

Grace Episcopal Church

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www.GraceGlendora.org



The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025

The Rev. Susan L. Scranton, Rector

The Rev James Seipel, Assisting

David Aldrete, Choirmaster ~ Pavel Petrov, Organist

Welcome to Grace Parish! We are glad that you have answered God's call to worship, and we are honored that you have chosen to be with us. In addition to the service, we offer childcare for children age 4 and under, and Sunday School for preschool through 5th grade.

Visitors, we would like to meet you! Please take a moment to fill out the "Voice from the Pew" found in the red folders and place it in the offertory plate.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Prelude

Pavel Petrov

Processional Hymn 68

Llangloffan

“Rejoice! Rejoice believers”

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 355

Collect for Purity

BCP p. 355

Kyrie (Pew Card)

Rutter

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.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 7: 10-16

Stacey Aldrete

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 80:1-7, 16-18 Qui regis Israel

Plain Chant



Stir up your strength, O LORD, and come to help us.

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
 stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O LORD God of hosts, *
 how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
 the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
 give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Miles Bresee

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 56 vv. 7, 8

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

“O come, Desire of nations”

The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**The Rev. Susan Scranton**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon**The Rev. Susan Scranton****The Nicene Creed**

BCP p. 358

Prayers of the People - Form IV**Frank Boyd**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list. Are there others? Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

BCP p. 360

The Peace

~ Welcome, Announcements and Special Blessings ~

Blessing (Said by all): Watch over thy child, O Lord, as his days increase, bless and guide him wherever he may be. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he fall; and in his heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

M. Praetorius

“Lo how a Rose er’r Blooming”

Grace Parish Choir

Presentation Hymn 598 v. 3

Mit Freuden zart

“New advent of the love of Christ”

Great Thanksgiving (Prayer B)

BCP p. 361

Sanctus & Benedictus (Pew Card)

Rutter

The Lord’s Prayer

BCP p. 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP p. 364

Invitation to Communion

BCP p. 364

(All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. If you have difficulty coming forward, please notify an usher, and we will be happy to bring Communion to you where you are seated.)

Communion Hymn 265 *Gabriel's Message*

“The angel Gabriel from heaven came”

Postcommunion Prayer BCP p. 365

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn 66 *Stuttgart*

“Come, thou long expected Jesus”

The Dismissal BCP p. 366

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Pavel Petrov*



Grace Episcopal Church Vestry Members 2025

Rev. Susan L. Scranton,

Frank Boyd - Senior Warden, Heather Moore - Junior Warden

Miles Bresee - Treasurer, Todd Rice - Buildings & Grounds,

Kathi Ferris, Janet Kawamoto,

Hannah Palpant, Jade Petteruto, Linda Rice



The flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Jared and Catie Anders in celebration of
Elizabeth Ander's 13th birthday
and by Pam Bryant in loving memory
of her husband, Peter Bryant.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adopt-a-Lunch - Please note a date change! Adopt-a-Lunch will be preparing and packing lunches **today** after the 10 AM service.

Youth Group - Today after the 10 AM service. We will be having our Christmas Party.

Christmas Concert - Please join us today at 4 PM. There will be a reception in Baxter Hall following the concert.



Musical Presentation at 4:30 PM

Family Service at 5:00 PM

Midnight Service is at 11:00 PM



If you would like to make an online donation to
Grace Episcopal Church, please use the QR code.
Thank you!

Serving today:

Celebrant..... The Rev. Susan Scranton
Lay Eucharistic Minister Frank Boyd
Lectors Stacey Aldrete, Miles Bresee, Frank Boyd
Acolytes Morgan Patterson, Morgan Aldrete
Choirmaster David Aldrete
Organist Pavel Petrov
GEC Stream Team..... Trevor Barcelo, Ethan Seielstad
Flower Guild Rosann Kindt, Nancy Rice
Hymnboard Manager Trevor Barcelo
Altar Guild..... Dawn Mellon, Patricia Meyer, Debbie Pullen,
Janese Grady, Cathy St. Onge
Ushers Alex McKenzie, Robert Van Derbur
Vestry Person of the Week..... Frank Boyd

Prayer List

For healing and comfort: Edie Noland, Sam Luna, Rick, Lucy, Lindsay, Manette Thomas, Ken Mayle, Liz Hernandez, Rosalie Lack, Lisa Taylor, Marshall Meyer, Sharon W., Anita Baker, Amanda Van Derbur, Chad Camou, Paulina Wells, Scott Martin, Frank Boyd, Dick Honaker, David, Derek Anderson, Marie Gillies, Erin Carter, Chris Geiss

For strength & guidance: Jennifer & Justin, Brock, The Hernandez Family

For those who died: Lawrence Everett

For those in morning: The Hafer Family

For those serving in the military: Chad Donohoe ~ U.S. Navy, Nelson Acosta ~ U.S. Air Force, Adam Corona Jr. ~ U.S. Air Force, Seth Tradel ~ U.S. Navy, Mitchell Mann ~ U.S. Marines

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

8 – Ruth Aldrete	12 – Patty Hess	19 – Jessica Rice
8 – Ann Jones	13 - Claire Wainwright	20 – Elizabeth Anders
10 – Kathi Ferris	13 - Oliver Wainwright	28 – Fred Colley
11 – Steven Patterson	18 - Samuel Moreno	29 – Andrew Petteruto
	19 – Jessica Rice	

INSTALLATION ANNIVERSARY

The Rev. Susan L. Scranton as Rector of Grace ~ Dec. 7, 1997