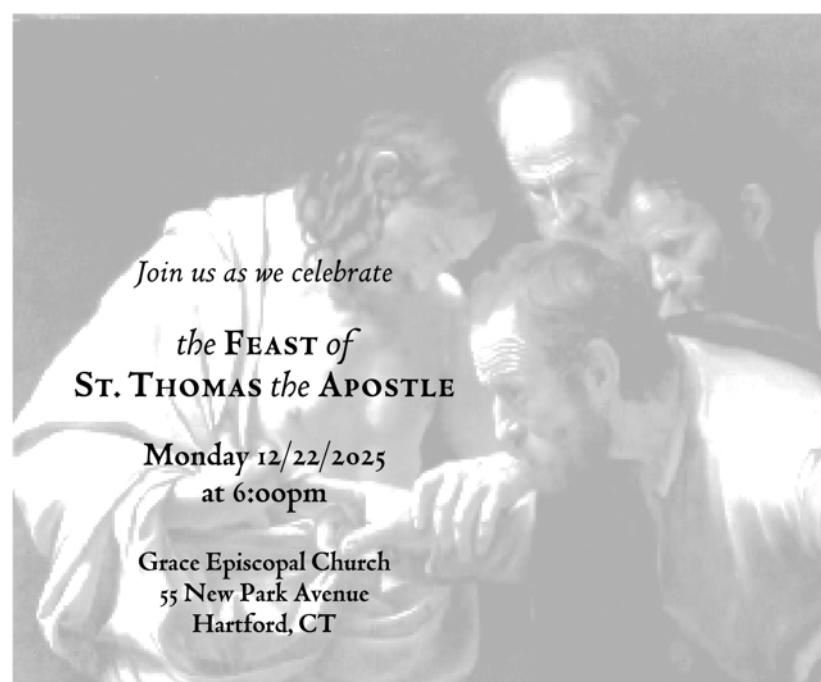
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Please join, and help us spread the good news online!

Haven Religious



Grace episcopal church