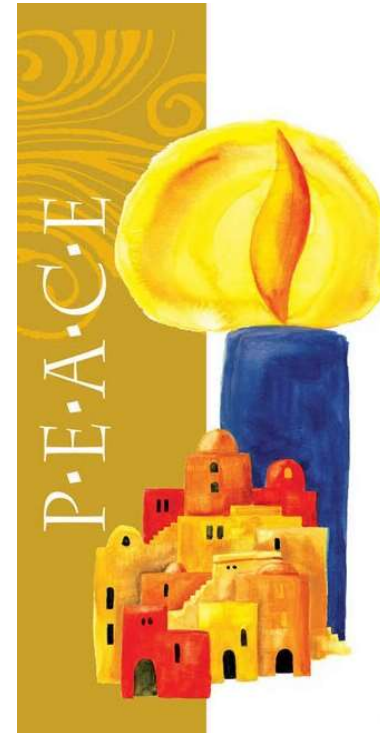




Morning Prayer



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, a.d. 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

holy spirit, you are welcome here

Entrance & Confession

Advent Acclamation <i>stand</i>	<i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> 75
Confession of Sin <i>kneel</i>	BCP 79

The Invitatory & Psalter

The Invitatory <i>stand</i>	BCP 80
The Venite	BCP 82
Canticle 15: The Song of Mary	BCP 91

The Lessons

First Lesson <i>sit</i>	2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 • Bulletin
Canticle 11: The Third Song of Isaiah <i>stand</i>	BCP 87
Second Lesson <i>sit</i>	Romans 16:25–27 • Bulletin
Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah <i>stand</i>	BCP 92
Third Lesson <i>sit</i>	Luke 1:26–38 • Bulletin
Homily	Fr. Ted
The Apostles' Creed <i>stand</i>	BCP 96

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer <i>stand</i>	BCP 97
Suffrages A	BCP 98
The Collect of the Day	Bulletin
A Collect for Sundays	BCP 98
A Collect for Mission	BCP 100
The General Thanksgiving	BCP 101
Concluding Words	BCP 102

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON *sit*

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A Reading from Second Samuel

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON *sit*

Romans 16:25-27

A Reading from Romans

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE THIRD LESSON *sit*

Luke 1:26-38

A Reading from Luke

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



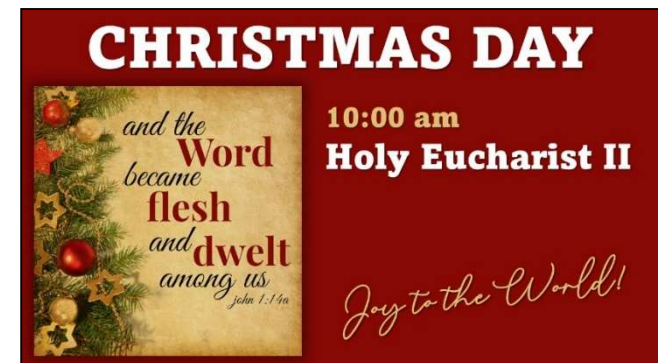
CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm
Stations of Advent
A Family Friendly Service

7:00 pm
Choral Eucharist
• 6:40 Christmas Music
• 6:30 Streaming Starts

THE PEOPLE
WALKING IN
DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A
GREAT LIGHT
Isaiah 9:2

Illustration of a shepherd with sheep under a starry night sky.



CHRISTMAS DAY

*and the
became
Word
flesh
and dwelt
among us*
John 1:14a

10:00 am
Holy Eucharist II

Joy to the World!

Illustration of a Christmas tree branch with ornaments and a star.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

Your giving is what makes the mission and ministry of Grace possible. Please consider a year-end gift.

If you want your gift included in this year's giving statement, please have it to the office by December 31st.



SOUPER SUNDAY

We provide the soup & bread.
You bring a favorite dessert/snack.



DEC 31st after 10:15 service.

5th SUNDAY SOUPER SUNDAY – DECEMBER 31

Sign Up in the Narthex

December 31 is the fifth Sunday of the month, and we will have a "Souper Sunday" after the 10:15 service. Soup and bread will be provided. Bring your favorite snack or dessert to share. Don't forget to sign up so we know how much soup and bread to prepare.

WHO IS THE VESTRY?

What Is the Vestry's Role?

The vestry is the body within a congregation that, with the clergy, leads the parish. The vestry...

- helps to discern the vision toward which God is drawing that particular community;
- articulates and communicates the vision;
- holds the community accountable for its realization of that vision; and
- keeps the mission of the Church and that of the individual congregation clearly before the parish community.



God creates the Church, and invites us to participate in the process. A congregation's leaders are the stewards of that creation and hold it in trust. The congregation has been given the resources needed to do the job God has called it to do. Leaders identify and allocate those resources enabling the Church to carry out its mission. They also lead the congregation in celebrating and giving thanks for these resources.

Meetings of the Vestry

Vestry Night. On the first Monday of each month, the Vestry meets at the church from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. On Vestry Nights, we focus on the adaptive work of discerning and clarifying the mission of the church. We begin our evenings with a catered meal. We devote our time to the work of building community, developing our leadership capacity, learning new perspectives and skills, and finding ways to carry out God's mission in practical ways.

Vestry Zoom. On the third Monday of a month, the Vestry meets online from 6:30 to 7:00 pm via Zoom. At this meeting, we focus on the more technical work of finances, stewardship, building and grounds.

Who Can Serve on Vestry?

Nominees for Vestry must be baptized and confirmed, attend worship at Grace regularly, and contribute financially to the mission and ministry of Grace. Nominees will fill out a questionnaire that will be distributed to the congregation the week before the Annual Meeting.

Looking for 5 Nominations. This year, we have three off-going Vestry members—*Mitch Hixson, Kathy Moll, and Brooklyn Walker*—and two other partial terms that need to be completed. So we are looking for at least 5 nominations: 3 persons to serve three-year terms; 1 to serve a two-year term; and 1 to serve a one-year term. You may nominate yourself, or you may nominate someone else, if you have their permission to do so. Signup sheets are in the Narthex or nominations may be given to Angie in the church office (grace.hutch@sbcglobal.net; 662-8024).



**Annual Church
ELECTION**

Upcoming EVENTS

Mondays thru Thursdays
9:00 am to 1:00 pm



ONLINE PRAYER

9:00 pm • Every NightCompline Online at Nine (FB LIVE)
12:30 pm • Mondays & Wednesdays Centering Prayer (FB LIVE)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 • CHRISTMAS EVE

9:00 am.....One Service: Morning Prayer
4:00 pm Christmas Eve: Stations of Advent
7:00 pmChristmas Eve: Choral Eucharist

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 • CHRISTMAS DAY

7:00 pmHoly Eucharist, Rite 2

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

9:30 am.....The Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
10:00 am.....Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm MS-HS Youth Group

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00 am.....The Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 • Spoken
9:15 am.....NO Sunday School
10:15 am.....The Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 • Music
After 10:15 am ServiceSouper Sunday

OFFICE CLOSED THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25



The church office will be closed the week of December 25. Fr. Ted and Angie will be taking some vacation days. There will be **NO** Centering Prayer on Monday or Wednesday and no Holy Eucharist on Wednesday. • If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Dn. Todd at 620-899-3134.



SCRIPTURES FOR NEXT SUNDAY • CHRISTMAS 1

- Isaiah 61:10-62:3
- Psalm 147
- Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
- John 1:1-18

Read
ahead.



CLERGY, STAFF, AND COORDINATORS

The Rev. Dr. J. Ted Blakley	Priest and Rector
The Rev. Amy Long	Assistant Priest
The Rev. Bill Waln	Assistant Priest
The Rev. Larry Steadman	Priest Associate
The Rev. Larry Carver	Priest in Residence
The Rev. Todd Ray	Deacon
The Rev. Shane Schneider	Deacon
Missy Waln	Music Director
Vonda McKenna	Pianist
Jan Howard	Organist
Kinley Lewis	Nursery
Laura Southards	Sexton
Angie Rodriguez	Office Administrator