



GRACE
ABOUNDS



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

November 23, 2016

Spotlight on Grace: A Thanksgiving Message from the Rector



Friends,

As a parish, we have much to be thankful for: our thriving Sunday School and music programs, our diverse and faithful congregation, and the construction of our new pavilion, which progresses steadily week after week. I am also deeply thankful for

the wonderful staff and lay leadership at Grace. I regularly give thanks to God for bringing me to this unique parish!

As a country, it may feel, to many of us, less natural to give thanks in a time of societal division and national uncertainty. But in times such as these (and there have been difficult times in our nation's past, too, of course), it is still fitting to give thanks to God that we live in a land that can survive such periods and indeed emerge stronger than we were before.

After all, it was in the midst of the greatest crisis in our nation's history, the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed, for the first time, a national holiday of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens." At that time, some Americans may have asked, "How can we give thanks in a time of so much division?" The answer then remains the same as it is today: We give thanks because even in hard times, our courage and our hope is never extinguished. That hope has been well founded for 240 years. The nation that emerged from the Civil War, though still far from perfect, was a better and more just society than it had been before. President Lincoln was right to give thanks in the

midst of that national crisis, and we are right to give thanks now.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Jonathan+

This Week at Grace

Worship Services:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist
Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist with Music
Wednesday Noon Holy Eucharist

Parking for Worship: Parking for Sunday worship is provided in the lot diagonally across Westminster Street, on the NW corner of Westminster and Snow. A small number of spaces are available on the portion of the Grace Church lot facing Snow Street, along an inset section of the construction fence. For all other times, please [check with the parish administrator](#) for availability.

Wheelchair Access and Accessible Parking:

Please find wheelchair access from the sidewalk on Westminster Street into the church. Handicapped parking spaces have been posted for Sundays on Mathewson Street near Westminster.



The Advent Giving Tree Drive for Children's Friend

The Outreach Ministry invites you to make a child's Christmas wishes come true! Please help us provide gifts to families served by our partner agency, [Children's Friend](#).

Please select a tag(s) from the Advent Giving Tree in the back of the church this Sunday, purchase the item, and return it **unwrapped** (along with the tag from the tree) in a bag or envelope. Please return your gifts to church no later than Sunday, December 11th. Wrapping supplies, including



wrapping paper, ribbon, tape and gift tags are also welcome gifts. Please email Nicholas Halar at nlaroche85@gmail.com if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting Children's Friend during the Christmas Season.

Meditations, Devotions and Resources for Advent

AdventWord Grace Church will participate in #AdventWord, featuring daily meditations highlighting a one-word theme. During Advent, you may see related images -- like the one at right -- created by Teens in Action during 2015. Please stay tuned to Grace's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds for related content. If you feel inspired, please [submit an image](#) that speaks to you about any given Advent word, and we may post yours too. Please take a moment to [sign up here](#) to receive your daily AdventWord meditations, and take part in this spiritual journey with us.



Liberated by God's Grace

Please watch for weekly Sunday inserts that we will place at the back of the church, as part of an Advent series called [Liberated by God's Grace](#). Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry joined the leaders of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in preparing Advent Devotions for the upcoming liturgical season, and these advent devotions form part of the broader discussions surrounding the 2017 commemoration of 500 years of the Reformation. "As churches shaped by the 16th century reformations[...], we also participate in this ministry of reconciliation," they noted in a joint letter. "Over fifteen years ago, our churches' respective full communion agreements inaugurated new relationships in which we fully recognized each other 'as churches in which the gospel is truly preached and the holy sacraments duly administered' (Called to Common Mission), an achievement that 'marks but one step toward the eventual visible unity of the whole Church catholic' (Waterloo Declaration). We are committed to working together toward reconciliation-of the church, and of the deepest social ills that plague our world. It is our hope, together with you, to be signs of anticipation-of the 'already, but not yet' of God's realm of reconciliation, justice, and peace."

Make Ready the Feast

The Episcopal Church's Advent campaign will focus on daily themes highlighting cultural practices and traditions around planning, preparing, and enjoying food special to the holiday season. Each day of Advent, recipes will be posted to a new blog: [Make Ready the Feast](#).

Music at Grace



A SERVICE OF
**LESSONS
AND CAROLS**
FOR ADVENT

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 4
5 PM

A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent, Sunday, December 4, 5:00pm. The Choir of Grace Church sings music of Palestrina, Ireland, Wood, Lehman, Britten, and Hallock in procession around the candlelit church. A reception follows the service.

Caroling on the Steps Please join us Saturday, December 17 at 3:30pm on the front steps of Grace Church for an old fashioned Christmas Carol Sing! Led by members of the Grace Church Choir, we will sing a variety of carols -- sacred and secular -- which is sure to include your favorites. Grace Church will be open for

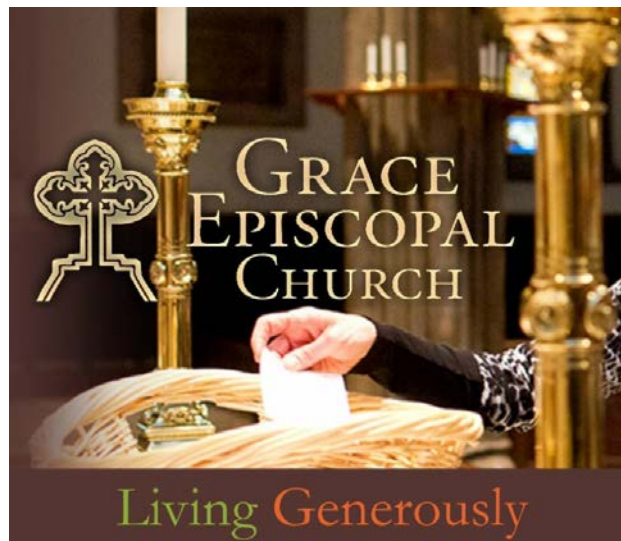
visitors, and Hot Cider and Donuts will be served. Please invite your family and friends to this festive and fun occasion!

Giving Thanks for Living Generously

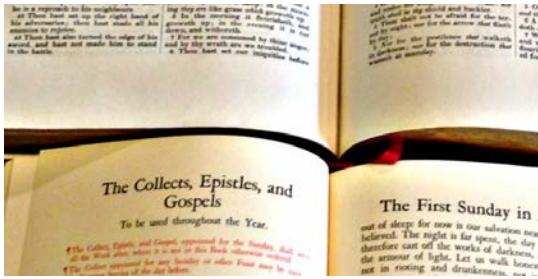
Thank you to all who have submitted their annual pledges, and for supporting the mission and ministry of Grace Church! If you have not yet submitted yours, please mail your pledge form at your earliest opportunity. Thank you also for ensuring completion of your 2016 pledge payments before year-end. For information on balances remaining, please [contact Chris in the office](#).

Those who requested pledge envelopes or have traditionally received them, they will be available for pick-up after the 8am and 10am services on December 4 and

December 11. A limited number of additional sets are available by request using the sign-up sheet located in the literature rack in the narthex.



November 27, 2016 - First Sunday of Advent



Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for

ever. **Amen.**

For the text of this Sunday's readings, [please click here](#):

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

Would you like to add someone to the prayer list? [Please click here](#) to submit a name, or call the church office at (401) 331-3225. Names are kept on the list for a month, and can be renewed at any time. Those received by Wednesday will appear in the same week's bulletin.

Grace Cemetery: Help Save the Trees

After 3+ years of working to secure \$100,000+ grant money to repair the fence around historic Gateway (Grace) Cemetery in south Providence that dates from 1834, we are excited that the revitalization is about to happen. Some the very old, elegant trees need attention, and a bit of additional money is needed to take proper care of them. Please consider saying "YES" to keeping green space alive by making a donation. The window of opportunity is tight, as work will be done very soon. \$6,000 is available, and contributions are sought to match that; \$1,100 has already given. If this opportunity touches you, please grab your check book right now and send a donation (marked "cemetery trees") payable to: SWAP, Inc., 439 Pine Street, Providence, RI 02907.




You will be listed on the "We Helped Save the Trees" registry in the cemetery gatekeeper's cottage. Also be sure to include your return address to receive a 501(c)3 charitable donation letter for your contribution. Securing and beautifying the cemetery grounds enhances the area for all. Be a part of this progress!

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Your Grace Church Clergy & Staff
401-331-3225

The Mission of Grace Church is to build, by the grace of God, a loving and joyful community which lives the gospel through worship, proclamation and service to each other, to downtown Providence, and beyond.