



Grace Episcopal Church

First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2024

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Chorale Prelude on "Wachet auf"*

J.S. Bach

At the tolling of the tower bell, the congregation is asked to stand.

THE ACCLAMATION

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: *Sleepers Wake!*

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COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

All **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart.

CCLI #2605153

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

211

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 33: 14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift / **up my soul;**
my God, I put my / **trust in you;**
let me not be hu-**miliated,**
nor let my enemies triumph / **over me.**

Let none who look to you be / **put to shame;**
let the treacherous be disappointed / **in their schemes.**
Show me your / **ways, O Lord,**
and teach / **me your paths.**

Lead me in your / **truth and teach me,**
for you are / **God my savior;**
Remember, O Lord, your compa-ssion and love,
for they are from / **everlasting.**

Remember not the sins / **of my youth**
remember me according / **to your love**
Gracious and upright / **is the Lord;**
therefore he teaches sinners / **in his way.**

He guides the humble in / **doing right**
and teaches his way / **to the lowly.**
All the paths of the Lord are love and / **faithfulness**
to those who keep his covenant / **and his testaments.**

THE EPISTLE: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN: *Watchmen Tell Us of the Night*

640

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

Fr. John Rice

THE NICENE CREED (*standing*)

BCP 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE- THE WAY OF LOVE

Let us pray.

Creator God, by the mercies of your son, our Lord, Jesus, compel us to TURN our hearts to his Way of Love. That we might follow Jesus together as your faithful people, we pause, listen, and respond in prayer, saying: Jesus, guide us in your way.

Jesus, your life, death, resurrection, and ascension inspire the church to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship. Guide your people to LEARN your Word, that we might see God's story unfolding in our midst. We pray together,

Jesus, guide us in your way.

Son of God, you responded to your Father in PRAYER and pleaded that we might all be one. Guide the leaders and faithful citizens of this nation to respond to God and to one another in compassion — in thought and deed, with or without words — that the people of the United States might live in unity and peace. We pray together,

Jesus, guide us in your way.

Light of the World, you taught us to WORSHIP in spirit and in truth. Lead us to join with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, that the whole world might be united in the truth of your love. We pray together,

Jesus, guide us in your way.

Lord, you came not to be served but to serve. Empower us to BLESS one another and our neighbors in Asheville that your spirit of generosity, compassion, and selfless action transform us and the people in our midst. We pray together,

Jesus, guide us in your way.

Savior, you came into our midst that we might know life. Embolden us to GO among those who are weary, burdened, sick, or imprisoned, especially... that we might live like you, crossing the boundaries that divide rich from poor, sick from well, and sinner from saint. We pray together,

Jesus, guide us in your way.

Lamb of God, in your death you destroyed death and taught us the way to eternal life. Compel us to daily die to self and REST in your grace. May all who have died, especially the families of the deceased following Hurricane Helene; and for those on the anniversary of their death: Carl Baldasaro, Peggie Carey, Susie Farnam, Frank Brown, Marzy Israel, Mary Jane Pearson, Ham Bryson, Robert Dale Noble, Houston Harbin, Bob Baker, Veronica Drzewiecki, John Miller, and Joseph Patrick Devlin. We pray together,

Jesus, guide us in your way.

The Celebrant offers this concluding collect:

Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life for the life of all, we commit our lives to following you. Continually guide us in your way and draw us into life as your Beloved Community in this age and in age to come; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

arr. John Behnke

DOXOLOGY:

Old One Hundredth

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant continues

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

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Traditional*) **BCP 364**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM:

Cassarino

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (*gluten free wafers available upon request*)

COMMUNION HYMN: *My Soul in Still Waits*

Refrain Dm/A Dm9 F G A B^b C Am7 Dm9 Fine

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; trul-y my hope is in you.

When a Eucharistic Minister is to be sent forth, the following is said:

Celebrant: In the name of God and this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: We who are many are one body because we all share the Word, one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

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THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: *Proclamation on "Wachet auf"*

A.D. Miller



The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by Nora and Steve Jones in celebration of the birthday of their grandson Walker Webb.

The Advent Wreath is given to the Glory of God by Sylvia & Buddy Greenwood in memory of Roy Wilson Rhodes, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Greenwood, and Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Morrow

The flowers are given to the Glory of God by Linda Devlin in loving memory of her husband, Joseph P. Devlin on the second anniversary of his death.

LAY MINISTERS

Acolyte: Lorie Tola Chalicer: Cole Woodcox

Lectors: Kristen Dusenbery, Cole Woodcox Intercessor: Kim Hayes

Ushers: Todd & Katherine Kaderabek

Greeters: Kim Hayes

Vestry Member of the Day:

ELECTRONIC GIVING MADE EASY: Grace Church receives electronic giving via our website at graceavl.com. There is a "Give to Grace" button on the top blue banner of our home page. Additional ways to give to our "virtual collection plate" and various fundraising efforts are through the Simple Church app and the Venmo app @GraceEpiscopal-Church.



SimpleChurch CR



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent & Christmas Opportunities and Offerings

Today, after the service, come make your own Advent wreath in the parish hall. The cost is \$5 for the wreath form and \$5 for a set of candles, which can be purchased separately if you already have a wreath at home.

*Advent
Wreath
Making*



Flower Donor Needed

We are currently in need of a flower donor for December 8th, 2024. Please contact Jennifer Witt at jmwitt5384@gmail.com if you are interested.

Annual Advent-in-a-Bag Campaign for ABCCM

God's intent is for His people to be fed and He calls us to help Him do this. Now more than ever, as we work to recover from the ravages of Hurricane Helene and brace for the colder temperatures outside, our food donations to ABCCM's "Advent in a Bag" campaign can be a lifesaving gift for adults and children - especially those who are displaced, marginalized, and struggling in poverty's grip. Please know that every item you bring in your Advent bags, sacks, boxes and other containers to the lobby of Grace by January 6 will bring nourishment and hope to many and help fulfill the scripture, "By His hands we are fed."

Advent Soaking Prayer Healing Service

Join us at noon on December 4th, 11th, and 18th in the Sanctuary for a healing service that provides an opportunity to slow down during the busy season of Advent. Come and expect to encounter the loving, healing, and peace filled presence of Jesus. All are invited. Please contact John Rice at FrJohn@graceavl.com with any questions.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

We offer the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for our children here at Grace on Sundays between 9:00 and 10:15am, and starting on December 2nd there will be an additional Monday afternoon class from 3:30-4:30pm. Children may attend either one or both at any time. Contact Shannon Townsend for a tour, or further information at gstownsend@att.net or 828-713-5081.

Care-Filled Stewardship in 2025

When we pledge to Grace Church we are pledging to care for our community, to be present with those in need, and to seek God in all that we do. Make your pledge to Grace Church by scanning this code or using a pledge card found in the narthex.



The Pastoral Care Team at Grace

Reach out to us with any pastoral care needs you, or your family, may have, by emailing the team at FrJohn@graceavl.com. You can also email, text or call Rev. John Rice at 828-371-7281.

The Angel Tree is Back!

Each year, we help make Christmas special for local foster children. Please select one of more angels from the tree in the foyer. On the angel tag, you'll find information about a child and a "wish list". There is no obligation to buy everything on the list. Just do what you can, or partner with other parishioners. The deadline for returning your unwrapped gifts (please attach the angel tag!) is December 15th.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm - Bring the family for the Paper Bag Pageant tradition at Grace.
Christmas Eve: 8:00 pm - Chorale Eucharist
Christmas Day: 10:00am - Worship and Songs

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: *Mondays at 10:00am* We study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday service. Please join us virtually by clicking on the button at graceavl.com/.

TAIZE: Tuesdays at 6pm Weekly Taize services are held in the sanctuary. Healing prayer is offered throughout the service for oneself or on behalf of someone else. For more information on Taizé at Grace visit: www.graceavl.com/taize-grace

WOMEN WALKING THE WAY: Thursdays at 8:00am meet at the Bird Sanctuary parking lot. No need to email or reserve your spot, just come!

HAVE YOU ACCESSED OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY? An online directory is available to our members. *If you want to know how to become a member of Grace, please contact Rev. John Rice at FrJohn@graceavl.com.*



SimpleChurch CRM

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES AND MEETINGS

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Service or Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday 9:15 am	Children's Sunday School	Atrium
Sunday 9:15 am	Adult Formation	Parish Hall
Sunday 10:30am	Holy Eucharist Service *	Sanctuary
Mondays, 10:30 am	Monday Morning Bible Study	Zoom **
Monday 1pm	Chair Aerobics	Parish Hall
Mondays, 3:30pm	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	Atrium
Tuesdays 6pm	Taize	Sanctuary
Wednesday, 9:30 am	Pastoral Care Team Meeting	Library
Wednesdays 1pm	Tai Chi classes	Parish Hall
Wednesdays, 5:30pm	Centering Prayer	Zoom**
Wednesdays, 6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thursdays, 8am	Women Walking the Way	Beaver Lake

OUR PRAYER LIST

For Parishioners: **Steve Booth; Ed Denison; Eva Dupree; Anne Jarema; Nancy Lewis; Peter Sprague; Laura and Tsz-yan (GN) Snyder; Nicholas and Gary Woods**

For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: **Nancy Sink; Rita Spragg**

For Others: (Names will remain on the list for 6 weeks unless we hear otherwise.) **Geraldine Allen** (aunt of Carole McClellan); **Allen** (brother of Cheryl Aull); **Wes Auret** (godson of Elaine Potter); **Bob Brennan** (relative of Anne Jarema); **Crista Bridgeman** (friend of Ginny Moser); **Gabriel and Lara Brongel and family**

(grandson and daughter of Jackie Schauer); **Cherie Brown** (daughter of Ed and Marla Woeckener); **Marcie Coleman** (friend of Lynda McCredie); **Glenn Fleishman** (friend of Anne Jarema); **Jackie Haines** (sister of Carol Booth); **Tom Hunnicutt** (friend of Rusty Hermin); **Jim Kaderabek** (father of Todd Kaderabek); **Chuck McDonald** (brother of Susan Robinson); **Megan**; **Barney Noble** (son of Joyce and Walt Noble); **Meredith Peppers** (cousin of Carole McClellan); **Kip and Val Pritchard** (friends of Cliff); **Liz Sides** (friend of Joyce Noble); **Sharon** (friend of Louise Wernicky); **Geri Tuck** (sister of Valerie Heavens); **Stacy Walker** (relative of Elaine Potter); **Alex Watkins** (friend of Lorie Tola); **Mike Wilson** (friend of Jeff Russell).

We grieve and pray with the families of: **David Walker, Sharon Rugg, the missing and victims of the storm.**

For those celebrating birthdays: **Joyce Noble, Lisa Okes, Artus Moser, Suzy Young, Jeff Russell, Sylvia Greenwood.**

For those celebrating anniversaries:

For Those in Service to Our Country: **Tommy Brown** (grandsons of Ed & Marla Woeckener); **Matt & Martha Cardenas** (daughter and son in law of Hannah Pennell); **Matthew George** (son of Zoe Davis); **Jason Marino** (son of Lynda McCredie); **Sarah Jane Wilkey** (daughter of Diane & Tony Wilkey).

For Those in the Episcopal Church: **Sean** (our presiding Bishop); **José** (our Bishop); **the clergy, vestry, staff, ministries, and people of this parish; Church of the Advocate.**

For our President Joe Biden, his Cabinet, Congress & our country; for victims of violence across the world; for local agencies & those who work for relief of the poor; for better stewardship of the environment; for resolution of crises throughout our world.

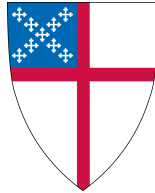
Please go to graceavl.com/spiritual-growth/prayer-ministries/ for more opportunities to request prayer. Get permission from anyone you would like to add to this list and contact our Pastoral Care Ministry by emailing FrJohn@graceavl.com or contact the church.

Grace Episcopal Church
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The Right Reverend José McLoughlin, *Bishop*
The Reverend Milly Morrow, *Rector*
The Reverend Timothy McRee, *Adjunct Clergy*
The Reverend John Rice, *Adjunct Clergy*
James Cassarino, *Director of Music*

Cathy Adkins, *Organist*
Katie Douglas, *Finance Manager*
Angel Stoudt, *Sexton*
Archie Clarkson, *Tech Director*
Katherine Johnson, *Wedding Coordinator, Office Administrator*

Grace Church is a place where we hope you experience the empowering presence of the living God and where we collaborate with God in building the Kingdom of Heaven, here on earth. We are grateful you are among us today.



Volunteers are at the heart of Grace ministry.

The volunteers at Grace keep things running smoothly. Our greeters and our users welcome you. Readers, intercessors, acolytes, and chalicists enhance your worship. Coffee hour hosts provide coffee, treats, and an opportunity to enjoy fellowship after church. Office volunteers are available throughout the week to assist you. Volunteers are so important, and we never have enough of them. If you have an interest in getting involved, please let us know by contacting our church office, office@graceavl.com



Grace Episcopal Church

Offering for Christmas Flowers or Greens

Given By: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____



Detach this page and place it with your check in the offering place, hand it to an usher,
or use the QR code above to make your donation.