

Grace Notes

- **Annual Giving Report** \$19,257 Surplus as of 11/30/24.
- **Week 6 - Pledges 2024** - Total amount \$287,332 Total cards - 80: **2025** - Total amount \$288,970, Total cards - 87.
- We are **In Need** of adults to assist with children's church. If you are interested, please contact Sharon George at slgeorge864@gmail.com
- **South Main Chapel and Mercy Center** is in need of Men's and Women's socks and underwear. Donations may be left in the cloister or by the church office
- **The Wine, Women and Wisdom group** is sponsoring a Diaper Drive to support our local Diaper Bank and those who need it. To contribute, bring baby diapers of any size to church during November. There is a collection spot in the Narthex. Thank you.
- **In Need:** Hope Missions, South Main Chapel and Mercy Center, Clean Start, and Patrick Harris Psychiatric Hospital are all in **need of men's pants sizes 30, 32, and 34.** Hope Missions and Clean Start are in **need of belts of all sizes.** Donated items can be placed in the cloister or on a back table in the parish hall.
- **Year End Contributions:** checks must be postmarked on or before **December 31st, 2024.** Any checks received after 12/31/2024 will be posted to your 2025 statement.
- **Lights of Hope for Family Promise:** **December 15th, and 21st.** Volunteers are needed to man the front gate from **5 pm - 10 pm.**
- **Church Office** will be **closed Wednesday, Dec. 25th and Thursday, Dec. 26th.**
- **Choir** has resumed meeting on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**
- **EPISCOPAL CHRISTIANITY TAKE 2!** Bishop Richard's next visitation is **Nov 2, 2025.** Because of the unusual delay in his visitation many are interested in being confirmed and received at **St. George on March 9th 2025.** And because of the unusual demand and tight schedule Fr. Jack's class is beginning again immediately. **Sundays 9:15 AM Parish Library: Dec. 15, 22, Jan. 5, 19.**
- **Vestry Meeting: Monday, Dec. 16th at 6 p.m.**
- **Stations of the Manger: Wednesday, Dec. 18th at 6 p.m.** we invite families to spend time together creating and reflecting upon the holidays. Join us to create nativity-themed snacks, craft a Jesse tree, and make Christmas cards to be delivered to the homebound. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for AIM.
- **Grief Support: Thursday, Dec. 19th at 10 a.m.**
- **Family Ice Skating Event: Friday, Dec. 20th at 5 p.m.**
- **FFF:** We will have a Christmas get together on **Friday, Dec. 20th from 2-5 p.m.** at the home of Ellen. For direction please email pixieellen@gmail.com For other information email Lisa Mattison at lisamattisonrn@gamil.com
- **EYC Christmas Program: Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 5 p.m.** All are welcome, light refreshments to follow.
- **WWW:** Our next book; **Starting Jan 7th 'The Book of Joy'** by Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama Led by Carol Miller and Jane Williams in the fellowship hall at Grace **6:30-8:00 p.m. every Tuesday.** This will be a refresher for some of us and new for others. May JOY be a focus for each of us in 2024. Please bring your own book and read up to page 24.

- **2025 offering envelopes** may be picked up in the cloister starting **December 1st.**
- We are collecting new or gently used **Coats and Blankets for the King** for our community friends. They may be brought to the church until Epiphany, **January 6th.**
- **Christmas Eve liturgy: 5 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.** Music will begin at **10:15 p.m.**



Blue Advent Service
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
 Grace Episcopal Church at 11:00 am
 Healing Service and Holy Eucharist

At a time of year when so many experience feeling of grief, loss, and hardship the Blue Advent Service invites us into hope and healing. All are welcome to join.



Paul Gauguin 1892

Those with birthday's this week

Lynne Prince
 Cindy Baker
 Annie Hughes
 Randy Baker

Jon Owens
 Rebecca Dixon
 Matthew Whatley

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 (864)225-8011
 Office Hours
 Monday - Thursday
 8 am - 2pm

BEAR FRUITS WORTHY OF REPENTANCE

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

15 December 2024
 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
 Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Grace!

The Liturgy Begins on page 323

The Word of God

The Collect

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Canticle 9

The First Song of Isaiah *Ecce Deus*

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Gospel

Deacon or Priest: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke*

People: *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Deacon or Priest: *The Gospel of the Lord.*
People: *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed - page 326

Prayers of the People - page 328

Confession of Sin and Absolution - page 330

The Peace

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer II - page 340

Post Communion Prayer - page 339

The Sending Forth - page 339

Those who serve

Vestry-in-Charge: Cory Trotter

Second Counter: Bess Boyer

Lector: Jackie Lenhart

Intercessor: Jackie Lenhart

Chalice: Jackie Lenhart

Church Opener: Howard Tallent