

# *Grace*

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 14, 2025 | 8:00 AM SERVICE

*“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”*  
~ Matthew 11:10

# Welcome to Grace Church

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## WELCOME!

Welcome, we are so glad you are joining us for worship this morning!

## TODAY'S SERVICES AND EVENTS

Rite One Service | 8:00am  
Coffee Hour | 9:00am | Parish House  
Nursery | 9:00am | Nursery  
New Testament Bible Study | 9:15am | Grace Hall  
WonderKids | 9:45am | Sunshine Room  
StoryMakers | 9:45am | Wonder Room  
Connect | 9:45am | Grace Hall  
Rite Two Service | 10:00am  
Coffee Hour | 11:15am | Parish House

## WHO ARE WE?

In our reverent worship space, we warmly welcome people who are at all stages of faith, from those who are curious to explore the big questions of life, faith and meaning, to those who are growing and maturing in their faith. Our sermons convey the truth of the gospel and offer practical applications to everyday life. Our desire is to grow in knowledge and love of God, and infuse His grace and truth into everything we do. Grace Episcopal Church is traditional and liturgical, and we care for our visitors by clearly explaining the heart and history behind our form of worship. We have found a family here, and we want this church to feel like a family for you, too.

## OUR BELIEF & PRACTICES

The Episcopal Church has been called the “bridge church,” for we are Protestants who also honor our traditional Catholic heritage as well as contemporary worship. In addition to the Bible, our worship is led by the Book of Common Prayer, which has formed our historical thought and practice in its several editions since 1549. We are deeply sacramental, believing in the Baptism of children and that the Holy Eucharist (Communion) is the central act of worship. All baptized Christians may receive communion.

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Rite One Service: Traditional Service without music at 8:00 am Sunday mornings  
Rite Two Service: Contemporary Service with music at 10:00 am Sunday mornings. Nursery is open.  
Midweek Service: Healing and Prayer Service at 12:05 pm on Wednesdays

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Your children are very welcome here! If you have babies or children, we have a nursery across the street in the Church Office building for children ages 0-3 years. We offer our WonderKids program for children ages 4-6 where we use the Jesus Storybook Bible curriculum. Our Story Makers classroom is for ages 7-9. And we also offer Connect Youth for ages 10-13.

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# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light:

**People**

*On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*

Celebrant

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;

**People**

*They rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest.*

Celebrant

Christ himself has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, shattering the yoke of sin that burdened us.

**People**

*He restores to us the joy of salvation and grant us willing spirits. By his stripes our weary souls are healed.*

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you give strength to the weary and pronounce blessings on those who mourn. You have sent us a Savior. You have made us your people. Fill our hearts with joy that flows from the forgiveness of our sins, joy powered by the resurrection of our living Savior, that we may shine like the stars of the heavens, bringing glory to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE PROCESSION

*Please stand*

Celebrant

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People**

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

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### ADVENT WREATH

*The lighting of the Advent Wreath is a tradition rich in symbolism. Most importantly, it reminds us of the Light of Christ: "...in him was life, and the life was the light of all people." (John 1:4)*

### PROCESSION

*We start our services with a procession of ministers and servers who have chosen to serve God and his people in their act of corporate worship. The procession is led by the cross, reminding those serving and those worshiping that our lives have been set apart by the sacrifice of Christ, on our behalf, for the glory of God.*

### THE WORD OF GOD

*You are invited to voluntarily make the sign of the cross on your body - to cross yourself - as a means to tell God again, and remind yourself, that you belong to him. You can do this at any time it seems meaningful to you. Often we sign ourselves when the names of the Trinity are used, in reference to the resurrection of the dead, and when saying "blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### THE KYRIE ELEISON

Celebrant

Lord have mercy upon us.

**People**

***Christ have mercy upon us.***

Celebrant

Lord have mercy upon us.

### THE GLORIA

***Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace,  
good will towards men.***

***We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee,  
we glorify thee,***

***we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,***

***O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.***

***O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;***

***O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,***

***that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.***

***Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.***

***Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.***

***For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;***

***thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,***

***art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

**People**

***And with thy spirit.***

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us;

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

*This prayer is a moment to catch the theme of the service today. If you grasp it, your participation in worship will be enhanced, and you'll see God connecting the pieces of the gospel with your life.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

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.**

*Please be seated*

## THE FIRST READING

## ISAIAH 35:1-10

Reader

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.

## THE FIRST READING

*The First Reading is always an Old Testament passage. The OT forms a foundation for the New Testament and gives us many examples how God has led his people, displaying his essence and character.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

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.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

**People**

***Thanks be to God.***

## THE PSALM

## PSALM 146:4-9

### THE PSALM

*We read a psalm responsively each service as an expression of our emotions before the Lord. The Psalms contain all of our common emotions that derive from our day to day experiences. Read it recognizing that being honest before God, and each other, has great godly benefit.*

Reader

The Psalm for today is from Psalm 146, which we will read responsively at the half verse:

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
***whose hope is in the LORD their God;***

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
***who keeps his promise for ever;***

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
***and food to those who hunger.***

The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
***the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;***

The LORD loves the righteous;  
the LORD cares for the stranger; \*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

*he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.*

The LORD shall reign for ever, \*  
*your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!*

Reader

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**People**

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

## THE SECOND READING

## JAMES 5:7-10

Reader

Be patient, therefore, 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.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

**People**

*Thanks be to God.*

*Please stand*

## THE GOSPEL

## MATTHEW 11:2-11

Deacon

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

**People**

*Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

Deacon

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### GOSPEL READING

*Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, who made his dwelling among us. Reading his spoken words from the center of the congregation proclaims that grace and truth come through Jesus Christ.*

*When we make a little cross on our head, mouth and chest we are reminding ourselves that Jesus' gospel reforms our thinking, cleanses our speech and conforms our hearts to his truth and love.*

### THE SERMON

*God's Word is living and active, and cuts to the heart. That's why we read it, proclaim it, listen to it, meditate upon it, and take the time to make it understood.*

### THE NICENE CREED

*If you are looking to unite around one set of beliefs for the Christian life, this would be it. It is broad enough to capture the essentials of our faith and narrow enough to be a definitive statement of biblical truth.*

and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Deacon

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People**

***Praise to thee, O Christ.***

## SERMON

**FR. FRANS VAN SANTEN**

## THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant

Let us stand together and affirm our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed:

***I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;***

***And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin***



# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

*Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

*Please kneel as able*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reader

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

*The reader leads the people in a series of prayers to which the people respond.*

Reader

Lord, in thy mercy

**People**

*Hear our prayer.*

Reader

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

**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,*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*We pray these established prayers to ensure that we cover important aspects of our lives and the world with corporate prayer. Listen to each prayer carefully, saying the words silently, so that your spoken Amen will ring true in your heart and be added to the prayers of the saints.*

## CONFESSION

*We recognize our sins before God as a church body, recognizing our humanity and our weekly, daily, momentary need for the Lord and the cleansing blood of Christ. You will notice after some months of confession and absolution that you start to feel clean throughout the week, as if you've been washed and renewed. The 16th-century reformers thought the proper way to approach God was via confession.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### ABSOLUTION

Having heard the Word of God proclaimed, which has led us to confess our sins, it is now time to receive some assurance that God has forgiven the sins of those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ. It is Christ's power that forgives, embodied by the pronouncement of the priest, that makes tangible the truth that God has removed the barrier between him and us.

### THE PEACE

Exchanging the peace is an ancient custom of God's people. We do it after Confession and Absolution which means we can give the same forgiveness to others that we have received from God. A demonstration that we have renewed relationships in Christ, it also prepares us to together receive Communion as the Body of Christ.

### OFFERTORY

What will you give to God?  
The money he gave to you?  
The time he has allotted for you today? The abilities with which you were born? Your next breath? Combine your offering with those around you, and see what God can do with and through our church.



*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.**

### Celebrant

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

## THE PEACE

### Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

### People

*And with thy spirit.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE OFFERTORY

*The people are invited to offer their gifts to God.*

### Celebrant

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

*Please stand*

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

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## LITURGICAL GUIDE

Celebrant

All things come of thee, O Lord.

**People**

*Of thine own have we given thee.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.*

Celebrant

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.

*The Celebrant offers a Preface, and concludes saying,*

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

**Celebrant and People**

*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.*

*Please kneel as able*

Celebrant

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

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

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## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### COMMUNION

*By taking Communion we obey the Lord's words to his disciples to remember his goodness to us and to proclaim that he is coming again. Jesus turns a simple earthy action - eating bread and drinking wine - into a magnificent celebration for his people. In Communion, Jesus is with us, and we are with each other. Sounds like a party!*

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.

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

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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. **Amen.**

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever, Amen.***

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People**

***Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!***

Celebrant

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

**People**

***Have mercy upon us.***

Celebrant

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

**People**

***Have mercy upon us.***

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*When you pray this prayer, the one Jesus taught his disciples, and that all Christians everywhere pray, reflect on the words, recognizing you are actually talking to your Heavenly Father. Pray it afresh, as if for the first time.*

## PRAYER TEAM

*Praying with a friend or minister during Communion is a powerful way to experience the presence of Christ. Our clergy and prayer warriors invite you to ask for a breakthrough in your life. The Lord awaits the requests and prayers of his people.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### EUCHARIST INSTRUCTIONS

*Please follow these instructions when you go up to receive communion:*

1. The ushers will dismiss each row, one at a time.
2. Walk up the center aisle.
3. When it is your turn to receive the Eucharist, kneel down or stand at the altar rail and extend your hands together, palm up. The priest will place a wafer into your hand.
4. The Chalice Minister will then come to you. You have two options; (1) drink from the chalice or (2) have your wafer intincted with wine. If you choose option 2, leave your wafer in hand so that Chalice Minister can place it back in the palm of your hand to consume. You may consume at the rail.
5. Return to your seat by the side aisle closest to you.

*If you cannot come to the rail to receive notify an usher to have communion brought to you in the pew.*

Celebrant

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

**People**

*Grant us thy peace.*

## THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

**People**

*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.*

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.

## THE SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING COMMUNION

*Be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*

## THE SILENT PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNION

*O Lord Jesus Christ, who in a wonderful Sacrament has left us a memorial of your passion: Grant us, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of your redemption; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

*Please kneel as able*

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant

Let us pray.

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

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## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### 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 BLESSING

### Celebrant

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and The blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

### Deacon

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

### People

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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## ALTAR FLOWERS

The advent greens on the altar today are given to the glory of God by  
The Altar Guild in loving memory of Sadie and Jim Matthews.

### THE BLESSING

*When you bless someone, you give them life-changing words. The priestly blessing will impact your day with heaven's power. Be sure to receive it with an open heart.*

### THE DISMISSAL

*As if we haven't gotten the message yet from the rest of the service, the Deacon urges us to take our love for God and each other into the rest of the world. This can only happen if we walk through the red doors in the power of the Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord.*

Christmas Eve  
Poinsettias and  
Wreaths!



It is time to order Christmas Poinsettias and Wreaths. If you would like to sponsor these decorations, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate, or bring or send it to the Church Office by December 21. Please include payment. The poinsettias and wreaths are \$20 each.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you wish it to appear in the bulletin – ie: Mr. and Mrs. John Doe, John and Jane Doe, the Doe Family, etc.)

Number of Poinsettias / Wreaths: \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 each  
Total Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check out to Grace Episcopal Church and note “Poinsettias / Wreaths” on the memo line.

Message (E.g., “In memory of...”, “In honor of:...”) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

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## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, 2025

6:00PM - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
WITHOUT INCENSE (NURSERY PROVIDED)

10:00PM - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH INCENSE

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025

10:00 AM - MORNING PRAYER - IN PERSON ONLY  
LED BY DEACON SUSAN MOOREHEAD

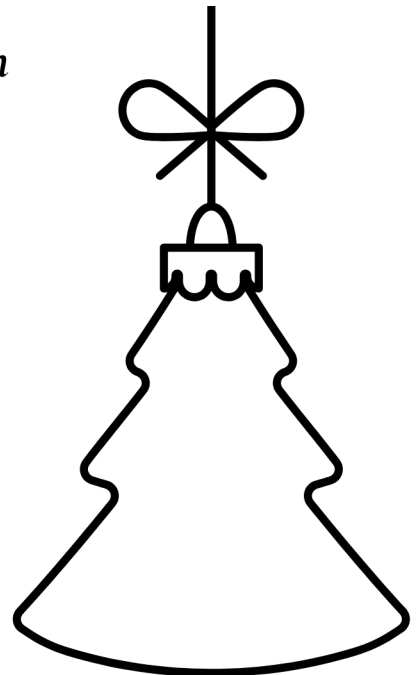


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## *Teen Group Homes Christmas Collection*

Grace Church has collected money for many years during the holiday season so the girls and boys at the Arnette House group homes are able to enjoy outings and activities during the Christmas break. Without our help they would not be able to do things like go to the movies , out to lunch or for ice cream, SkyZone, painting, and many other activities, they would not normally be able to do!

Please mark envelopes with cash or checks "Group Home Project." These can be put in the collection basket at church or dropped off at the office. The deadline is December 14th.



(Color me & cut out)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

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## COMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 24 Christmas Eve
  - No Midweek Service
  - 6:00pm Service
  - 10:00pm Service
- 25 Christmas Day
  - 10:00am Morning Prayer
  - Church Office Closed
- 28 Coffee Hour
- 29 Church Office Closed
- 30 Church Office Closed
- 31 Church Office Closed
  - No Midweek Service

### JANUARY

- 1 New Years - Office Closed
- 4 Coffee Hour+
- 11 Baptisms
  - Coffee Hour
- 18 Annual Meeting
- 21 Open Table
- 22 Vestry Meeting
- 25 Coffee Hour
- 28 Open Table

### CHILDREN'S

### MINISTRY 12/21/25

Nursery:  
Alizon Morales & Sharon  
Romano

All Classes will be together  
in Grace Hall with Catie  
Hourigan, Mollie Miranda, Nina  
Johnston, Anissa Cunjie

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### Next Week's Bible Readings

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

## COOKBOOK REPAIR

Anyone who has picked up one of our cookbooks, has probably noticed that the binding was not closed all the way, resulting in pages falling out. How frustrating! We are pleased to announce that there are two fixes. The first is to take pliers and crimp the binding shut on your own. OR, if you would like to bring your book to the office, Peggy will send it back to Staples and they will fix it. If you are interested in having Staples repair the book, please bring it to the office no later than December 21st. While Staples is providing overnight shipping, we are not certain when the books will be returned. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

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## REALM

Did you know that you can access our on-line directory on your phone using the RealmConnect app OR by simply logging into the Realm website? Click the QR code for quick access to the website and don't forget to add it to your favorites!

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Peggy at [peggy@graceocala.org](mailto:peggy@graceocala.org).



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## END OF YEAR GIVING

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 will be the last day to give to Grace Episcopal Church for the 2025 giving year. Donations may be dropped in the mail slot of the office door or dropped in the mail with a post mark on or before December 31, 2025.

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## 2026 GIVING ENVELOPES

If you signed up to receive 2026 giving envelopes they will be available for pick up in the back of the church starting on Sunday, December 21. If you would still like to order envelopes please contact the church office at (352) 622-7881 or email Sami at [samantha@graceocala.org](mailto:samantha@graceocala.org)



Facebook  
Grace Episcopal Church Ocala  
Group Page: People of Grace



Instagram  
[grace\\_church\\_ocala](https://www.instagram.com/grace_church_ocala)



YouTube  
Grace Episcopal Church Ocala



[www.graceocala.org](http://www.graceocala.org)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

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## IN THE COMING WEEK

**Sunday, December 14 - Office Closed**

8:00am: Rite One Service, Church, Livestream  
9:00am: Coffee Hour, Parish House  
9:00am: Nursery (0-3), Nursery  
9:15am: Josh's Bible Study, Grace Hall  
9:45am: Wonder Kids (4-6), Sunshine Room  
9:45am: StoryMakers (7-9), Wonder Room  
9:45am: Connect (10-13), Grace Hall  
10:00am: Rite Two Service, Church, Livestream  
11:00am: Coffee Hour, Parish House

**Monday, December 15**

12:00 Noon: Bulletin Deadline

**Tuesday, December 16**

12:00pm: Fr. Frans Bible Study, Zoom

**Wednesday, December 17**

12:05pm: Midweek Service, Church

**Thursday, December 18**

**Friday, December 19 - Office Closed**

**Saturday, December 20 - Office Closed**

9:00am: Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

**Sunday, December 21 - Office Closed**

8:00am: Rite One Service, Church, Livestream  
9:00am: Coffee Hour, Parish House  
9:00am: Nursery (0-3), Nursery  
9:15am: Josh's Bible Study, Grace Hall  
9:45am: Wonder Kids (4-6), Sunshine Room  
9:45am: StoryMakers (7-9), Wonder Room  
9:45am: Connect (10-13), Grace Hall  
10:00am: Rite Two Service, Church, Livestream  
11:00am: Coffee Hour, Parish House  
12:00pm: Children's Christmas Pageant, Church

## BIRTHDAYS

### DECEMBER

7	Pae Barberie Evan Allison
8	Roberth McGhee
9	Ryan Ashley
10	Collin Turner
12	Nate Penuel Sami Burns
15	Sandra Manning
16	Aubrey Pryor Linda Meahl
18	James Perdue
19	John Crawford

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If you would like to make a prayer request for either the weekly prayer list or the DOK private prayer list please email Deacon Susan at [prayers@graceocala.org](mailto:prayers@graceocala.org). And include which list you are requesting.

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If you would like to meet with Fr. Frans please contact Catie Hourigan at 352-622-7881 or [catie@graceocala.org](mailto:catie@graceocala.org)

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If you would like to meet or talk to our Children's Minister, Catie Hourigan, you can contact the church office at 352-622-7881; or by email at [catie@graceocala.org](mailto:catie@graceocala.org)

## **- Grace Church Leadership -**

### **HEAD**

Jesus Christ

### **BISHOP**

The Right Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb

### **WORSHIP TEAM**

The Rev. Frans van Santen: Rector

The Rev. Josh Reed: Associate Rector

The Rev. Carlos Cabrera: Deacon

The Rev. Susan Moorehead: Deacon

Adam Pryor: Worship Coordinator

Catie Hourigan: Children's Ministry Coordinator

### **VESTRY**

Greg Harrell - Senior Warden   Michael Owen - Junior Warden   Sanjit Nirmalanandhan - Treasurer  
Cheryl Arnold   Michael Ashley   Stephen Ayres   Todd Craig   Kristin Dean  
Lise Kent   Amy Robertson

### **TODAY'S SERVERS**

**Advent Wreath Lighters:** Tammy Flanagan

**Usher:** Cookie Zeuch

**Reader:** Elizabeth Grant

**Chalice Minister:** James Perdue

**Prayer Team:** Jackie Alsobrook

**Altar Guild:** Pae Barberie, Tammy Flanagan, Marilyn Corsiglia, Lynn Nobles, Amy Robertson

**Flower Guild:** Carolyn Ayres, Lynda Peek, Lynn Nobles, Heather Hetzel,  
Molly Hetzel, Erin van Santen, Estella van Santen

**VPOD:** Todd Craig

### **Weekly Services on Our Campus**

**Sunday 8:00am—Rite I**

**Sunday 10:00am—Rite II with music**

**Wednesday 12:05pm—Midweek at Grace**

**Grace Episcopal Church: 503 SE Broadway St, Ocala, Florida**

**Church Office (mailing address): 510 SE Broadway St, Ocala FL 34471**

**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 3:30pm, Closed on Friday**

**Office Phone: (352) 622-7881**

**[graceocala.org](http://graceocala.org), [info@graceocala.org](mailto:info@graceocala.org)**