



Grace Episcopal Church

The Sixth Sunday after the
Epiphany

February 16, 2025

10:30 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRELUDE: *Blessed Are the Pure in Heart*

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

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

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

OPENING HYMN: *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

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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.

Glo-ry to God in the Highest and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Lord God, Hea-ven-ly King, Al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we

worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. Lord Je-sus

Christ, On-ly son of the fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you

take a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy on us; you are seat-ed at the

right hand of the Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer, for you a-lone are the

ho-ly one, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the most high,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi-rit in the Glo-ry of God the

Fa - - - - - ther. A - - - - - men.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE OLD TESTAMENT: JEREMIAH 17:5-10

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse--
who can understand it?

I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 1



Happy indeed / **are they**
Who refuse the / **way of evil**
Nor walk the / **road of sinners,**
Nor join the mo-ckers of **God.**

Joy shall be in / **the hearts**
Of those who delight in the / **law of God,**
For they re-cite **the law,**
They speak it / **day and night.**

They are like / **green trees**
That grow by clear / **flowing waters,**
They bear their fruit / **in due season,**
Their leaves fade not, / **but they prosper.**

It is not so / **for all,**
Not so with / **evil doers,**
They blow like chaff / **in the wind,**
They fall by the weight / **of the truth.**

God upholds / the just,
God knows the way / **of the righteous,**
But the evil / **ones shall perish,**
Shall perish / **by their deeds.**

THE EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12:20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN: *Blest Are the Pure in Heart*

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

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

THE GOSPEL: LUKE: 6:17-26

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets."

"But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE HOMILY

The Reverend John Rice

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Lector: God of light and life, our prayers rise before you this day in hope and faith. We pray for your church, for our diocese, bishops, clergy and all people. We pray for Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for José our bishop; and for all bishops, for Milly, our Rector; and for John and Tim, our clergy. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church of Bangladesh, and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Lake Logan and Valle Crucis Conference Centers. We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **Flame of abundant love, be our Joy in proclaiming your Good News to the world.**

Lector: We pray for all who are coming to faith, all who are exploring their faith, and all who are struggling with faith. We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **Light of all creation, guide us to lead, teach and nurture your disciples.**

Lector: We pray for those in need of food, shelter, clothing, and of God's healing touch, especially for those in our parish for whom our prayers are asked and desired: Tim, Eva, Robert, Anne, Nancy, Becky, Bill, Walt, Al, Laura and Tsz-yan (GN), Bill, Nicholas Tom, Tim and Gary... Are there others? We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **Comforter of the suffering, prepare our hands and hearts for your loving service.**

Lector: We pray for those who have recently departed: Shirley Turner, Peter Sprague, Jackie Haines, and for those on the anniversaries of their deaths: Carol Costenbader, James Haart, Lenore James, Zona Neilson, Syndor Thompson, Virginia Anderson, William K. Anderson, Ed Marshall ... Are there others? We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **God of Eternal love, we continue to commit our loved ones to your eternal care.**

Lector: We pray for all who celebrate in these days, especially for those who have birthdays: Rusty McCredie, Cooper Green, Hali Karla, Gary Woods, Larry Harris, and Evans Webster... We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **Guiding Star of Love, shield the joyous and comfort the afflicted, that together we may come to know your blessed harmony.**

Lector: We pray for the world, where there is trouble and suffering, far away or nearby, especially for those who are suffering from violence and oppression. We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **Ember of steadfast care, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence and to pursue peace and reconciliation.**

Lector: O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

People: **Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

Lector: We pray for the land on which we stand, the peoples, creatures, plant life and waters around us. We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **Star blaze of glory, lead us to care for this fragile earth, our island home, and to heal the circle of creation.**

Celebrant: God of radiant light, your love illuminates our hopes even before we know them, and our needs before we ask. Kindle your flame within us, that in our prayers and service, we may know your transforming presence at work in the world around us. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 359

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.

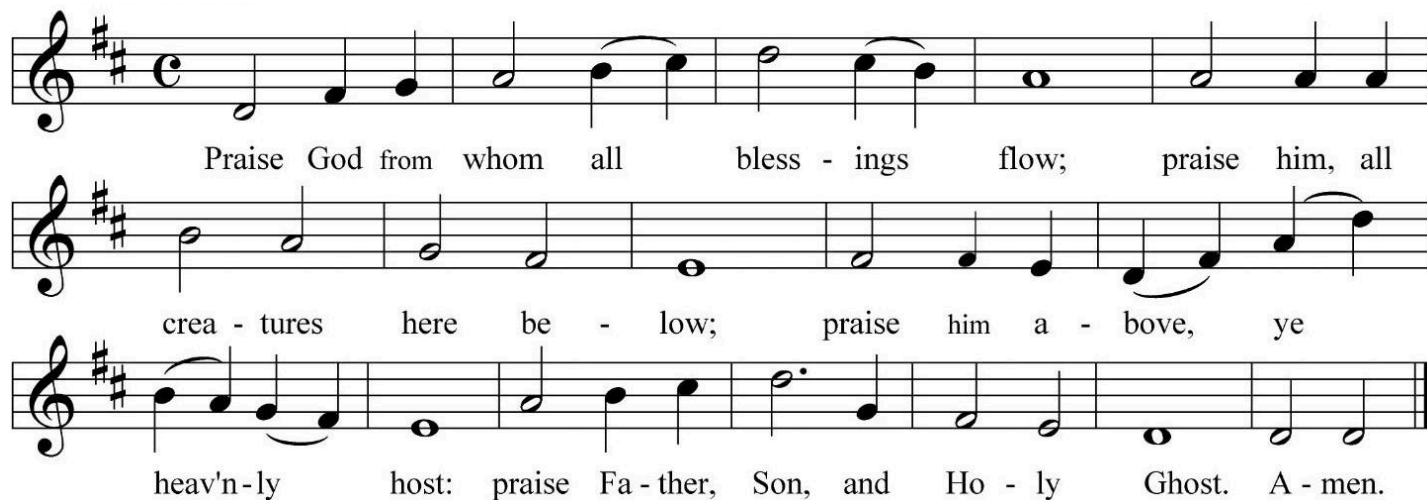
THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *I Will Always Give Thanks*

M. Greene

DOXOLOGY



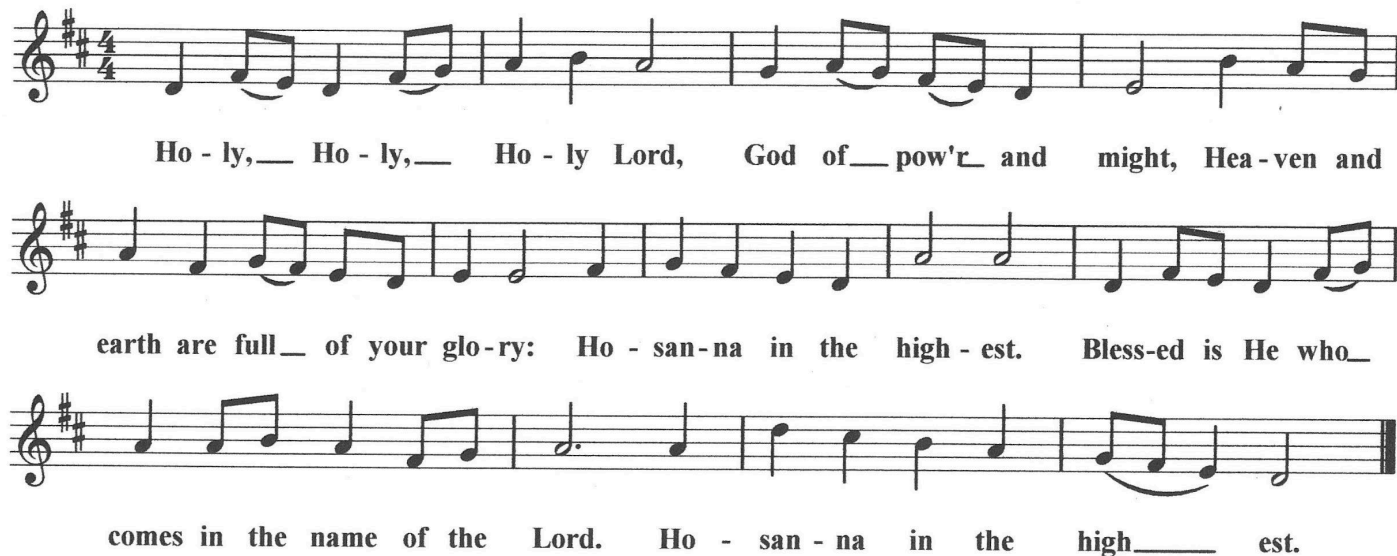
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

BCP 369

SANCTUS

Cassarino



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, Hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry: Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

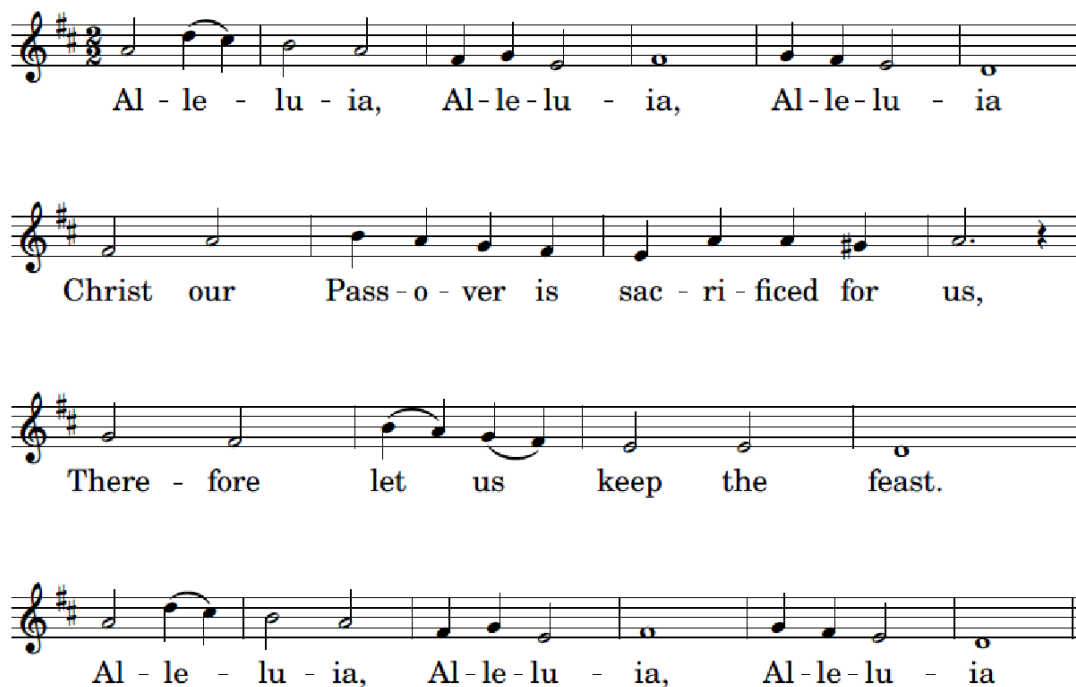
THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

BCP 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

Cassarino



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us,
There - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia

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

COMMUNION ANTHEM: *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

Elizabeth Poston

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

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THE DISMISSAL

THE POSTLUDE: *Rejoice, the Lord is King*

Brenda Portman



The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by Nancy Anders & Vickie Sealock in memory of their mother, Mildred England Anders.

The Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Nancy Anders and Vickie Sealock in memory of their mother, Mildred England Anders.

LAY MINISTERS

Acolyte: Sally Withers Chalicer: Steve Birkhofer

Lectors: Steve Birkhofer, Vicki Vest Intercessor: Nancy Lewis

Ushers: Paul & Vicki Vest Greeters: Louise Wernicke, Jennifer Witt

Vestry Member of the Day: Tahani Sticpewich

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



venmo



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 10:15 a.m. and there is an additional Monday afternoon class now offered from 3:30-4:30 p.m. 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.

Adult Formation Class: Loving the Questions

Join us at 9:15 a.m. in the parish hall, to explore the Nicene Creed with Fr. Tim, using the book, *Loving the Questions*, by Marianne H. Micks. The book is available for \$11.00 in the parish hall. If you need financial assistance, just call the office and let us know. All are welcome.

Learn How to Use Simple Church

Today during Coffee Hour following worship, get expert guidance on how to put all the useful Simple Church tools to work for you. Just bring your cell phone, tablet or laptop with you and let us help you get started.



Request for Office Volunteers

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-4:00 p.m. With Anne Spruance, our new parish administrator, now in place, we hope you will continue to support this ministry of Grace hospitality by signing up again and encouraging your friends to do the same. Call the office for details.

Please Join the Choir

Grace is blessed with a talented group of vocalists always ready to offer their gifts to enrich our worship. In a day when people are hesitant to give up their free time, Grace is truly fortunate to have a choir of giving and dedicated singers - a rarity in many churches today. As we move into the new year, choir rehearsals will take place on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Whether you're a seasoned singer or just love to make a joyful noise, all voices are welcome! Choir is a wonderful way to connect with others and help enrich our worship services. If you have any questions or would like more information contact Jim Cassarino, Music Director, at 802-558-6583 or jamescassarino@gmail.com

Jones Backpack Program is in Need of Volunteers

If you can help in March or May, please contact Sarah Beasley at sdkbeasley@gmail.com to sign up.

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.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Monday Morning Bible Study: *Mondays at 10:30 a.m.* We study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday service. Please join us virtually by clicking on the button at graceavl.com/.

Taizé: *Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.* Weekly Taizé 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 8:00 a.m.* Meet at the Bird Sanctuary parking lot by Beaver Lake.

Grace Members: Have You Checked Out Our Directory? An online directory is available to all our members. *If you want to learn 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>
Sundays 9:15 am	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	Atrium
Sundays 9:15 am	Adult Formation	Parish Hall
Sundays 10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Service *	Sanctuary
Mondays 10:30 am	Monday Morning Bible Study	Zoom
Mondays 1:00 pm	Chair Aerobics	Parish Hall
Mondays 3:30 pm	Chatechesis of the Good Shepherd	Atrium
Tuesdays 6:00 pm	Taize	Sanctuary
Wednesdays 9:30 am	Pastoral Care Team Meeting	Library
Wednesdays 1 & 2 pm	Tai Chi Classes	Parish Hall
Wednesdays 5:30 pm	Centering Prayer	Zoom
Thursdays 8:00 am	Women Walking the Way	Beaver Lake

Our Prayer List

For Parishioners: **Tim Collins, Eva Dupree; Robert; Anne Jarema; Nancy Lewis; Walt Noble; Al Seale; Becky & Bill Smith; Laura and Tsz-yan (GN) Snyder, Bill Warren, Nicholas, Gary Woods**

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

For Others: (Names will remain on the list for six weeks unless we hear otherwise.) **Geraldine Allen** (aunt of Carole McClellan); **Allen** (brother of Cheryl Aull); **Bob Brennan** (relative of Anne Jarema); **Crista Bridgeman** (friend of Ginny Moser); **Gabriel & Lara Brongel & family** (grandson and daughter of Jackie Schauer); **Cherie Brown** (daughter of Ed and Marla Woeckener); **Marcie Coleman** (friend of Lynda McCredie); **Joan Creasman** (friend of Ginny); **Ian Goldstein** (friend of Gael Paschall); **Tom Hunnicutt** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Chuck McDonald** (brother of Susan Robinson); **Barbara McRee** (mother of Fr. Tim McRee); **Megan; Barney Noble** (son of Joyce and Walt Noble); **Meredith Peppers** (cousin of Carole McClellan); **Kip & Val Pritchard** (friends of Cliff); **Peter John Rouse, Sr.** (grandfather of Mike Vines); **Anne Spruance; Wiley Thornton** (cousin of Carol McClellan); **Stacy Walker** (relative of Elaine Potter); **Sylvia & Bob** (friends of Kim Hayes); **Mike Wilson** (friend of Jeff Russell).

We grieve and pray with the families of: **Shirley Turner, Peter Sprague, Jackie Haines**

For those celebrating birthdays: **Rusty McCredie, Cooper Green, Hali Karla, Gary Woods, Larry Harris, and Evans Webster**

For Those in Service to Our Country: **Tommy Brown** (grandsons of Ed & Marla Woeckener); **Matt & Martha Cardenas** (daughter and son in law of Hannah Buckner); **Matthew George** (son of Zoe Davis); **Jason Marino** (son of Lynda McCredie); **Brady Paschall** (granddaughter of Gael Paschall); **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.**

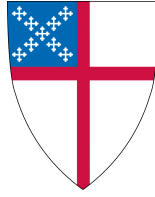
For our President, Donald Trump, his Cabinet, Congress & our country; for victims of violence across the world; for local agencies & those who work for relief of the poor; for better stewardship of the environment; for resolution of crises throughout our world.

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 Avenue, 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*
Anne Spruance, *Office Administrator*
Katie Douglas, *Finance Manager*
Angel Stoudt, *Sexton*
Archie Clarkson, *Tech Director*
Katherine Johnson, *Wedding Coordinator*

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