

Grace

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 8:00 AM SERVICE

*“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”*
~ Matthew 3:3

Welcome to Grace Church

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.

*Scripture passages and quotations are from The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.
All music printed under Grace Episcopal Church's CCLI License No. 1961910*

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.

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to

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

preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE FIRST READING

ISAIAH 11:1-10

Reader

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw
like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;

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

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

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 72, which we will read responsively at the half verse:

Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

Blessed be the LORD GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

LITURGICAL GUIDE

And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

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

ROMANS 15:4-13

Reader

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;

in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3:1-12

Deacon

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

People

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Deacon

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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 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

LITURGICAL GUIDE

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

LITURGICAL GUIDE

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.

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 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, 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

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

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

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.

LITURGICAL GUIDE

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.



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

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!

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 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

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

LITURGICAL GUIDE

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.

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.

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,

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

*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.

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.

LITURGICAL GUIDE

EUCCHARIST 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.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

LITURGICAL GUIDE

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.

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!

ALTAR FLOWERS

The advent greens on the altar today are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Kim Melvin by her family: Chris, Lindsay, and Jaymes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, DECEMBER 21, 2025, 12:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, 2025

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

10:00PM - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH INCENSE

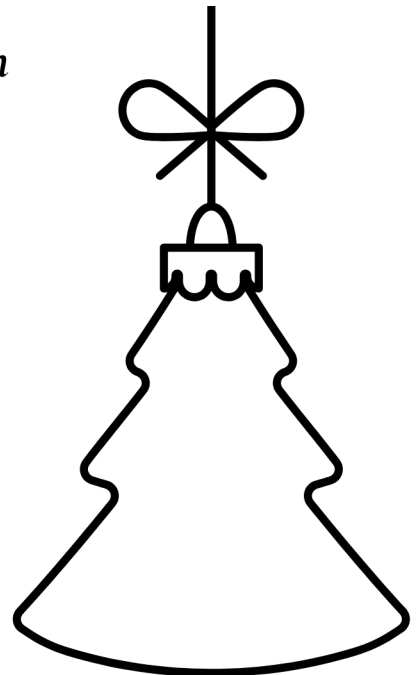
CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025

10:00AM - MORNING PRAYER- ONLINE ONLY

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

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 20 Children's Pageant Rehearsal
- 21 Coffee Hour
 - 12:00pm Children's Christmas Pageant
- 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 12/14/25

Nursery:
Alizon Morales & Sharon Romano

WonderKids:
Mollie Miranda & Nina Johnston

Storymakers:
Tina Phillips & Erin van Santen

Connect:
Catie Hourigan & Josh Reed

Next Week's Bible Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:4-9
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

ECW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - DECEMBER 13!

All ladies of Grace: Please join us on Saturday, December 13, for the annual ECW Christmas luncheon. We will gather in the Parish House at noon to celebrate the season in our festive red and green apparel. Lunch will be covered dish, with ham provided. Please bring your favorite vegetable, salad or dessert to share. Invite another Grace lady to join you or bring a special friend to share our fellowship.

Everyone is asked to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament for our fun gift exchange. Please limit the cost to \$10 or less. Better yet, bring something hand-crafted or make your own. Feel free to re-gift, find something at a thrift shop or pass along a pre-loved treasure. Please include a Christmas wish for the recipient (it's anonymous).

We will be presenting checks to Interfaith Emergency Services and The Ocala Farm Ministry from the monies we raised at the Bazaar. Please come to meet and help honor the representatives from these wonderful organizations.

You are asked to RSVP to Carolyn Ayres at 352-286-8536 or mcdayres@gmail.com so that we will know how many to plan for. We look forward to seeing lots of merry faces as this special celebration!

COOKBOOKS ARE HERE!

If you pre-ordered a copy of the Let's Say Grace cookbook, you may pick it up during Coffee Hour with Peggy Bourne. Didn't pre-order? No problem—additional copies are available for purchase at Coffee Hour as well!



Facebook
Grace Episcopal Church Ocala
Group Page: People of Grace



Instagram
grace_church_ocala



YouTube
Grace Episcopal Church Ocala



www.graceocala.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

IN THE COMING WEEK

Sunday, December 7 - 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: DOK Meeting, Grace Hall

Monday, December 8

12:00 Noon: Bulletin Deadline

Tuesday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 10

12:05pm: Midweek Service, Church

Thursday, December 11 - Office Closed

Friday, December 12 - Office Closed

Saturday, December 13 - Office Closed

12:00pm: ECW Christmas Luncheon, Parish House

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

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

30 Moses van Santen
Jackie Wright

DECEMBER

1 Will Whitehouse
2 Leigh Manning
3 Ron McCreary
4 John Sullivan
Milda Kolesar
5 Sharon Guenther
6 Larry Davis
7 Pae Barberie
Evan Allison
8 Roberth McGhee
9 Ryan Ashley
10 Collin Turner
12 Nate Penuel
Sami Burns

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. And include which list you are requesting.

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

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

- 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: Elizabeth Grant

Usher: Elizabeth Grant

Reader: Wade White

Chalice Minister: Leslie Jones

Prayer Team: Deacon Susan Moorehead

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: Kristin Dean

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, info@graceocala.org