

# The Second Sunday of Advent



7 December 2025  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II  
with Birthday Blessing  
10:00 am

## Grace Episcopal Church

385 Essex Street • Salem • Massachusetts 01970

(978) 744-2796

Email: [office@gracechurchsalem.org](mailto:office@gracechurchsalem.org) Web: [www.gracechurchsalem.org](http://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](http://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.

**The Opening Rite**

**Opening Voluntary**

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659 *Johann Sebastian Bach*

**Reflection at the Lighting of the Advent Wreath** *Marianne Cannon*  
*from the Episcopal Church's "Preparing to Become the Beloved Community,"*

**Hymn at the Procession** *The Hymnal 1982, #67*  
Comfort, comfort ye my people *Pslam 42*

**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**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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** **Isaiah 11:1-10**

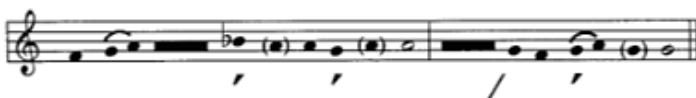
A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of

the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Lector*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19



- 1 Give *thiē* King your *jústice*, Ó God, \*  
and your righteousness / to the Kíng's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your *péople* *ríghteously* \*  
and the / poor with *jústice*;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity *tó* the *péople*, \*  
and the little / hills bring *ríghteousness*.
- 4 He shall defend the needy *amóng* the *péople*; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush / the opprëssor.

- 5 He shall live as long as the sún and móon endure, \*  
from one generation / to anóther.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upón the mówn field, \*  
like showers that / water thē earth.
- 7 In his time shall the ríghteous flóurish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the / moon shall bē n
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the Gód of Ísrael, \*  
who a/lone does wóndrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Náme for éver! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
/ Amen. Ámen. [Ant.]

## The Second Lesson

## Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

## **The Sequence Hymn**

Savior of the nations, come

*The Hymnal 1982, #54*

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

## **The Gospel**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

*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 Birthday Prayer**

*Those celebrating birthdays in the month of December are invited to come forward.*

*(Said by all):* 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**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Offertory Anthem**

There is no rose

Graham J. Ellis

*There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu,  
Alleluia.*

*For in this rose contained was  
Heaven and earth in little space,  
Res miranda.*

*By that rose we may well see  
That he is God in persons three,  
Pari forma.*

*Then Leave we all this worldly mirth,  
And follow we this joyful birth,  
Transeamus.*

### **The Hymn at the Presentation**

*The Hymnal 1982, #75*

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

*Ascension*

### **The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B**

*BCP, page 367*

### **Sanctus**

Holy, holy, holy

*The Hymnal 1982, S130*

*Franz Peter Schubert*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*BCP, page 364*

## **The Fraction Anthem**

Jesus, Lamb of God

*The Hymnal 1982, S164*

*Franz Peter Schubert*

## **Communion**

*All present are invited to reverently receive the Holy Sacrament*

## **Hymn at Communion**

O come, O come, Emmanuel (sts.1,4,8)

*The Hymnal 1982, #56*

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

## **Postcommunion Prayer**

*BCP, page 365*

## **Postcommunion Hymn**

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

*The Hymnal 1982, #616*

*Es flog ein kleins Waldvöglein*

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

## **Voluntary**

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 599 *Johann Sebastian Bach*

## **— Worship Leaders —**

The Reverend Sarah A. Conner

Presider and Preacher

Joanne Moar

Verger

Gavin Watson-Bertrand

Acolyte

Laura Beasley-Topliffe

Lector

Lisa Duffy

Chalicer

Jim Duffy & Megan Salamida

Ushers

## **Our Prayers are offered for**

Margaret Connor, 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](mailto: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.

### Permissions for livestreaming

Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license A-401113, from St James Music Press with license number 7273, and from RiteSong. All other music used in this service is in the Public Domain

## 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](http://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/](http://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: [eblumbergesalem.com](http://eblumbergesalem.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](mailto:office@gracechurchsalem.org) with the information.

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

# Grace Episcopal Church



385 Essex Street  
Salem, Massachusetts 01970  
(978) 744-2796

*E-mail: [info@gracechurchsalem.org](mailto:info@gracechurchsalem.org)*

*Web: [www.gracechurchsalem.org](http://www.gracechurchsalem.org)*

*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*