

Van Gogh 1890

THE FARMER WATTS

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

14 December 2025

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Grace!

Opening Voluntary - People Look East

by Stephen Aber

The Procession

Hymn #56

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the

5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions

5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice!
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; Ver. Hymnal 1940, alt. Music: Veni, veni, Emmanuel plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

The Liturgy begins on page 355

The Word of God

A Song of Praise LEVAS #130

1. Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
2. I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter,

1. — Since I laid my bur - den down.
2. — Since I laid my bur - den down,

1. — Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
2. — I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter,

1. — Since I laid my bur - den down.

2. — Since I laid my bur - den down.

3. Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" etc.
 4. I am climbing Jacob's ladder. etc.

Words: Traditional

Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*

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

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
 like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
 and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
 the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
 and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
 "Be strong, do not fear!"

Here is your God.
 He will come with vengeance,
 with terrible recompense.
 He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
 and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,
 but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,
 but the redeemed shall walk there.
 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Psalm

Psalm 146:4-9 (read responsively by half verse)

Lauda, anima mea

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous;
 the LORD cares for the stranger; *
**he sustains the orphan and widow,
 but frustrates the way of the wicked.**
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
 Hallelujah!**

The Second Lesson

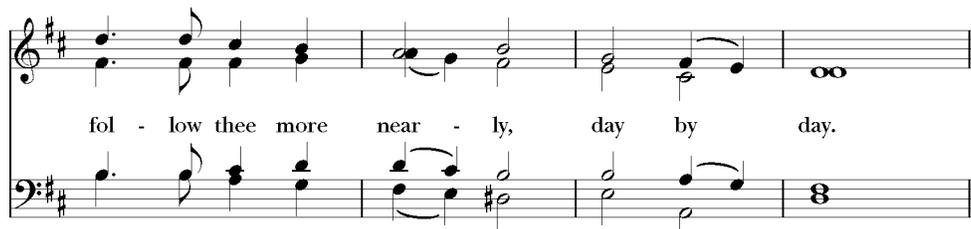
James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Hymn #654

Day by Day

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:
 to see thee more clear - ly, love thee more dear - ly,



Words: Att. Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

Music: *Sumner*, Arthur Henry Biggs (1906-1954)

The Holy Gospel

Priest: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.*

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Priest: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed - page 358

Confession of Sin and Absolution - page 360

Prayers of the People Form V - page 389

The Peace

Brief Announcements (three short bullet points, or preferably in Haiku format)



Offertory - *Creator of the Stars of Night*

Plain Song 9th Cent.

Hymn 380

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let
 2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and
 *3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
 the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's
 truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
 Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!
 shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3. Thomas Ken (1637-1711) Music: Old 100th, melody from Pseaumes Octante trois de David, 1551, alt. ; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510-1561)

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer A - page 361 Sanctus WLP #858

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
 might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Title: Holy, holy, holy Lord [*Sanctus*]

Music: American folk melody; arr. Marcia Pruner, harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

The Great Amen LEVAS #233

A men, A - men,

A - men, A - men, A - men.

Words: Traditional

Music: Negro Spiritual; ar. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935)

Fraction Anthem

Jesus, Remember Me

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in-to your king-dom.

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in-to your king-dom.

Title: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: My flesh is food indeed

Music: Ray W. Urwin (b. 1950)

Communion Hymns #54

Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483–1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340–397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812–1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)
 Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?–1616)

Hymn #59

Hark! A Thrilling Voice

Descant

2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day."
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.

Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823–1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855–1935)

Post Communion Prayer - page 366
 The Blessing of the People
 The Procession

Hymn #59
 Lo He Comes

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -

va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,
 bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;

swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia!
 pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture,
 claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: St. Thomas, melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. att. Vincent Francis Novello (1781-1861)

The Sending Forth - page 366
 Closing Voluntary - *Savior of the Nations, Come*

ARR. Steve Grant

Grace Notes

- The **Music Ministry** at Grace Church is growing. Our choirs meet **Wednesdays** with Children's Choir at **5:15 p.m.** and Adult Choir at **6:15 p.m.**
- **Fiber, Friends, and Fellowship** meets every **Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall.
- The **Saints and Sinners dinner groups** will start up again this month. This is a great way for both newcomers and long-time parishioners to meet others within the parish. If you are interested in joining us this fall, please contact the church office or Debbie Hand at (316) 617-2409 or handrab@yahoo.com.
- If you would like to **donate to Family Promise**, scan the Grace QR Code.
- It's never too early to be thinking about breakfast, especially the **annual parish breakfast!** The breakfast will be held on **January 11th** before the annual meeting. Please be thinking about what you plan to bring! Let Kirri Kinley know by **January 4th** at (843) 384-5213 or kirrikinley@gmail.com. Thank you!! And Merry Christmas from the Grace Life committee.
- **Help us decorate the Christmas tree!** You are invited to bring an ornament to decorate the Christmas tree with before the Christmas Eve services. These ornaments will be collected when we take down the tree and available for you to pick up in early January, if you would like.
- Finals Survival Bags are available in the cloister. Students (of all ages), teachers, and school staff are invited to pick up a bag. We hope you have a great end to your semester!
- **THE GRACE CODE**
Scan or tap to visit:
 - New to Grace
 - Outreach giving
 - Facebook page
 - Family Promise
- **Celebrate Grace's 175th** anniversary of being allowed into the Diocese, **Thursday, February 12th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** Reception following. Bishop Richards will be there, and we will have confirmations, receptions, and reaffirmations as part of the celebration.
- **Ready for a Leap of Faith?** Our next Episcopal Christianity Class begins **Sunday, December 28th at 9:15 a.m.** in the parish library. It is the last chance to prepare before the Bishop's February 12th visit. This class is for anyone interested in Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation, or to simply study the faith.
- **Poinsettia forms** are available for pickup in the cloister. These are due back to Nikki by **December 15th**.
- **WWW** will meet this Tuesday at the home of Anne Cook for our Christmas social at 6:30 pm. Details are in the weekly WWW email. If anyone would like to join the group or needs more information, they can reach out to Beth Lollis at gracewomenwineandwisdom@gmail.com.
- **Breaking News:** A new photo directory is in the planning stage. If you would like to be a part of organizing, please contact Connie Pearce at conniepearce56@gmail.com
- **Daughters of the King (DOK)** is meeting **Monday, December 15th at 10:00 a.m.** in the parish hall. If you are thinking of joining or have questions, please join us. We will be discussing the Advent season.
- **Celebrate the Season** with a free Wednesday Night Feast on **Wednesday the 17th of December at 5:30 p.m.** Bring a donation for Family Promise if you want. Be sure to let us know you are coming by contacting the parish office by **Monday, December 15th**.
- **Year End Contributions:** Checks must be postmarked on or before **December 31st 2025**. Any checks received after 12-31-2025 will be posted to your 2026 statement.
- **Offering Envelopes:** 2026 offering envelopes are now available for pick up in the cloister.
- **Coats and Blankets for the King:** We are now collecting new or gently used coats and blankets for our community friends. Items may be brought to the Church.
- **WWW** is asking for YOUR help in our efforts to collect diapers, wipes, and feminine hygiene products support the Anderson County Diaper Bank. Donations may be placed in the cloister. We are grateful to **Louise Knisley** for coordinating collection and delivery on our behalf.
- February 12th, 2026- 175th Anniversary Celebration/Bishop Daniel's visit- Kirri Kinley/Grace Life is planning this upcoming celebration. If you would like to assist in the planning and execution of this celebration, please contact Kirri Kinley kirrikinley@gmail.com, 843-384-5213.



Those Who Serve

Vestry-in-Charge: Heiko Erlenkeuser

Second Counter: Henry Todd

Lector: Kathe Bostater

Lector: Mary-Harris Edwards

Intercessor: Bill Scott

Chalice 1: David Burden

Chalice 2: Brett Dixon

1st Crucifer: David Burden

Server/Gospel Bearer: Lacreacia Bilbrey

Torch Bearers:

Ushers: Nathanael Burden, Christopher Wilford

Linen Guild: Pam Herold

Altar Guild: Janet Rippy, Kathy Bostater

Organist/Choirmaster: Steve Grant

Organist Emeritus: Bill Scott

Pledge Drive

Week 9

2026: Pledged: \$346,487

Cards :106

2025 Pledged: \$313,234

Cards: 97

Stewardship Report

As of 10/31/2025

YTD 2025 Revenue \$327,965

YTD 2025 Expenses \$353,299

YTD 2025 Deficit \$25,334

Those with birthdays this week

Lynne Prince

Cindy Baker

Annie Hughes

Randy Baker

Rebecca Dixon

Baptismal Newbirth Day

01 April

05 October

08 January

Those with Baptismal Newbirth Days this week

Connie Pearce

15 December

Expectant Parents

Parker and Caroline Bates

Brent and Kirri Kinley

Donovan and Erin Colman

Nine Kinds of Blindness

Paul J. Pastor

1. The one where your eyes do not work to see anything.
2. The one where your eyes do not work to see everything.
3. The one where your eyes work, but you cannot see what you have never seen before.
4. The one where your eyes work but you cannot see what is inconvenient.
5. The one where your eyes work but someone is keeping you from using them.
6. The one where your eyes work but you are angry.
7. The one where your eyes work but you are afraid.
8. The one where your eyes work but there is no light.
9. The one where your eyes work but there is nothing but light.

From -Bower Lodge Poems

Advent Approacheth



Grace Episcopal Church
711 S. McDuffie St
Anderson, SC 29624
gracechurchanderson1851@gmail.com

(864) 225-8011
Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:10 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.