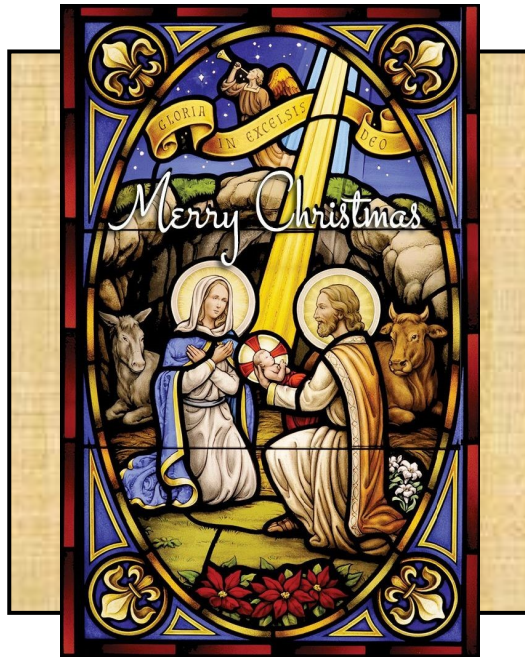


# Grace Episcopal Church

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## The Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026

The Rev. Susan L. Scranton, Rector

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 Second Sunday after Christmas ~



**8:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST: Rite I**

\*Red Book of Common Prayer p. 323

Eucharistic Prayer 1

\*BCP p. 333



**10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST: Rite II**

**Postlude**

*Pavel Petrov*

**Processional Hymn 93**

*Regent Square*

“Angels from the realm of Glory”

### **The Word of God**

Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 355

Collect for Purity

BCP p. 355

**Hymn 96 vv. 1, 2**

*Gloria*

“Angels we have heard on high”

### **Collect of the Day**

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*Jared Anders*

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,

and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 84:1-8** *Quam dilecta!* Jared Anders

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*

they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, \*

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*

hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; \*

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a** Donte Apperwhite

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly

places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn 128**

*Three Kings of Orient*

“We three kings of Orient are”

**The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

The Rev. Susan Scranton

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and

there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Reflections on the Incarnation

Dr. David Dorman

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

Prayers of the People ~ Form IV

Miles Bresee

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

Jay Althouse

“Goin’ to Bethlehem”

Grace Parish Choir

Hymn 380 v. 3

Old 100th

“Praise God, from whom all blessing flow”

Great Thanksgiving (Prayer B)

BCP p. 367

Sanctus & Benedictus (Pew Card )

Rutter

The Lord’s Prayer

BCP p. 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP p. 364

Fraction Anthem (S155)

Gerald R. Near

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.) Gluten free wafers are available.*

Communion Hymn 91

Ermuntre dich

“Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light”

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP p. 365

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn 99

Go Tell It on the Mountain

“Go tell it on the mountain

The Dismissal

BCP p. 366

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

People: Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

*Pavel Petrov*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**De-greening the church** - Please come and help take down our Christmas decorations after the 10 AM service.

**The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord** ~ Sunday, January 11. This is a special day for baptisms. If you are interested, please let Rev. Susan know immediately.

**Youth Group** ~ Sunday, January 11 following the 10:00 AM service.

**Bible Study resumes** ~ Wednesday, January 21 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside room and via Zoom.

**Annual Meeting** ~ Sunday, February 1 ~ One combined service at 10:00 AM - This is the one annual gathering in which the entire congregation is invited to a business meeting that is social, reflective, and interested in the business of the church.

**Elections:** ~ 3 New Vestry members  
~ 3 Diocesan Convention delegates  
~ 3 Alternate Diocesan Convention delegates

All heads of ministries are asked to write annual reports reflecting on the year 2025. Please have all reports into the church office no later than Sunday, January 25!! (This is a hard deadline!)

**New Vestry Members Sought** ~ Three vestry members will be finishing their term on vestry and three new members will be elected. If you are interested in running for the vestry, please contact Rev. Susan. Vestry members must be at least 16 years of age, a pledging member of the church, and very much interested in the life and health of the congregation.

**Serving today:**

Celebrant..... The Rev. Susan Scranton  
Lay Eucharistic Minister ..... Donte Apperwhite  
Lectors ..... Jared Anders, Donte Apperwhite, Miles Bresee  
Acolytes .... Elizabeth Anders, Morgan Patterson, Mitchell Patterson  
GEC Stream Team ..... Trevor Barcelo, Ethan Seielstad  
Altar Guild ..... Janese Grady, Debbie Pullen, Dawn Mellon,  
Cathy St. Onge  
Flower Guild ..... Donte Apperwhite, Kim Boyd, Rosann Kindt,  
Amelie Palpant, Hannah Palpant, Nancy Rice, Todd Rice,  
Liz Sandona, Jerry Seielstad, Susie Seielstad  
Vestry Person of the Week ..... Janet Kawamoto

**Prayer List**

**For healing and comfort:** Edie Noland, Sam Luna, Rick, Lucy,  
Lindsay, Manette Thomas, Ken Mayle, Liz Hernandez, Lisa Taylor,  
Rosalie Lack, 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, Frank Ortega

**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

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

4 – Pamela Bryant	7 – Debbie Pullen	22 – Todd Rice
5 – Bryan McKenzie	15 – Jade Petteruto	29 – Garrett Patterson
6 – Nathaniel Olmos	16 – Helen Crisp	31 – Richard Young

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARY**

Ikuko and John Williamson – 6

**JANUARY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY**

The Rev. Susan L. Scranton ~ January 14, 1995