

The Third Sunday of Advent



14 December 2025
Holy Eucharist: Rite II
10:00 am

Grace Episcopal Church

385 Essex Street • Salem • Massachusetts 01970

(978) 744-2796

Email: office@gracechurchsalem.org Web: www.gracechurchsalem.org

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 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 Eucharist, 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 a gluten free wafer.

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 on our journey.

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

10:00 AM

*We welcome violinist Diane Hastings,
who has graciously offered to play for this morning's service.*

The Opening Rite

Opening Voluntary

The Four Seasons: No. 4 Winter, II. Largo

Antonio Vivaldi

Reflection at the Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Jane Thompson

from the Episcopal Church's "Preparing to Become the Beloved Community,"

Hymn at the Procession

The Hymnal 1982, #59

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

The Collect for Purity

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

Kyrie

The Hymnal 1982, S91

Lord, have mercy upon us

Healey Willan

The Collect of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Word of the Lord

The Lessons (*The people sit*)

The First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of

Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9



- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jácob fór their help! *
whose hope is ín the LÓRD their Gód;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and áll that is ín them; *
who keeps his prómise for évër;
- 6 Who gives justice to thóse who áre oppressed, *
and food to thóse who húngër.

7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

The Hymnal 1982, #438

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Woodlands

The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news

brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Sarah A. Conner

The Nicene Creed

The Book of Common Prayer, page 358

The Prayers of the People: Form III

BCP, page 387

The Confession and Absolution

BCP, page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

O Sanctissima

arr. Ludwig van Beethoven

O most holy one, O most pious one

O sweetest Virgin, Maria

Mother beloved, Undefined mother,

Pray for us, pray for us, pray for us.

The Hymn at the Presentation On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry	<i>The Hymnal 1982, #76</i> <i>Winchester New</i>
The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B	<i>BCP, page 367</i>
Sanctus Holy, holy, holy	<i>The Hymnal 1982, S130</i> <i>Franz Peter Schubert</i>
The Lord's Prayer	<i>BCP, page 364</i>
The Fraction Anthem Jesus, Lamb of God	<i>The Hymnal 1982, S164</i> <i>Franz Peter Schubert</i>
Communion <i>All present are invited to reverently receive the Holy Sacrament</i>	
Hymn at Communion There's a wideness in God's mercy	<i>The Hymnal 1982, #469</i> <i>St. Helena</i>
Postcommunion Prayer	<i>BCP, page 365</i>
Postcommunion Hymn Prepare the way, O Zion	<i>The Hymnal 1982, #65</i> <i>Bereden väg för Herran</i>
Voluntary Magnificat V. Toni vs. 1	<i>Heinrich Scheidemann</i>

— Worship Leaders —

The Reverend Sarah A. Conner	Presider and Preacher
Joanne Moar	Verger
Gavin Watson-Bertrand	Acolyte
Wesley Utsler	Lector
Joanne Moar	Chalicer
Jason Barnes & Megan Salamida	Ushers

Our Prayers are offered for

Margaret Connor, James Ward, Thomas Trombley, Barbara Dwyer, Lilyann, John Gilbo, Vance Gilbert, Reny Sparapani, Laurel, Gary Young, Amy, Paul, Heather and Prescott, Ariana, Sheridan, Javy, Faith Aroko and Family, Jesse Hurst and Family, Maureen Joyce, Arthur, Deb Young, Cindy Rhodes, Ron, Allison Mascolo, Melissa Glassman, Max Joyce, Marc Britt, those battling cancer, Mel, Corey MacNeil, Dianne, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Priscilla Lemons, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, for the peaceful repose of the soul of Smadar and all victims of war, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their ministries; the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem, the Salem Public Schools and for an end to racism, war, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, gun violence and oppression. In thanksgiving, we pray for the ministry of The Reverend Debbie Phillips and her husband, Eric Wagner, this community of faith, for God's grace and forgiveness, for those with the courage to stand up to tyranny, for creation, for the diversity of people, and for all the blessings of this life.

If you have additions or deletions to the prayer list, please email prayerlist@gracechurchsalem.org by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news. The Parish Prayer List is read aloud each Wednesday at Morning Prayer.

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Knitting News

*The Knitting Group successfully distributed **over 300 hats** to the Salem Public Schools nurses and Centerboard.*

Thank you to all who provided support as part of our Hats O.F.F. campaign. Next week, the group will distribute hats to the Boys & Girls Club kids at Grace. In addition, the Salem High School nurse recently reached out for hats for the babies/toddlers in the day care housed at the high school. So, we are as busy as ever!

Come join us Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 in the Common Room.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP?



Donate a \$25 grocery store gift card to the Salem YMCA!

The YMCA will distribute cards to Salem community members who have lost their SNAP benefits. Cards can be brought to the front desk at the Salem YMCA, located at 1 Sewall Street. **978-744-0351**

Donate to The Salem Pantry!

Both dollars and volunteers will help meet increased demand.
No food donations, please!
thesalempantry.org



Support the United Way of Massachusetts Bay

In partnership with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, United Way is responding to these direct threats to SNAP.
unitedwaymassbay.org/

Spread the word!

Share the food security resources on Salem Food Policy Council with your networks.
Salemfoodpolicy.com



Salem Public School and Salem Academy students receive **free** school breakfast and lunch. Students who stay after school can also have dinner at Salem High School and Collins Middle School. Encourage your student to participate!

Those 60+ can enjoy free lunches at the Community Life Center at 401 Bridge St. Lunches are served Mon-Fri at 11:30am. Reservations required: elblumbergsalem.com / **978-744-0924**



UPCOMING — — Events





Christmas Memorials and Thanksgivings

Each Christmas, we make an offering in thanksgiving or as a memorial to be recognized during all our Christmas services.

Inserted in this week's bulletin is a slip for you to list your name, the name or event which is being remembered, and the amount of gift. You may also go to our "Donate" button on the website and then send an email to office@gracechurchsalem.org with the information.

For inclusion in the Christmas leaflets, the names must be submitted by **Monday, December 22** at noon.

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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.

— Grace Episcopal Church —

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe
The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth
The Reverend Sarah A. Conner
The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler
The Reverend Manny Faria
Mark N. Peterson
Tom and Karen Tucker

Presiding Bishop
Bishop Diocesan
Interim Priest
Assisting Clergy
Assisting Clergy
Music Director
Property Stewards

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten
Lisa Duffy
Joanna Troy
Katie Scott
Javy Awan, Marianne Cannon, Kai Freyleue,
Joanne Moar, Susan Tweed, Holly Willis

Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Clerk
Treasurer
Members of Vestry