

Grace

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS | DECEMBER 29, 2024 | 10:00 AM SERVICE

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it."
~ John 1:5

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

Rite Two Service | 10:00am

Coffee Hour | 11:00pm | 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 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

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

Please stand

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

HYMN 87

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King!

Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
Light and life to all he brings,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King!

LITURGICAL GUIDE

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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

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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."

COLLECT OF PURITY

We start almost every Episcopal service with this prayer. It is succinct and powerful as it explores the depths of our hearts and our need before God. What better way to start a worship service than to tell God we are here for him, every aspect of our being, and want to become more like him because of our worship.

Celebrant

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

People

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

COLLECT OF PURITY

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

GLORIA

S280

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father, Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

Reader

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

LITURGICAL GUIDE

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 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

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Reader
The Word of the Lord.

People
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

PSALM 147

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 Psalm 147 which we will read responsively at the half verse:

Hallelujah!
***How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!***

The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

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He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

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THE SECOND READING

GALATIANS 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Reader

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GRADUAL HYMN

THE SNOW LAY ON THE GROUND

HYMN 110

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
When Christ the Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite, adoremus Dominum,
Venite, adoremus Dominum.

Refrain:

Venite, adoremus Dominum,
Venite, adoremus Dominum.

‘Twas Mary, Virgin pure of holy Anne,
That brought into this world the God made man.
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;
The ass and oxen shared the roof with them.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Refrain

Saint Joseph, too was near to tend the child,
To guard him, and protect his mother mild:
The angels hover'd round, and sang this song:
Venite, adoremus Dominum.

Refrain

And thus that manger poor became a throne;
For he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heav'nly host,
To praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Refrain

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 1:1-18

Deacon

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Deacon

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who

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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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

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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.

were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Deacon

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

FR. BRIAN STANKICH

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant

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

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

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We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please kneel or be seated as able

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reader

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Reader

For all the people in their daily life and work;

People

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Reader

For all schools, colleges, and universities and especially those in Marion County.

People

For those who teach and those who learn.

Reader

For this community, the nation, and the world;

People

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Reader

For the just and proper use of your creation;

People

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Reader

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

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.

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Reader

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Reader

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; and Justin, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

People

For all who serve God in his Church.

Reader

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation;
And for all those we name from our hearts.

You may add your own petitions

Reader

Hear us, Lord;

People

For your mercy is great.

Reader

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

You may add your own thanksgivings

Reader

We will exalt you, O God, our King;

People

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Reader

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

You may add your own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People

Who put their trust in you.

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

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

Please be seated

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

Celebrant

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

GESU BAMBINO

BY PIETRO YON
JAMILLE BREWSTER, SOPRANO

Please Stand

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.



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

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THE DOXOLOGY

HYMN 380, VERSE 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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!

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts.

People

We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The celebrant offers a preface and concludes saying...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

S130

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

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Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel as able

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

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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.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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.

Celebrant

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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.

CORPORATE SONGS DURING COMMUNION

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

HYMN 115

**What child is this,
who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angles sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear: for sinners hear
the silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

LO HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a flow'r at bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us,
And share our every load.

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.*

HYMN 81

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate
Jesus Christ.

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But His mother only,
In her maiden bliss
Worshiped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

Please kneel as able

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

People

*Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

THE BLESSING

Celebrant

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

Please stand

RECESSIONAL

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS REJOICE

HYMN 107

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

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 LITURGY OF THE TABLE

LITURGICAL GUIDE

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.

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon

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

People

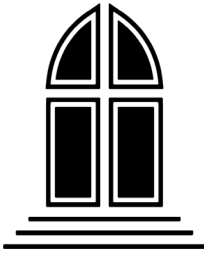
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by David and Mary Baines in thanksgiving for and celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

PERSONAL NOTES

VISITOR INFORMATION CARD



Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church *Visitor Information Card*

Please fill out this card and place in the offering plate or mail it back to us. We look forward to getting to know you.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How did you hear about Grace Church (Check all that apply)

____ Friend/Family ____ Internet Search ____ Social Media

Other: _____

Your age group: (please circle) 18-34 35-59 60-up

____ First time visitor

Have ____ children school age
or younger (please circle)

____ New in community

Ages: 0-3 K-3 4-8 9-12

____ Would like clergy to call

Would you like to be signed-up for our Grace To You

Weekly Newsletter? ____ Yes ____ No

How may we contact you? ____ Phone ____ Text ____ Email



EXPLORE LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS

JAN 15 - MAR 26

WHAT IS ALPHA?

Alpha offers everyone the opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal environment.

- What is my purpose?
- What happens when I die?
- Why is there suffering?

Alpha is your chance to ask and explore these questions and challenges of life. Each session includes a short video that makes you think and small group discussions to help you have conversations with others that explore life's biggest questions in a safe and respectful way.

Try Alpha, what do you have to lose?

Dates: JAN 15 - MAR 26

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Address: Parish House, 505 SE
Broadway Street Ocala, FL 34471

Website: <https://www.alphaocala.org>

Scan the QR Code to
register now for both our
Alpha & Youth Alpha
Series!



2025 Altar Flowers



If you would like to place flowers on the altar during the coming year please scan the QR Code to fill the form out online. Weekly arrangements are made by the Flower Guild at a cost of \$65. You may send your check with "altar flowers" written on the memo line into the church office.

We have no control over events that arise during the year causing another donor to request your same date. If this happens you will be contacted and arrangements will be made to share the date or find an alternate date acceptable for both donors. We always appreciate donors willing to take any open date where flowers are needed.

This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones, celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions, or just give thanks and praise God.

No flowers are placed on the altar during Lent (March 9 - April 6), and only greens are used during Advent (November 30 - December 21)

If you have questions or need additional information please call Carolyn Ayres at, mcdayres@gmail.com or (352) 286-8526 (cell)

OASIS

Grace Episcopal
Ocala, FL



If you would like to learn more about
OASIS, please email
GraceOcalaOasis@gmail.com and
someone will contact you.

NEXT SERVICE EVENT:

Not For Profit Prayer Breakfast

January 8, 2025

8 am to noon

Parish Hall

Please Bring: Your favorite breakfast casserole to share. If you choose to be reimbursed for the supplies, please bring your receipt.

RSVP: Catie at 352-6222-7881 by January 6, 2025

NEXT SOCIAL EVENT:

Soup-n-More Luncheon

January 16, 2025

11:30 – 1:30 pm

Parish Hall

Please Bring: Soup OR Salad OR Dessert to share

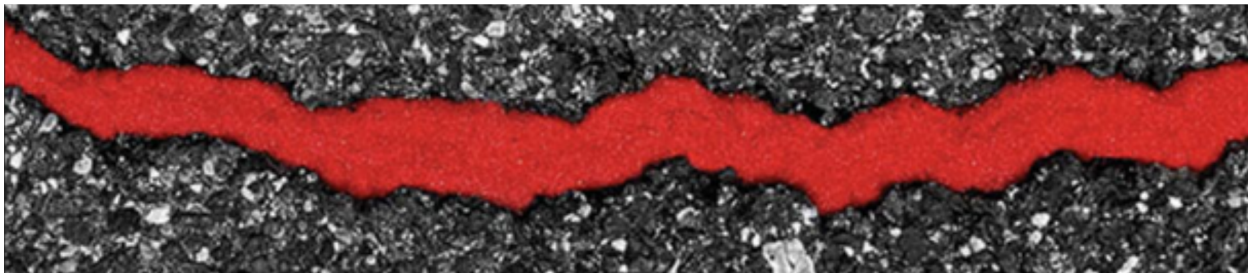
RSVP: Catie at 352-6222-7881 by January 15, 2025

Older Adults Still In Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS



PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF WINE, CHEESE AND TESTIMONIES!



Red Sand Project

**JANUARY 12, 2024 | GRACE CHURCH
AFTER 8AM AND 10AM SERVICES**

The Red Sand Project is a participatory art project bringing people together to raise awareness about human trafficking. Together we will fill the seams in the sidewalks around the church in recognition of the millions - some estimates say 40 million - of men, women and children who are trapped in modern day slavery. These enslaved people often fall through the cracks of our social networks and community services. Together we can end modern day slavery. Everyone can be part of the solution.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

6 Epiphany
8 Non-Profits Prayer Breakfast
9 ECW Meeting
11 Sip & Share Event
12 Baptism
13 Women's Bible Study
15 Alpha Starts
16 OASIS Lunch Meeting
19 Annual Meeting
24-25 Diocesan Convention
26 New Vestry Members
Installation

Next Week's Bible Readings

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 84:1-8
Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a
Matthew 2:1-12

JANUARY ECW GATHERING

Episcopal Women will be gathering for lunch on Thursday, January 9th at 11:30 in the Parish House. Lunch will be covered dish, so please bring something to share. In recognition of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Deacon Mary will be talking about the work to end human trafficking and other forms of violence against the vulnerable; and how all of us can help. Remember, all women of Grace are ECW members so please invite a friend and join us for yummy food, good fellowship and a very informative program.

OASIS MEETING

OASIS (Older Adults Still In Service) is hosting a Soup & more luncheon, for seniors on January 16th, 11:30-1:30 In the Parish Hall.

This is an opportunity to bring your favorite soup, or perhaps you'd prefer to contribute a favorite salad or dessert to share.

Please, spread the word and invite other seniors (friends or acquaintances), who may be interested in joining our OASIS group. RSVP by calling Catie in the church office (352) 622-788 by Wednesday January 15th.

CHURCH HOLIDAY HOURS

The Grace Church Office will be closed for the Christmas holiday from Tuesday, December 24 through Sunday, December 29. **We will have Christmas Day Morning Prayer online via Facebook live.**

For New Year's:

- The office will be open by appointment only on Monday, December 30 until 3:30pm and Tuesday, December 31 until 12:00pm.
- We will be closed on New Year's Day (Wednesday, January 1).
- **There will be no Midweek Service on Wednesday, January 1.**
- The office will be open by appointment only on Thursday, January 2.

Regular business hours will resume on Monday, January 6.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

IN THE COMING WEEK

Sunday, December 29 - Office Closed

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

Monday, December 30 - Office Open by Appointment Only

12:00 Noon: Bulletin Deadline

Tuesday, December 31 - New Year's Eve - Office Closed at 12:00pm

Wednesday, January 1 - New Years Day - Office Closed

Thursday, January 2 - Office Open by Appointment Only

Friday, January 3 - Office Closed

Saturday, January 4 - Office Closed

Sunday, January 5 - Office Closed

8:00am: Rite One Service, Church, Livestream
9:00am: Coffee Hour, Parish House
9:00am: Nursery (0-3), Nursery
9:15am: New Testament 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

DECEMBER

23 Diane Harris
24 Holly Wright
Gloria Cullins
26 Bill Recio
Liam Sanchez
27 Cayler Burns
30 Bethany Crawford
31 Mike Dean
Joan Mathis

JANUARY

2 Janie Rubin
Catie Hourigan
Judy Feldman
Robin Grega

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 or Fr. Brian 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



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

- Grace Church Leadership -

HEAD

Jesus Christ

BISHOP

The Right Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb

WORSHIP TEAM

The Rev. Frans van Santen: Priest-In-Charge

The Rev. Brian Stankich: Associate Rector

The Rev. Mary Delancey: Deacon

The Rev. Susan Moorehead: Deacon

Josh Reed: Director of Ministry

Adam Pryor: Worship Coordinator

Catie Hourigan: Children's Ministry Coordinator

Dave Rubin: Verger

VESTRY

Greg Harrell - Senior Warden Michael Owen - Junior Warden Wayne Taylor - Treasurer

Carman Smith Michael Ashley Lise Kent Amy Robertson Sanjit Nirmalanandhan

Leslie Jones Stephen Ayres

MUSICIANS

Adam Pryor Sharon Mai Jessica Mongerio Jason Bartosic

Cheryl Arnold Audrey Flechas David Freudenburg Jamille Brewster

SERVERS

Ushers: Wayne & Diane Taylor

Reader, First Reading/Psalm: Tyrus Clutter

Reader, Second Reading/PoP: Russ McCann

Acolytes: Gail van Deusen, Barbarajean Garcia, Deb Robinson

Chalice Minister: James Perdue

Prayer Team: Michelle Curry

Altar Guild: Lise Kent, Lynda Peek, Jeannie Piotrowski, James Perdue

Flower Guild: Carolyn Ayres, Lynda Peek, Lynn Nobles, Heather Hetzel, Molly Hetzel

VPOD: Wayne Taylor

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

Pastoral Care Emergency Line: (352) 369-5780

graceocala.org, info@graceocala.org