



Henry Ossawa Tanner circa 1900

THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

7 December 2025

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Grace!

Opening Voluntary - Sleepers Wake! A Voice is Calling

J.S. Bach

The Procession

Hymn #56

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open

3 tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on

3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.

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,

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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the
ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (*read responsively by half verse*)

Deus, iudicium

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

The Second Lesson

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Tis the Gift to be Simple

'Tis the gift to be sim - ple, 'tis the gift to be free,
 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
 and when we find our - selves in the place just right,
 'twill be in the val - ley of love and de - light.
 When true sim - pli - ci - ty is gained to
 bow and to bend we shan't be a-shamed, to turn, turn, will
 be our de-light till by turn - ing, turn - ing we come round right.

Words: Shaker song, 18th cent.

Music: *Simple Gifts*, Joseph Brackett (1797–1822); acc. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922)**The Holy Gospel**

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

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His

winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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 IV - page 388

The Peace

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

Offertory - An Advent Garden

Joseph Martin

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 WLP #793

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

1. Here, O Lord, your ser- vants gath- er, hand we link with hand;
1. Se - ka - i - no to - mo to te o tsu - na - gi,
 2. Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat - tered are the lands,
 3. Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang - es nev - er cease.
 4. Grant, O God, an age re - newed, filled with death - less love;

Look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, joined in love we stand.
Jyu - ji - ka no mo - to ni ta - tsu wa - re - ra,
 yet our heart are one in God, on in love's de - mands.
 Where, oh where, can wea - ry soul find the source of peace?
 help us as we work and pray, send us from a - bove

As we seek the realm of God, we u - nite to pray:
Ka - mi no mi - ku - ni o me a te to shi,
 E'en in dark - ness hope ap - pears, call - ing age and youth:
 Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, torn by end - less strife:
 truth and cour - age, faith and power, need - ed in our strife:

Je - sus Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.
Shu Ye - su no mi - chi o su - su - mi ju - kan.
 Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.
 Je - sus, heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.
 Je - sus, Mas - ter, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

Words: Tokuo Yamaguchi (b. 20th c.); trans. Everett M. Stowe (b. 20th c.); phonetic transcription from the Japanese by I-to Loh (b. 1936)

Music: Isao Koizumi (b. 1907)

Hymn #67

Comfort, Comfort ye my People



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.

Music: Psalm 42, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. Hymnal 1982

Post Communion Prayer - page 366
The Blessing of the People

The Procession

Hymn #65
Prepare the Way



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772–1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920)

Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

The Sending Forth - page 366

Closing Voluntary - *Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr: Steve Grant

Grace Notes

- **WWW:** Our next book is *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans'. Join us on [Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.](#) in the parlor as we explore themes of faith, doubt, and grace through Evans's reflections on the sacraments. All women are welcome. Come as you are and bring a friend!
- 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.
- EYC Advent Party is [Sunday, December 7th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.](#)
- 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.
- **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.
- **Outreach** will meet today, [Sunday, December 7th](#) right after the 10:30 service.
- **Staff Advent Lunch** is [Tuesday, December 9th at 11:30 a.m.](#)
- **Poinsettia forms** are available for pickup in the cloister. These are due back to Nikki by [December 15th](#).
- **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
- **Christmas kids** items are due this Sunday.
- **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.

Those Who Serve

Vestry-in-Charge: Jodie Webb

Second Counter: Debbie Hand

Lector: Tom Pearce

Lector: Sara Cheek

Intercessor: Cindy Hopkins

Chalice 1: Cory Trotter

Chalice 2: David Burden

1st Crucifer: Christopher Wilford

Server/Gospel Bearer: Cory Trotter

Torch Bearers:

Ushers: Brett Dixon. Mike Digby

Linen Guild: Joanie Roberts

Altar Guild: Pam Herold, Bess Boyer

Organist/Choirmaster: Steve Grant

Organist Emeritus: Bill Scott

Pledge Drive

Week 8

2026: Pledged: \$344,687

Cards :103

2025 Pledged: \$304,534

Cards: 94

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 Baptismal Newbirth Day

Bren Bowman	
Scott Mattison	07 May
Kate Wilford	
Sharon Dorsey	10 April
Noah Hand	01 January
Pam Herold	15 March
Debbie Hand	23 December
Lucy Bates	21 April
Connie Ormes	03 October
Greta Jacobsen	07 April
Louise Knisley	13 February
Bryan Harris	

Those with Baptismal Newbirth Days this week

David Burden	07 December
Sophia Kloeck	08 December
George Lidlow	09 December
Daryl Kress	10 December
Maddie Clark	12 December

Expectant Parents

Parker and Caroline Bates
Brent and Kirri Kinley
Donovan and Erin Colman

On Needing Light

O God of Light,

*whose splendor shines brighter than day
and in whose presence no darkness can stand,*

shine on us.

O glorious Son, direct Your beaming rays

*upon our path, a guide
upon our hearts, a smile
upon our minds, an eye.*

O Light of the World, shine on us.

Illumine us, Light-giver,

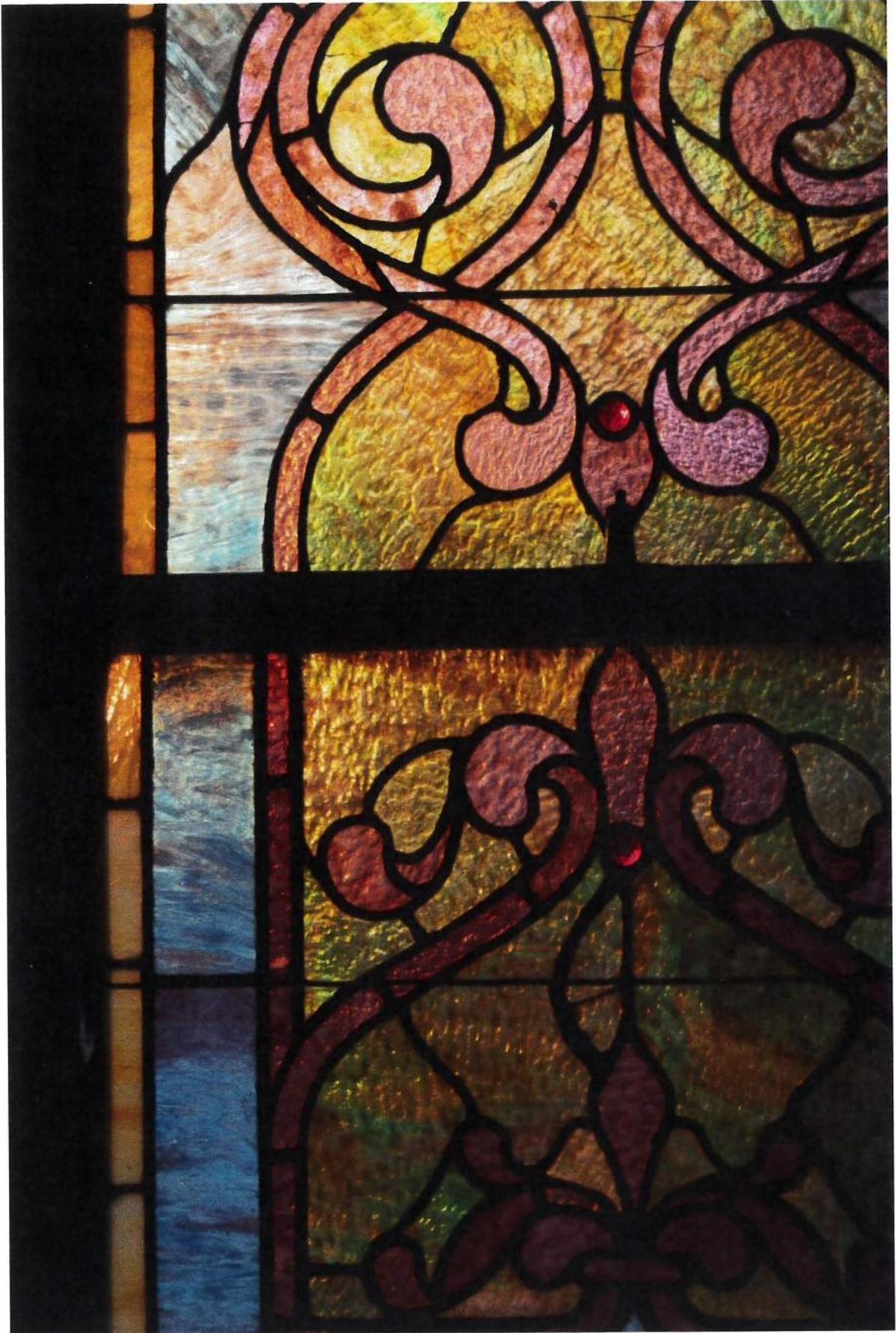
*that we might see Your goodness
and Your truth
and Your beauty all around us,
that we might know Your bright power
and your warm comfort
and your hope of endless light.*

Brighten our hearts, O God.

Illumine us, we pray, that we

*as little lights might shine,
cities on hills,
prisms of color*

emanating from Your one true light.



Rebecca Ackerman 2025

Vestry Members

Mike Digby - 2025
Janet Rippy, Clerk- 2023-2025
Louis Lebrun, Jr. Warden - 2023-2025
David Burden - 2024-2025
Kirri Kinley - 2024-2026
Mike Magaha - 2024-2026
Debbie Hand, Sr. Warden - 2024-2026
Henry Todd - 2025-2026
Jodie Webb - 2025-2027
Bill Scott - 2025-2027
Cyndi Dougherty - 2025-2027
Heiko Erlenkauser - 2025-2027

Delegates to the Convention

Melissa Langford
Carol Miller
Janet Rippy
Louis Lebrun
Cindy Baker
Jodie Webb

Grace Church Endowment

Matthias Kloeck
Lee Hancock
Ken Langford, Treasurer
Carol Miller
Lang Foster

Grace Episcopal Church

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Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:10 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.