

The First Sunday of Advent



1 December 2024

Holy Eucharist Rite II: 10:00 am

Grace Episcopal Church

The Reverend Deborah Phillips, Rector

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(978) 744-2796

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Welcome!

Welcome to those of you here. Here's some information:

Most Sundays, we have Church School at 10:00 am with trained teachers. The classroom is located through the door at the front right of the chapel and down the hall; please ask if you need help finding it. The children will join us in church at the Peace and for Communion. All baptized children of any age are welcome to receive communion.

Please join in the singing! Hymnals are located in the pew and the numbers are listed in the leaflet. **"S"** numbered hymns are found in the front of the *Hymnal 1982*. The *Book of Common Prayer* may also be found in the rack in front of you.

This is a self-supporting congregation, so when the plate is passed in the middle of the service, please be generous. Today's collection will support our ministries to the community.

At the communion, God welcomes all to the heavenly banquet. The Episcopal Church offers the sacraments to anyone baptized in any denomination who, through prayer and thoughtful consideration, desires them. Please come to the communion rail to receive the bread whether you are an Episcopalian or not, or to receive a blessing.

When coming to the rail for communion, please kneel or stand at the rail from right to left until the rail is full. You may receive the wafer, receive the wine after consuming the wafer (no intinction) or may ask for a blessing. Please let the priest know if you need **gluten free**.

The priest, Debbie, is available after the service to answer any questions you might have. Please let her know your thoughts about today's service.

If this is your first time here, please sign the book at the entrance of the church. If you want more information, our website is www.gracechurchsalem.org. Our weekly newsletter, called Grace Notes, can be found there. If you wish to receive the newsletter, simply go to the website, open Grace Notes and subscribe.

May we all find the service meaningful and the embrace of the community inviting. It is a joy to worship together, wherever we are in our journey.

The Opening Rite

Opening Voluntary Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J. S. Bach

Introit

Robert Lehman

In night's dim shadows lying, Our limbs fast lock'd in sleep, to thee, with faithful sighing, Our souls their vigil keep. Desire of every nation, Hear, Lord, our piteous cry; Thou Word, the world's salvation, Uplift us where we lie. Lord, be thine Advent hasten'd, Lest sin thy people mar; The gates which Adam fasten'd — The gates of heav'n, unbar. Son, to thine endless merit, Redeemer, Saviour, Friend, With Sire and Holy Spirit Be praises without end. - Charles Coffin

The Hymn at the Procession

The Hymnal 1982, #61

“Sleepers, wake!”

Wachet auf

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

Kyrie

The Hymnal 1982, S 91

Lord, have mercy upon us

Healey Willan

The Collect of the Day

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.**

The Word of the Lord

The Lessons *The people sit.*

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."

Lector

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Canticle

Behold your God

*Lift Every Voice and Sing, #2**Kenneth Louis***The Second Lesson****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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.*People* Thanks be to God.**The Sequence Hymn**

My Lord, what a morning

*Lift Every Voice and Sing, #13**Traditional Spiritual***The Gospel****Luke 21:25-36***Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Deborah Phillips

The Nicene Creed

The Book of Common Prayer, page 358

The Prayers of the People

I bid your prayers for the Church during this season of Advent. Pray for the leadership of the Episcopal Church, this Diocese and our parish. May we each prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior, not as a baby in a manger, but in glorious majesty, to bring in the kingdom of God.

We pray for God's holy, Catholic Church, *that we all may be one.*

I bid your prayers for the good use of our gifts. Pray for the discernment of our passions and ways to offer them to the Glory of God. We give thanks for this grace-filled parish, for its membership and for its witness, for the artwork which celebrates the beauty of your creation, and for our knitting group. May we use our resources for God's work in the world.

Give us grace in all that we undertake,
that our works may find favor in God's sight.

Awaken our hearts to God's presence in all people; in those we love easily and those with whom we struggle. May we be your loving presence to those whom we serve.

Grant that we may truly and humbly serve our God,
that Christ's Name may be glorified by all people.

Because Jesus particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, and those in any need or trouble, especially those on our parish prayer list, and those whom we name either silently or aloud.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble,
that they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray for the departed, especially for Tom Lemons. Pray for those who have died.

Give to the departed eternal rest, *let light perpetual shine upon them.*

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

page 360

The Blessing of the Greens

The Blessing of the Wreaths:

Everlasting and eternal God, you have no beginning, no end. Bless these wreaths: May they remind us of your never failing love for us, present today as we await your new creation. Amen.

The Blessing of the Branches:

When your Son Jesus entered Jerusalem before his Passion, the crowds waved branches and cheered the King of kings. Bless these branches: May they remind us that Christ will come again in triumph to redeem all of creation. Amen.

The Blessing of the Advent Wreath

By day and by night you keep watch over us, God Most High: Bless this wreath and its candles as it grows in brilliance. Around this shining wreath we shall keep watch for the One who comes to make new this waiting world. Amen.

The Blessing of the Jesse Tree

God of Adam and Eve, bless this tree. May it stir up in us the memory of paradise. Send us your Son, the shoot sprung from Jesse, the Incarnation of your promises, to restore your good earth to the freshness of Eden. Amen.

The Birthday Prayer *Those celebrating birthdays this month are invited to come to the rail for the Birthday Blessing.*

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

Healey Willan

The night is far-spent, the day is at hand! Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light! Behold, the Lord shall come, and all His saints with Him, and in that day the light shall be great! Rejoice, O Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh! Alleluia!

The Hymn at the Presentation
Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

The Hymnal 1982, #436
Truro

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B *BCP, page 367*

The Sanctus *Swedish Massbok arr. Regina Fryxell*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of power and might;
Heav - en and earth are full of thy glo - ry; Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
in the Name of the Lord; Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, page 364

The Fraction



O Christ, thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the world,



have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way



the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, thou Lamb of God,



that tak - est a - way the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

All present are invited to receive the Holy Sacrament.

Communion Hymn

Creator of the stars at night

The Hymnal 1982, #60

Conditor alme siderum

Postcommunion Prayer

page 365

Postcommunion Hymn

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending

The Hymnal 1982, #57

Helmsley

Blessing and Dismissal

Closing Voluntary Herr Christ, der einige Gottes Sohn

J. S. Bach

*Refreshments are offered in the Lobby for all.
Thank you to Laura Beasley-Topliffe for hosting*

*Thank you to Deb Papps for arranging for the greens
and those who came yesterday to decorate the wreaths*

— Worship Leaders —

The Reverend Deborah Phillips
Joanne Moar
Gavin Watson-Betrand
Caroline Watson-Felt
Joanne Moar
Peggy Carter, Jason Barnes

Presider and Preacher
Vergor
Acolyte
Lector
Chalicer
Ushers

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Our Prayers are offered for

For the peaceful repose of the souls of Thomas Lemons and Francis Hill, for Nancy and Christine, Reny Sparapani, Gary Young, Amy, Paul, Chuck Brown, Heather and Prescott,, Ariana, Sheridan, Faith Aroko and Family, Jesse Hurst and Family, Angela Williams, Neal and Maureen Joyce, Arthur, Jane Thompson, Deb Young, Cindy Rhodes, Ron, Gerald Tucker, Allison Mascolo, Melissa Glassman, Max Joyce, Marc Britt, those battling cancer, especially Faith's friend and the Princess of Wales, for Mel, Corey MacNeil, Dianne, Michael Towey, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Priscilla Lemons and Family, Steve, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their ministries, for Ukraine and Haiti; the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem, the Salem Public Schools and for an end to racism, war, anti-Semitism, gun violence and oppression. In thanksgiving, we pray for our Knitting Group, for this season of Advent, for this community of faith, for creation, for the diversity of people, and for all the blessings of this life. If you have prayer requests, please email prayelistlist@gracechurchsalem.org by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news.

Following the Service Today

Please stay and help us hang the greens and put up the Jesse tree. Thank you.

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, you are invited to offer your own gift to some of our most marginalized people in the city. During Advent, please bring a 'gift' for a Life-bridge Basket which will be at the entrance of the Church.

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.

Christmas in Salem

Grace Church will again be part of the Christmas in Salem House Tour to take place December 7 and 8. A spreadsheet to signup is found at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VHRepjTxMnul5JJVIWfPX8XamFVBfM1WMBpxsaOcdWQ/edit?usp=sharing>

On **Saturday December 7th**, we will be serving lunch in Abbott Hall from 11-1. The menu will include quiche, soup, coffee, tea and water. We need help with set-up and sales, as well as quiche, soup, and baked goods.

We also **need docents** for both days. We have plenty of materials with information about the building and history. The shifts for docents are 10:15-1:15 and 1:15-4:15 on Saturday and 11:15-1:30 and 1:30-3:45 on Sunday.

There will also be a lecture in the church at 1 and 2 each day.

Please join us as we offer a warm and welcoming space to visitors on the tour.

Upcoming Events

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| 12/1 | 10:00 am
4:00 pm | Blessing of Greens and Birthday Prayer
Celtic Service for Advent I |
| 12/7 | 10:30 am
11:00 am
1:00 pm
2:00 pm | Christmas in Salem House Tour
Lunch begins until 1:00 pm
Lecture
Lecture |
| 12/8 | 9:00 am
10:00 am
11:30 am
1:00 pm
2:00 pm
4:00 pm | Young and the Restless
Visit from St. Nicholas
Christmas in Salem House Tour
Lecture
Lecture
10th anniversary of Celtic Evensong and Communion! |
| 12/13 | 7:00 pm | Salem Education Foundation Charlie Brown Jazz
Concert in Abbot Hall |
| 12/14 | 9:00 am | Craft Event with Social Committee |
| 12/15 | 10:00 am
4:00 pm | Gaudete Sunday
Gaudete Sunday |
| 12/21 | 9:00 am -
12:00 pm | Christmas Cookie Walk |
| 12/22 | 10:00 am
4:00 pm | Holy Eucharist
Blue Christmas/Longest Night Celtic |
| 12/24 | 4:00 pm
10:00 pm | Christmas Pageant
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service |
| 12/25 | 10:00 am | Christmas Day Service |
| 12/29 | 10:00 am
4:00 pm | Holy Eucharist
Celtic Christmas |

— Grace Episcopal Church —

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe

Presiding Bishop

The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth

Bishop Diocesan

The Right Reverend Carol Gallagher

Assistant Bishop

The Reverend Deborah A. Phillips

Rector

The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler

Assisting Clergy

The Reverend Manny Faria

Assisting Clergy

Mark N. Peterson

Music Director

Tom and Karen Tucker

Property Stewards

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten

Senior Warden

Barbara Layne

Junior Warden

Lisa Duffy

Clerk

Joanne Moar

Treasurer

Melissa Barnes, Marianne Cannon, Joanna Troy

Members of Vestry

Susan Tweed, Matt VanHamersveld, Holly Willis

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The Mission of Grace Church is to unconditionally invite all people to join us in building a faithful Episcopal congregation that goes out into the community and through prayer, presence, and partnering improves the quality of life by bringing everyone closer to God.