



# Celtic Evensong and Communion

## The First Sunday of Advent

### November 27, 2022 4:00 pm

*We are so happy you are here.*

*We come from many places to be together for a little while.  
Each of us brings our own experience and traditions to this gathering.  
So here in this place, let us take time together to encounter the holy.*

*Please remember to silence all devices*

### The Opening Rite

#### Musical Meditation

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Opening Meditation

Go slowly  
Consent to it  
But don't wallow in it  
Know it as a place of germination  
And growth  
Remember the light  
Take an outstretched hand if you find one  
Exercise unused senses  
Find the path by walking in it  
Practice trust  
Watch for dawn.

*- Marilyn Chandler McEntyre from What To Do in the Darkness*

#### Confession (said by all)

**Most Holy God, In the midst of this season of new life we confess:  
We have resisted the light of your love; we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us;  
And we have not treasure the gifts of others around us. We stand in need of your love.  
Holy Father, make us holy. Holy Jesus, make us holy. Holy Spirit, make us holy.  
Holy God, make us whole. Amen.**

**Absolution** God forgives us and loves us, and invites us to continue the journey. As a woman is delivered from the pain of her labor to the joy of cradling her child, so are we delivered into God's grace.

#### The Invitatory and Psalm

Be strong and let your heart take courage,  
**All you who wait for the Lord**  
Even in the waiting.  
**God is with us.**  
Praise the Lord, O my soul.  
**Praise God's holy name.**

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## Psalm 122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, \*  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."  
2 Now our feet are standing \*  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
3 Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
that is at unity with itself;  
4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, \*  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.  
5 For there are the thrones of judgment, \*  
the thrones of the house of David.  
6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
"May they prosper who love you.  
7 Peace be within your walls \*  
and quietness within your towers.  
8 For my brethren and companions' sake, \*  
I pray for your prosperity.  
9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, \*  
I will seek to do you good."

### *Officiant and People*

Glory to the Holy Trinity, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## The Lessons

Listen now to the Word of God

### The First Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Musical Response

*Don Oiche Ud I MBeithil*

### The Second Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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*Lector* For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,  
and for the Word of God within us,  
*People* Thanks be to God.

## Reflection

Kourtnei Patten

## Music after the Reflection

*Huron Carol*

## Evening Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Prayers for Ourselves and Others

*Leader* In the beginning, it is dark, cool, and quiet, and we ask you:

*People* **Invite us into your presence, O Christ.**

*Leader* I ask your prayers for those who work, or watch, or weep this night.

*Leader* We do not know your works, Holy One, yet still we ask you:

*People* **Invite us into your presence, O Christ.**

*Leader* I ask your prayers for those who are confused, alone, and disquieted.

*Leader* We will look to the rising sun and trust that you

*People* **Invite us into your presence, O Christ.**

*Leader* Let us now name before God those for whom we offer our personal prayers, either silently or aloud.

*The people may add their intercessions silently or aloud.*

*Leader* Lord, you have called us to serve you.

*People* **Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills, until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Leader* Jesus says, "Come to me you who are troubled and I will give you rest." So come, you who are broken in body or in spirit, you who are torn by relationships and doubt, you who feel deeply within yourselves the divisions of the world. Come, for Jesus invites us to bring our brokenness. From now until the end of the service, you are invited to come to the Lady Altar and light a candle and kneel at the rail for prayers. The laying on of hands is also offered at the healing station near the door at the back of the Chapel. Please move about as the Spirit leads you.

## Music during Prayers

*Manx Carol*

## Hymn during the Prayers

*Gather Your People to Comfort and Love*

Gather your people to comfort and love. Come as a shepherd, O heavenly Dove.  
Strengthen and feed us and help us prepare to graciously welcome your long promised heir.

Salvation comes now to those who would hear. Righteousness shines forth, forgiveness draws near.  
Call forth repentance, O Covenant Lord, that justice and peace may to us be restored.

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He who is coming is good news to earth, showing God's mercy in this holy birth.  
This timeless advent with Love is baptized. Redemption's vision will be realized.

Redemption's vision will be realized. Angels, with anthems, their God recognized.  
Come now, join with them, your voices combine in adoration for God's gift divine.

**The Grace** Holy One, whose coming we await, we lift our hearts to you: may we set down the tasks of the day so that we may arise renewed, to love and serve you. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

## The Holy Communion

*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 God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is our joy and delight to give you thanks and praise Emmanuel, God with us. We give you thanks and praise for your hallowing of human flesh. We rejoice at your light which shines out of darkness and enlightens all who seek you. We praise you that you brought forth new life in the family of Mary and Joseph as you do today from all who faithfully await the fulfillment of your word. We praise you that you were known first by poor shepherds and wise seekers as you are known today by the poor and outcast. We rejoice with the angels at your promise of peace for those who trust in you. We rejoice that the extraordinary is given birth in the ordinary places of life.

So with the angels who sing "Glory" and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we sing together:

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

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant* We bless you for Jesus, born of the Spirit's love and a woman's body and blood. We bless you for Jesus who shows us how to live the fullness of our humanity and thus become one with you. We remember Jesus who laughed and wept and felt tiredness and fear; who praised Mary when she anointed him for death and blessed a woman of the city who washed his feet with tears. We remember Jesus who touched lepers and the sick and feasted with tax collectors and sinners. We remember Christ who lives on in all who courageously and faithfully bring forth the light of your love in earth's darkest places.

We remember Jesus who, on the night before he died, shared a meal with his friends.

He took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them saying:

**"Take and eat. This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me."**

After supper he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them saying:

**"This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me."**

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant* Holy and gracious God, present with us now, send in kindness your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus., As we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire

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us with longing for the new age of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. With him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be to you, O God, all honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

### **The Invitation**

*Celebrant* This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,

You who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,

you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

### **Communion**

### **Concluding Prayer**

*All* **Loving God, whose holy name defies our definition but whose will is known in freeing the oppressed,; we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Make us one with all who cry for justice, that we who speak your praise may struggle for your truth; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Blessing** May the Holy One come this night and open our hearts to the brightness of Love. And may the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all evermore.. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

*Officiant* The Lord almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Concluding Musical Meditation**

*Taladh Chriosda*

***Please leave immediately and quietly at the end of the service  
as we wish to continue to contemplate the sacred mysteries we have received.***

### **Worship Leaders**

The Reverend Debbie Phillips

Ryan Patten, Debbie Phillips, Eric Wagner

Paul Massari

Kourtnei Patten

Jane Stewart

Jane Stewart

*Officiant*

*Musicians*

*Assisting*

*Reflection*

*Intercessor*

*Usher*

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### Parish Prayer List

David Stonehouse, Linda Layne, Daniel Brundige, Josh Cummings, Whitney Goodhue, Evan Wagner, Garrett Graves, Gerald Tucker, Allison Mascolo, Melissa Glassman, The Bishop-Tanquay Family, for Max Joyce, Inga and Todd and Family, Mel, Melissa Glassman, Corey MacNeil, Helen Phillips, Zan Duffy, Dianne, Sarah Colvin Duffy, Michael Towey, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, the people of Palestine, Afghanistan, and Ukraine; the Salem Public Schools and for an end to racism, war, anti-Semitism, gun violence and oppression. If you have prayer requests, please email [regathering@gracechurchsalem.org](mailto:regathering@gracechurchsalem.org) by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news.

### Anti-Racism Advent Calendar

**Week One - Hope:** We have hope in God's loving purposes as we await the fulfillment of justice. This first week, we will spend time in reflection as we acknowledge some of the ways racism impacts our lives so that we may be better prepared to receive the love of God into our hearts at Christmas.

**Today:** Concentrate on slowing down. Consider what controlled your time this week and who controlled it. What did it take you away from?

**Monday:** When have you stepped out of your comfort zone when addressing issues of race? What did you need to do it? How can you become less defensive in these discussions?

**Tuesday:** Reflect on the past week. When did your sense of "rightness" not allow an opportunity for you to offer grace instead?

**Wednesday:** What one thing could you do today that would be a reclamation of the hope of the end of racism? Where would you be willing to "march"?

**Thursday:** Consider a church tradition that you love that has been/was upended by the pandemic. Did you imagine a new way of expression?

**Friday:** How would your experience of the Holy Family been different if you had grown up with a BIPOC crèche?

**Saturday:** Today we consider how we define community and we ask, what is your first reaction when you hear someone speaking a language other than English? Why?

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## **Christmas Memorials and Thanksgiving:**

This is a way for you to name those people or events that you wish to have remembered or thanked during this Christmastide. Please put your name, the amount you are donating to our Christmas Fund, and the names and occasions you wish to have printed in all the Christmastide service leaflets on this slip. Then attach your donation to the slip and put it in the plate or bring it to the office. All need to be in the office by Monday, December 19th.

## **Bible Study**

Bible Study will resume via Zoom on November 30th at 6:00 pm. All are invited to join us as we engage with Scripture and one another.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83774667817>

## **Advent Outreach Project**

Dear Grace Folk!

As we contemplate the meaning of this season and begin to slow down, get quiet and still, and prepare our hearts for the most wonderful gift of our Lord, we are invited to offer our own gift to some of our most marginalized people in the city. During Advent, please bring a 'gift' for a Lifebridge Basket which will be at the entrance of the Church. A member of Grace Church will take the week's donations to Lifebridge after services each week. The most needed, and heartbreakingly simple things needed are: Gloves, Hats, Socks, Pocket Handwarmers, Toothpaste, Women's Sanitary Products, and Disposable Razors.

Thank you for whatever you can provide materially, and if that is not possible for you, we thank you for directing your thoughts and prayers to this segment of our community. Look for the Lifebridge Basket as you enter the church.

Thank you.

## **Stewardship**

Last week, we had our ingathering of pledge cards, those tokens of our financial commitment to Grace Church for the upcoming year. If you have not given us your card yet, please send it in, drop it off, or email us at [gcis1@verizon.net](mailto:gcis1@verizon.net) with your 2023 pledge.

## **The Greens**

Thank you to Deb Papps for ordering the greens again this year. Thank you also to those stayed after the service to help deck the halls. It is a wonderful community we have of faithful people who give so much in return for the blessings they receive.

# LOVING LIBERATING LIFE GIVING *the Jesus Movement*

## — Grace Episcopal Church —

*A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts*

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry  
The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates  
The Right Reverend Gayle E. Harris  
The Reverend Deborah A. Phillips  
Mark Nelson  
Tom and Karen Tucker  
Hugh MacKay and Joanne Moar

*Presiding Bishop  
Bishop Diocesan  
Bishop Suffragan  
Rector  
Interim Director of Music  
Property Stewards  
Vergers*

## — Vestry —

Ryan Patten  
Peggy Carter  
Barbara Layne  
Angela Williams

*Senior Warden  
Junior Warden  
Clerk  
Treasurer*

Laura Beasley-Topliffe, Andrew Bishop  
Lisa Duffy, Katie Scott  
Joanna Troy, Matt vanHamersveld

*Members of Vestry*