

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Feast of the Holy Innocents

December 28, 2025

Service Program for the 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass
WATCH NIGHT Announcement
Grace Notes
This Week at Grace

pp. 3-18
p. 20
p. 21
p. 22

~~~~~

Grace Episcopal Church  
55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106  
Office: 860 233-0825      Fax: 860 233-5082  
E-mail: [church@gracehartford.org](mailto:church@gracehartford.org)      Web site: [www.gracehartford.org](http://www.gracehartford.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GECHartford](http://www.facebook.com/GECHartford)  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@GraceEpiscopalHartford](http://www.youtube.com/@GraceEpiscopalHartford)

**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.

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, *Rector*  
Cell phone: 203-209-4178   Church office: 860-233-0825  
Email: [RevRowena@gracehartford.org](mailto:RevRowena@gracehartford.org)

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

~~~~~

WELCOME to all who are joining with us virtually as we observe **THE FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS**. 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 Feast of the Holy Innocents

December 28, 2025

Solemn High Mass, 10:30 A.M.

Mass Setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*

Healey Willan (d. 1968)

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

Voluntary: *Away in a manger (Cradle Song)*

William J. Kirkpatrick (d. 1921), arr. Keith Chapman (d. 1989)

ENTRANCE RITE AND THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Introit (*choir*) *Ex ore infantium*

Tone VII

[*Antiphon*] **O**ut of the mouth of very babes, O God, and of sucklings, hast thou perfected praise: because of thine adversaries. [*Psalm*] O Lord our Governour: how excellent is thy Name in all the world. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. [*Repeat antiphon.*]

Opening Acclamation

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 (*sung by all*)

H. Willan

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



Gloria in excelsis (*sung by all*)

H. Willan

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: (monotoned) And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE remember this day, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by the order of King Herod. Receive, we beseech thee, into the arms of thy mercy all innocent victims; and by thy great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish thy rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 31: 15-17 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the LORD: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the LORD: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the LORD: your children shall come back to their own country.

The Word of the LORD.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.

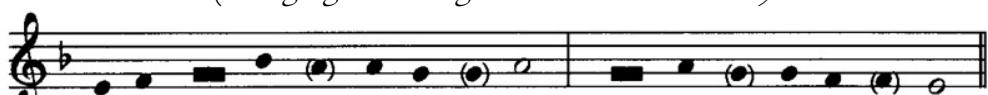


The Gradual: Psalm 124

Nisi quia Dominus

(Congregation sings the italicized verses.)

Tone VII.3



1 IF THE LORD himself had not been on our side, now may | Israel say;
* if the LORD himself had not been on our side, when men rose / up against us;

2 They had / swallow'd ^ us up ^ alive;
* when they were so wrathfully dis- / pleased at us.

3 Yea the | waters ^ had drown'd us,
* and the stream had gone | over our soul.

4 The deep / waters of ^ the proud
* had gone even / over our soul.

5 But | praisèd be ^ the LORD,
* who hath not given us over for a prey | unto their teeth.

6 Our soul is escap'd even as a bird out of the / snare of ^ the fowler;
* the snare is broken and / we are ^ deliver'd.

7 Our help standeth in the | Name of the LORD,
* who hath made / heaven and earth.

The Second Lesson: Revelation 21: 1-7 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Revelation to John.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’ And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

The Word of the Lord.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.



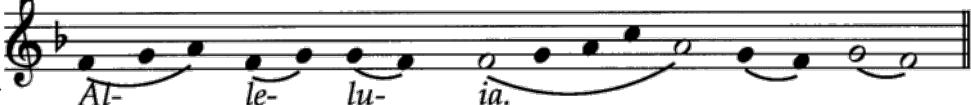
Alleluia *Laudate pueri Dominum*

Tone VI

Cantor: 
Al- le- lu- ia.

People: 
Al- le- lu- ia.

Choir: PRAISE THE LORD, ye children: O praise the Name of the Lord.

People: 
Al- le- lu- ia.

The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 2: 13-18 [RSV]

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

People: ✕ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

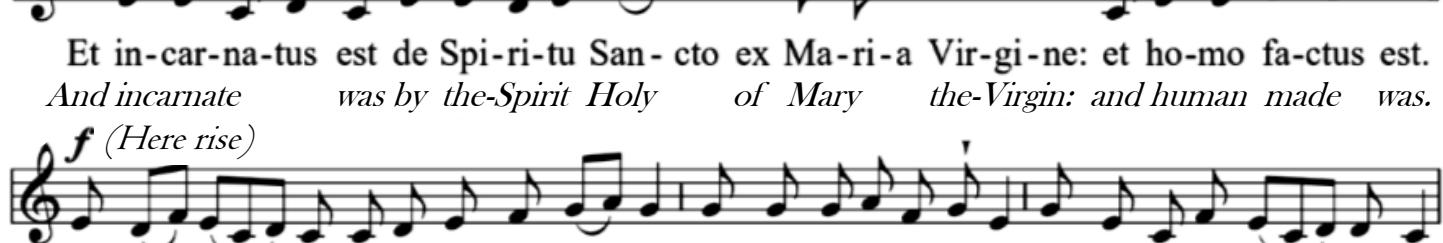
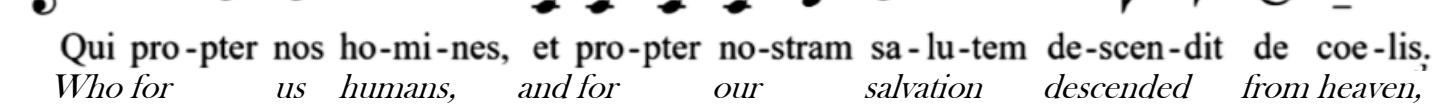
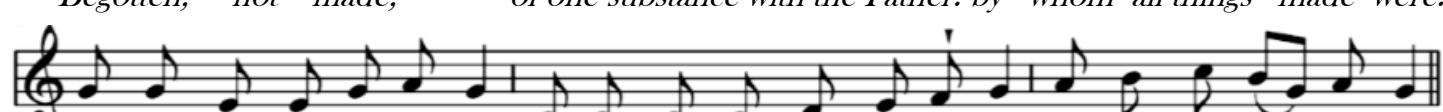
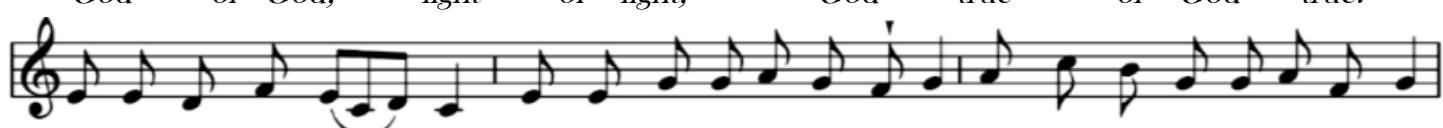
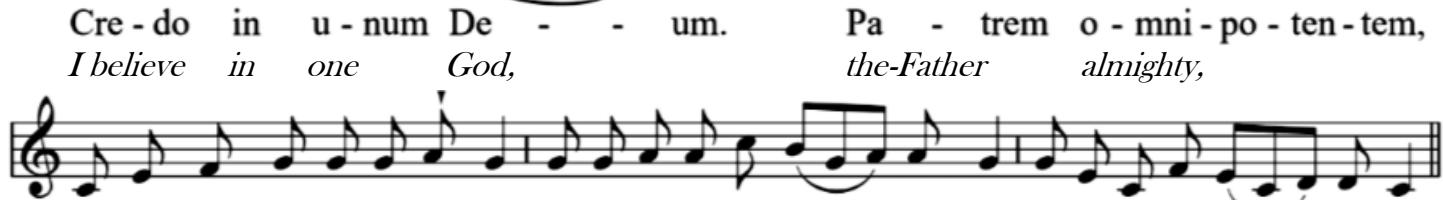
NOW when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.” Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

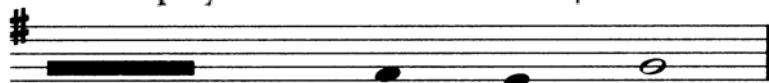
People's Response: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

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

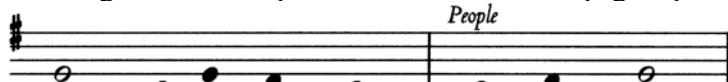
See standard translation on Prayer Book p. 326
All



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



A - men.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Deacon: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, ✕ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Comfortable Words

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

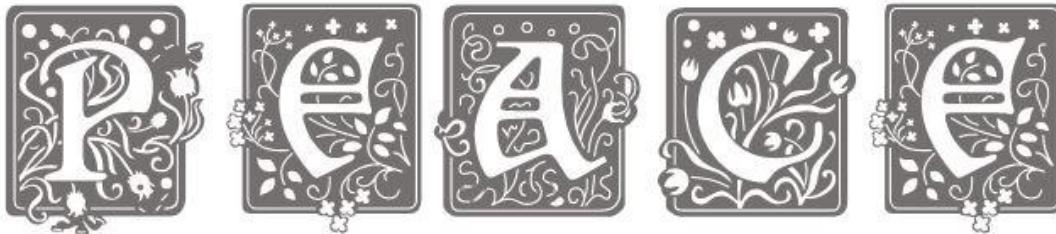
COME UNTO ME, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11: 28*
GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3: 16*

The Peace

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

People: And with thy 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*) *Anima nostra*

Tone II

OUR SOUL IS ESCAPED, even as a bird out of the snare of the fowler: the snare is broken and we are delivered.



Carol (*choir*)

Coventry Carol

English traditional, arr. M. Shaw

LULLY, LULLA, thou little tiny child, By by, lully, lullay.
LO sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day this poor youngling, for whom we do sing, by by, lully lullay?
Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day his men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.
That woe is me, poor child for thee! and ever morn and day, for thy parting neither say nor sing by by, lully lullay!

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.

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.

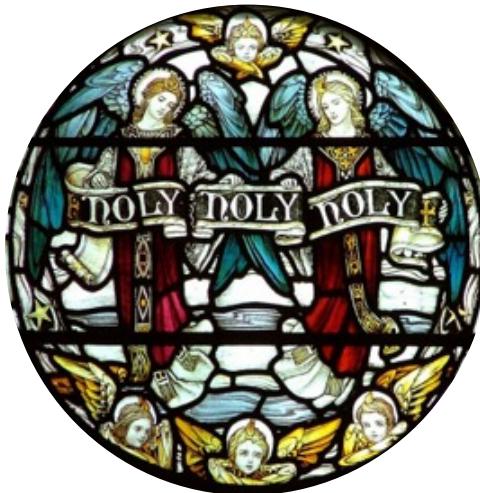
People: It is meet and right so to do.

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 give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



Sanctus and Benedictus (*sung by all*)

H. Willan

Holy, holy, holy,
ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full
of thy glo-ry. Glo-
ry be to
thee, O Lord Most High. Bless-ed
is he that com-eth in the
Name of the Lord. Ho-
san-na in the high-
est.

The Canon of the Mass

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.

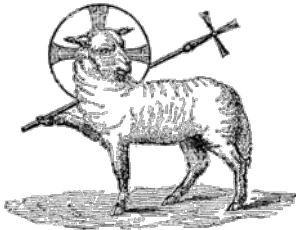
The Fraction

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*)

H. Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta- kest a- way the sins of the world,
have mercy up- on- us. O Lamb of God, that
ta- kest a- way the sins of the world, have mer- cy up-
on- us. O Lamb of God, that ta- kest a-
way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Prayer of Humble Access (*said by all*)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

People: Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

Communion (*choir*) *Vox in Rama*

Tone I

IN RAMA A VOICE was heard, lamentation and great mourning; Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (*said by those worshipping virtually*)

IN UNION, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of Thy Church, where Thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to Thee. And since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from Thee. Let me live and die in Thy love. Amen.

Hymn 246 (*sung by all*)

"In Bethlehem a newborn boy"

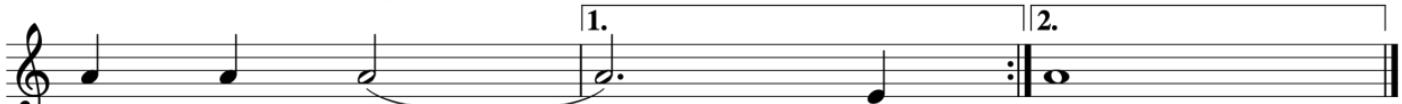
In Bethlehem



1. In Beth - le - hem a new - born boy was hailed with songs of
2. (The) sol - diers sought the child in vain: not yet was he to
3. (Still) rage the fires of hate to - day, and in - no - cents the
4. (Lord) Je - sus, through our night of loss shines out the won - der
5. (May) that great love our lives con - trol and con - quer hate in



praise and joy. Then warn - ing came of dan - ger near: King He - rod's troops would share our pain. But down the a - ges rings the cry of those who saw their price must pay, while ach - ing hearts in ev - ery land cry out "we can - not of your cross, the love that can - not cease to bear our hu - man an - guish ev - ery soul, till, pledged to build and not des - troy, we share your pain and



soon ap - pear.
chil - dren die.
un - der - stand!"
ev - ery - where.
find your joy.

1.
2. The
3. May
4. Lord
5. May

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these Holy Mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical Body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Christmas Blessing

MAY Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, ✕ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

Hymnal S 174

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.

And the Word

(*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 pérvia cœli porta manes, et stella maris, succúrrere 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.

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 (*sung by all*)

"Why, impious Herod, shouldst thou fear"

St. Venantius



1. Why, impious Herod, shouldst thou fear
Because the Christ is come so near?
He who doth heavenly kingdoms grant
Thine earthly realm can never want.
2. Lo, sages from the East are gone
To where the star hath newly shone:
Led on by light to Light they press,
And by their gifts their God confess.
3. The Lamb of God is manifest
Again in Jordan's water bless'd,
And He Who sin had never known
By washing hath our sins undone.
4. Yet He that ruleth everything
Can change the nature of the spring,
And gives at Cana this for sign –
The water reddens into wine.
5. Then glory, Lord, to Thee we pay
For Thine Epiphany to-day;
All glory through eternity
To Father, Son, and Spirit be. Amen.

Wednesday, December 31, 6 p.m.
Grace Church
55 New Park Ave

Watch Night

**A night of congregational singing and prayers
for justice, freedom, and peace**



Community Dinner and (more!) singing to follow

Feel free—but not obligated!—to bring a dish to share

After dinner, caravan to St Monica's for more Watch Night at 10!

Please join us for WATCH NIGHT this New Year's Eve. WATCH NIGHT primarily commemorates when the Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863. We will celebrate with singing, prayers, and a community meal following. We've invited several area churches, and encourage everyone to car pool or caravan from Grace Church to St. Monica's Church, 3575 Main Street, Hartford, for their 10:00 P.M. Watch Night Service.

For more on the history of Watch Night, see this piece from the
National Museum of African American History:

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-watch-night>

GRACE NOTES

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

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; St. Mark's, Bridgeport; St. Mark's, Bridgewater; St. Paul's, Brookfield; soup kitchens, food pantries, Food Ministry Network & all ministries that feed those who are food insecure. *The Anglican Church of Canada.*
- **World & Community Concerns:** For peace throughout the world, especially between Iran, Israel, and Gaza, and in the Middle East; in Nigeria, 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 Catherine Cohn (Wed.), and Charles Fisher (Thu.), whose birthdays we celebrate this week; and Paul Kline & Fr. Max Maxwell, celebrating their 26th wedding anniversary on Tuesday.
- **Sick or in need:** Stephen & Ratana; Peter; Veronica & the Rovetti Family; 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 Eleanor Ruta, Jacquelyn Jarrett, and Linda Howell Hines.

~~~~~  **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 28 *THE FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS***

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

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

**Tuesday, December 30 *Of the Octave***

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

**Wednesday, December 31 *Of the Octave***

6:00 p.m.: **WATCH NIGHT ~**

followed by Pot-Luck Community Dinner/Reception & (optional) carpool/caravan to  
St. Monica's Episcopal Church, 3575 Main Street, Hartford

**Thursday, January 1 *THE MOST HOLY NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST***

11:00 a.m.: Low Mass (*also on YouTube*), followed by brunch

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

**Sunday, January 4 *The Second Sunday after Christmas Day***

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

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

**Tuesday, January 6 *THE EPIPHANY ~***

***THE MANIFESTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST TO THE GENTILES***

6:00 p.m.: **SOLEMN HIGH MASS** (*also on YouTube*), followed by Three Kings celebration



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



**JOIN US FOR THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY**

Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

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