

Grace Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

David Lasky

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: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
4. O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our heaven - ly home;
6. O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy draw - ing night;
that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
that trust thy might - y power to save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to mis - cr - y.
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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

212

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON: MICAH 5:2-5A

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

and he shall be the one of peace.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

MAGNIFICAT

Refrain (Unison)



My soul pro-claims with won - der the great-ness of the Lord,
re - joic - ing in God's good - ness my spir - it is re - stored.

1 To me has God shown fa - vor, to one the world thought frail,
2 God's mer - cy shields the faith - ful and saves them from de - feat,
3 The might - y have been van- quished, the low - ly lift - ed up.
4 To A - bra-ham's de - scend - ants, the Lord will stead - fast prove,

to Refrain

and ev - ery age will ech - o the an - gel's first "All hail!"
with strength that turns to scat - ter the proud in their con - ceit.
The hun - gry find a - bun - dance, the rich, an emp - ty cup.
for God has made with Is - rael a cov - e - nant of love.

THE EPISTLE: HEBREWS 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

66

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

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

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-44, (46-55)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE HOMILY

Rev. Katherine Johnson

THE NICENE CREED (*standing*)

BCP 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR ADVENT

Lector: Waiting and watching for our sure and certain hope in the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, let us pray for the world, the church and all people.

God calls us to love one another. As a sign of that love, let us lift up our prayer to God for the needs of all people throughout the world,... God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Lector: We pray for the peace of the world, that our instruments of war may be transformed into instruments of peace, and that nations shall cease to learn war any more... God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Lector: We pray for all people of good will who seek to cast off the works of iniquity, that we may be enlightened through our service with others in the name of Christ... God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Lector: We pray for those who are assembled here today, that we may be clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ and go forth from this place to be Christ in the world. ... God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Lector: We pray for Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for José our bishop; and for all bishops, for Milly our Rector. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Church of the Province of Uganda, and, in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Holy Family, Mills River; St. Mary's and St. Stephen's, Morganton ... God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Lector: We pray for the sick, for the poor and for those who are alone. We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for those who have asked for our prayers: ... *Steve, Ed, Eva, Anne, Nancy, Peter, Laura and Tsz-yan (G-Yen), Bill, Nicholas & Gary...* Are there others?

And for those in our parish who are homebound: *Nancy Sink; Rita*

Spragg... Are there others? ... God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Lector: We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: *Robert Green, Ed Woekener, Lucy McKenzie, Jane Smith, Nora Jones, Bill Smith, Andy Sneed* ... God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Lector: We pray for those celebrating anniversaries this week: *Kathy Moulton & Scott Shuford, Mickey & Tricia Trinite, Rick & Kim Hayes, Earl & Judy Booze* ... God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Lector: We pray for those who have died: *Louis Alvarez*
and for those on the anniversaries of their deaths: *Bob Bruce, Jim McCredie,*
Mary Beth Buchholz, Jack Keith... God, in your mercy,
People: *Hear our Prayer.*

Celebrant: We praise you, Lord our God, that you have called us to
be your people and the instruments of your presence in the world. Grant
us grace to discern your will and the strength to do it, through Christ our
Lord.... **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 HYMN: *Creator of the Stars at Night*

60

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

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 Stillness 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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: *Sing Out My Soul*

438

THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Carolyn Hamlin



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 beautiful Christmas greens and flowers are given to the Glory of God by Jennifer Witt in loving memory of her parents, Louise and Levi Matthews.

LAY MINISTERS

Acolyte: Lorie Tola Chalicerist: Steve Birkhofer

Lectors: Steve Birkhofer, Hannah Pennell Intercessor: Vicki Vest

Ushers: Paul & Vicki Vest

Greeters: Carole Lentz

Vestry Member of the Day: Rusty McCredie

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Greenery and Flower Donations

The flower guild will be decorating the altar and chancel areas as well as the two front doors this year. Therefore, donations will be welcomed to cover the costs for those areas. These will be published in Growing in Grace after Christmas.

We Welcome Rev. Katherine Johnson as our Preacher this Sunday

Katherine Johnson is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA) church. She received her MDiv and Master of Arts in Practical Theology from Columbia Theological Seminary, and her background is primarily in education and engagement on issues of hunger and homelessness. While her current ministry is full-time motherhood, you might also recognize Katherine as our wedding coordinator and for her work in the church office.

Annual Advent-in-a-Bag Campaign for ABCCM

“There are genuinely sufficient resources in the world to ensure that no one, nowhere, at no time, should go hungry.” —Ed Asner

ABCCM’s warehouse is a busy place these days! It’s here that all the food donations ABCCM is receiving are being collected and sent to ABCCM’s ministries. For those living on our frigid streets, especially those folks displaced by Hurricane Helene, the food we’re donating through our Advent-in-a-Bag food campaign will bring welcome relief! **Epiphany Sunday on January 5 is the deadline for bringing food donations back to the church.**

Monday Meals at Safe Shelter

Are you interested in helping provide Monday meals for Safe Shelter? Could you spend a day a month making a pot of soup or chili? If your answer is “Yes!” please contact Kim Hayes, kimhys53@gmail.com, or Tahani Sticpewich, tahaniweb@gmail.com for more information.

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 there is an additional Monday afternoon class now offered 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.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm - Bring the family for the Paper Bag Pageant tradition at Grace.

Christmas Eve: 8:00 pm - Holy Communion

Christmas Day: 10:00am - Worship and Songs

12/29 Lessons and Carols: 10:30am - Worship and Songs

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: *We will be taking a hiatus until Monday, January 6th. Mondays at 10:30am* We study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday service. Please join us virtually by clicking on the button at graceavl.com/.

TAIZE: *Taize will not gather on the 24th or the 31st. 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. Meeting is optional for December 26th.



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.*

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES AND MEETINGS

| <u>Date and Time</u> | <u>Service or Meeting</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Sunday 12/22 9:15am | Children's Sunday School | Atrium |
| Sunday 12/22 9:15am | Adult Formation | Parish Hall |
| Sunday 12/22 10:30am | Holy Eucharist Service * | Sanctuary |
| Monday 12/23 10:30am | Bible Study - On Hiatus till January 6th. | Zoom ** |
| Tuesday 12/24 4:00pm | Paper Bag Pageant | Sanctuary |
| Tuesday 12/24 6:00pm | Taize - On Hiatus till January 7th. | Sanctuary |
| Tuesday 12/24 8:00pm | Holy Communion | Sanctuary |
| Wednesday 12/25 10:00am | Worship and Songs | Sanctuary |
| Thursday 12/26 | Office Closed | Church |
| Friday 12/27 | Office Closed | Church |

OUR PRAYER LIST

For Parishioners: **Steve Booth; Ed Denison; Eva Dupree; Anne Jarema; Nancy Lewis; Peter Sprague; Laura and Tsz-yan (GN) Snyder, Bill Warren, 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); **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); **Geri Tuck** (sister of Valerie Heavens); **Stacy Walker** (relative of Elaine Potter); **Alex Watkins** (friend of Lorie Tola); **Mike Wilson** (friend of Jeff Russell); **Joan Creasman** (friend of Ginny).

We grieve and pray with the families of: **Louis Alvarez**

For those celebrating birthdays: **Robert Green, Ed Woeckener, Lucy McKenzie, Jane Smith, Nora Jones, Bill Smith, Andy Sneed**

For those celebrating anniversaries: **Kathy Moulton & Scott Shuford, Mickey & Tricia Trinite, Rick & Kim Hayes, Earl & Judy Booze**

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.**

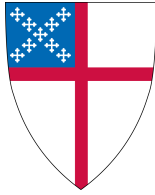
For our President Joe Biden, his Cabinet, Congress & our country; for victims of violence across the world; for local agencies & those who work for relief of the poor; for better stewardship of the environment; for resolution of crises throughout our world.

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
871 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, NC 28804
828-254-1086
office@graceavl.com

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 ushers 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 and 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.