



GRACE
ABOUNDS



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

December 1, 2016

Spotlight on Grace: A Preview of Lessons & Carols



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

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 4
5 PM

*The Choir of Grace Church sings music of Palestrina, Ireland, Wood, Lehman, Britten, and Hallock in procession around the candle-lit church.
A reception follows the service.*

Grace Church in Providence - Mathewson at Westminster
401/331-3225 or gracechurchprovidence.org

Please join us on Sunday, December 4 at 5 PM for A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent. This moving and beautiful service has its roots (as do many of our services) in England. Here is a bit of history courtesy of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Houston Texas:

The Procession with Carols on Advent Sunday originated at King's College, Cambridge, England in 1934, composed by Dean Eric Milner-White (who had also been responsible nine years earlier for the more widely known Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve). In his Preface to the Advent Sunday service, Dean Milner-White wrote: 'In the old English liturgies, the Advent Offices made a preparation for the coming of our Lord to this earth far more vivid and eager than those of our

present [1662] Prayer Book. So an Advent Carol Service, if without precedent, is not without suitability, if it helps to express "the desire of all nations and ages." The purpose of the service is 'not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it.'

At Grace, we begin the service with a candle-lit church and the choir gathered in the narthex for the singing of Palestrina's great Matin Responsory. During the hymn "Come, thou,

redeemer of the earth" the choir moves into the chancel. What follows is a sequence of readings, hymns and carols, with the choir processing around the nave of the church and singing from various locations. This is "surround sound" at its very best! The service culminates with the choir returning to the chancel for the final anthem - the splendid double-choir setting of "Hail! Gladdening Light" by Charles Wood.

We hope you can be with us for this very special service. Invite a friend or neighbor and share the beauty of Grace Church and the exquisite music which will be offered.

This Week at Grace

Worship Services:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist
Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist with Music
Sunday 5:00pm Lessons & Carols
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

Thank you for claiming your gift request tags from the Advent Giving Tree! 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



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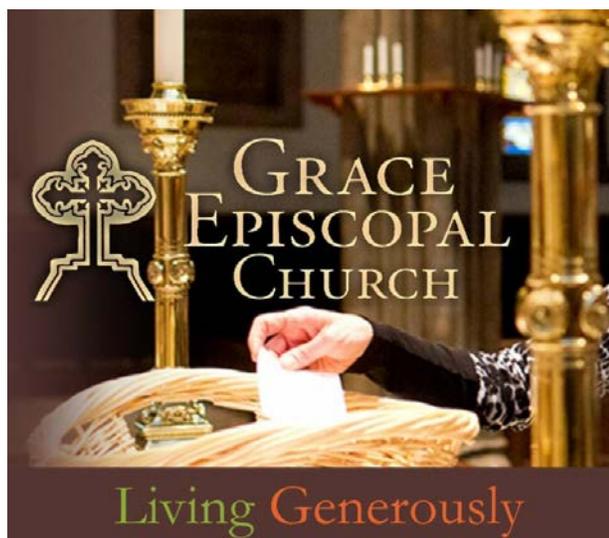
Caroling on the Steps Please join us Saturday, December 17 at 3:30pm on the front steps of Grace Church for an old fashioned Christmas Carol Sing! Led by members of the Grace Church Choir, we will sing a variety of carols -- sacred and secular -- which is sure to include your favorites. Grace Church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

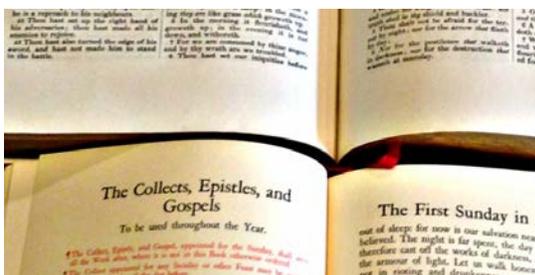
Giving Thanks for Living Generously

Thank you to all who have submitted their annual pledges. 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 in the back of the church with Stewardship Chair Diane Stamp after the 10am services on December 4 and December 11. 8am attendees, your sets will be handed directly to you. A limited number of additional sets are available by request using the sign-up sheet at the envelope distribution table.



December 4, 2016 - The Second Sunday of Advent



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.

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

Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

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.

Connect with Grace

[Grace Church Website](#)

[This Sunday's Readings](#)

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Sincerely,



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.