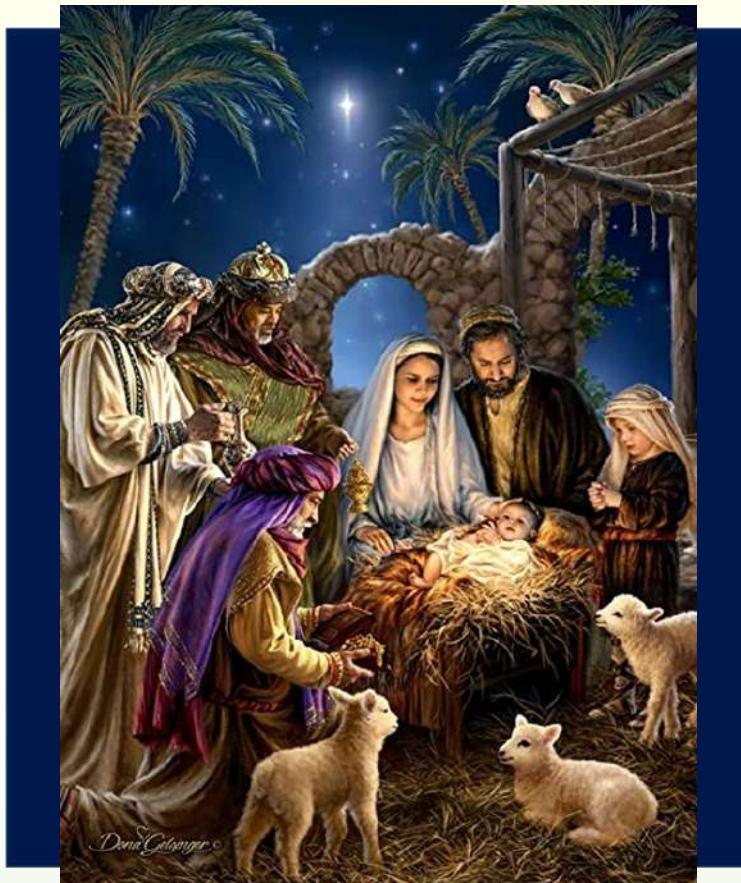


# Grace Episcopal Church

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## Christmas Eve



December 24, 2025 ~ 5:00 pm

# Grace Episcopal Church

## Christmas Eve ~ December 24, 2025 ~ 5:00 pm

Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church.  
Thank you for worshipping with us as we celebrate the  
birth of our savior Jesus Christ.

### Festive Choral Eucharist

**Processional Hymn 83 vv. 1-4, 6**

*Adeste fideles*

“O come, all ye faithful”

### The Word of God

#### Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

#### Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

**Hymn 96 vv. 1 & 3**

“Angels we have heard on high”

*Gloria*

#### Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this night of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. **AMEN.**

### First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Gradual Anthem      Infant Holy, Infant Lowly      Arr. Kathleen Wissinger  
Sounds of Grace Handbell Quartet

### Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Sequence Hymn 79      "O Little Town of Bethlehem"      St. Louis  
vv. 1,2,3 before the gospel  
vv. 5 after the gospel

### The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

Celebrant:      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People:      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all people. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the Celebrant says:*

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Susan L. Scranton

**The Nicene Creed** (*Said by all. Please stand as able.*)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayers of the People

My sisters and brothers in the peace of God, all the gifts we shall give and receive in these days are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's word made flesh this night. From grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds' field might be realized on every field of war, on every street of violence, and in the hearts of your faithful people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the rejoicing of this night might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are struck down by disease and illness. We pray especially for those on our Parish Prayer List. Are there others? (*The people may add their petitions.*) Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

### Celebrant:

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your word in our flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas word, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God this night and forever. **AMEN.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

## Celebrant and People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **AMEN.**

## The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## Holy Communion

## Offertory Anthem

## “Christmas Lullaby”

John Rutter

## Grace Parish Choir

## **Presentation Hymn 109 vv. 1, 2**

## The First Nowell

## “The First Nowell”

## The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer B)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus and Benedictus**

John Rutter

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of our glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

(Please kneel as able.)

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**Celebrant and People:**

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Celebrant and People:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the bread. A period of silence is kept. Then all sing this anthem.*

**The Fraction Anthem: (S155)**

Gerald R. Near

## Communion of the People

**Invitation to Communion**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

We invite all baptized Christians to receive communion. If for any reason you are unable to come forward to receive, please inform an usher, and communion will be brought to you. Gluten free wafers are available - please mention it at the altar.

Communion Anthem      “Slumber, O Holy Jesu”      Dale Wood  
Grace Parish Choir ~ Bobbi Patterson, Soloist

Communion Hymn 115      “What Child is This”      Greensleaves

(Following Communion, please kneel as able for the Postcommunion hymn.)

Postcommunion Hymn 111      “Silent night, holy night”      Stille Nacht  
Sounds of Grace Handbell Quartet      Arr. Jared Anders  
& Susan Scranton

#### **Postcommunion Prayer**

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Christmas Blessing**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

**AMEN.**

Recessional Hymn 87      “Hark! the herald angels sing”      Mendelssohn

#### **Dismissal**

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People:      **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude      Pavel Petrov

Participants in today's service:

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Susan Scranton  
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Donte Apperwhite  
Lectors: Karen Huss, Jade Petteruto, Heather Moore

Grace Parish Choir:

Soprano: Janet Kawamoto, Laurel McKenzie, Bobbi Patterson, Nancy Rice  
Alto: Ruth Aldrete, Stacey Aldrete, Debbi England, Donna McAlmond  
Tenor: Frank Boyd, Kim Boyd, Karen Huss  
Bass: Wayne Kawamoto, Patrick McAlmond, Steven Patterson, Jon Sharp

Choirmaster: David Aldrete  
Organist: Pavel Petrov

Sounds of Grace Handbell Quartet: Jared Anders, Crystal Hoffman, Jade Petteruto, Susan Scranton

Acolytes: Morgan Patterson, April Moore, Elizabeth Anders, Amelie Palpant

Acolyte Master: Jared Anders

Stream Team : Trevor Barcelo, Ethan Seielstad, Rick Sandona, Karen Williamson, Mizuki Williamson

Ushers: Carl Colley, Alex McKenzie, Rick Sandona, Rob Van Derbur

Altar Guild: Janese Grady, Dawn Mellon, Patricia Meyer, Debbie Pullen, Cathy St. Onge

Flower Guild: Donte Apperwhite, Kim Boyd, Rosann Kindt, Amelie Palpant, Hannah Palpant, Nancy Rice, Todd Rice, Liz Sandona, Susie Seielstad

Bulletin Editor & Design: Nancy Rice



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



## *The Christmas Flowers are given by:*

Jon Sharp in loving memory of his wife, Irene Paulson-Sharp.

Helen Crisp in loving memory of her son, Ken Wyatt.

Kathy and Jerry Seielstad in loving memory of Dawn Seielstad Donohoe for her 56th birthday on December 24th.

Denise Barcelo in loving memory of her father, Rudy Barcelo.

Carl and Lynn Colley with love for our family and Grace Episcopal Church.

Ruth and Dave Dorman

Rene and Iswari Camou in loving memory of Indrani Wye and Chad Camou with eternal affection.

Pam Bryant in loving memory of her husband, Peter Bryant.

Katherine Plumlee and Carlota DeJimas in loving memory of their family.

Linda Rice in honor of her family.

Debbie Pullen in loving memory of her parents, Don and Emily Pullen.

Rick and Liz Sandona in honor of a loving family especially Raylene, TJ, Liam, Everleigh, Lily and Lainey, and our Grace family, Merry Christmas.

Lucy Brejche in loving memory of Dawn and Albert B.

Gary Kindt in loving memory of Susan Beltran.

Rosann Kindt in loving memory of Dorothy and Sylvester Graff.

Sam and Stephanie Luna in loving memory of her mother, Dolieta Villarta.

Kathi Ferris in thanksgiving for Kevin, Sabrina, Autumn and my Grace Church family.

Susan Scranton in loving memory of her mother and father; Marilyn and James Scranton.

John and Tricia Coppack in memory of loved ones and the gift of wonderful friendships.