



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

December 6, 2019

Spotlight on Grace An Advent Procession with Lessons and Carols

This Sunday, December 8, at 4 PM we celebrate one of the great services of the church year. 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.' The progression of the choir, starting in the Vestry ending in brilliant light at the High Altar, symbolizes the movement from the prophetic expectation of Messiah to the very brink of messianic fulfillment, both in the birth of the Son of God and his final coming in judgment and glory. We are bidden to awake and to watch, to prepare and to expect, for our God will come and save us, and deliver us from the bondage of sin and death, and bring us into the radiance of his kingdom of glory. Join us for this transformative service, where music, prayer, and scripture combine to shed light on the darkness and move us toward the glory of Christmas.

(Thanks to St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Houston, for portions of this article.)

Christmas Flowers

Christmas is Coming! Please submit your Christmas Poinsettia and Music dedications this week or next. You'll find the dedication cards located in the pews, on the back table near the baptismal font, and in the Narthex literature rack. Thank you for printing your dedications legibly, and using the green flower envelopes. Submit dedications along with your gift in the collections plate, or mail to the church office by December 18.



Advent Giving Tree

This year we continue the tradition of the Advent Giving Tree, located in The Pavilion. The ornaments that decorate the tree represent the holiday wishes of children through Children's Friend (a local social children's service agency that Grace regularly supports). Please retrieve the ornament(s) corresponding to gifts that you wish to donate, and plan to return your unwrapped gifts to church no later than Sunday, December 15th. In the case of gift store cards, please place those into the donation box near the baptismal font. Wrapping supplies, including wrapping paper, ribbon, tape and gift tags are also welcome gifts.



Upcoming Music at Grace

Thursdays at Noon Concerts

On Thursday, December 12, Vince Edwards will play a program of music by J.S. Bach, Healey Willan, and Gerald Near.

An Advent Procession with Lessons & Carols Join us on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 PM for a festive liturgy for the beginning of Advent! The Grace Church Choir will sing works by Palestrina, Webbe, Byrd, Parsons, Rheinberger, Thalben-Ball and others from various points throughout the church, gradually approaching the High Altar at the East End. This service is meant to embody the beginning of our anticipation of the coming of our Savior. A reception will follow in The Pavilion.

Caroling with the Grace Church

Choristers On Saturday, December 14 at 3:00 PM join the Choristers of Grace Church in the garden of The Pavilion at Grace and sing Christmas Carols around a warm and roaring fire! There will seasonal refreshments and a cheerful holiday atmosphere so bring your friends and family!



"O" Antiphons & Advent Meditations

On Sunday, December 15 at 7:00 PM the Men's Compline Choir will sing a special liturgy based on The Great "O" Antiphons of Advent. Silence between each chanted antiphon will allow time for prayer and meditation. Then at 8:00 PM Choral Compline will commence as usual.



COLLEGIUM  ANCORA
PRESENTS

Handel's Messiah

THE CHRISTMAS PORTION

Collegium Ancora Joins the Grace Church Choir & Choristers
Accompanied by Early Music Ensemble

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 | 4:00 PM
GRACE CHURCH
300 WESTMINSTER ST. PROVIDENCE

\$10 Suggested Donation at the Door
Visit www.CollegiumAncora.org for More Information

This Week at Grace

Weekly Worship Schedule:

Sunday 8:00am Spoken Holy Eucharist
Sunday 10:00am Sung Holy Eucharist with Music
Wednesday 12:00 Spoken Holy Eucharist

Open Doors: Your friendly docents are here to greet you every weekday from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Please encourage your friends or guests to come and visit Grace Church and see the new Pavilion at Grace.

Wheelchair Access and Accessible Parking:

Please find convenient accessible in the Grace Church parking lot with access from Snow Street. The new wheelchair ramp connects directly from the lot, and you will enter through the new reception entrance of The Pavilion and into the church at ground level.

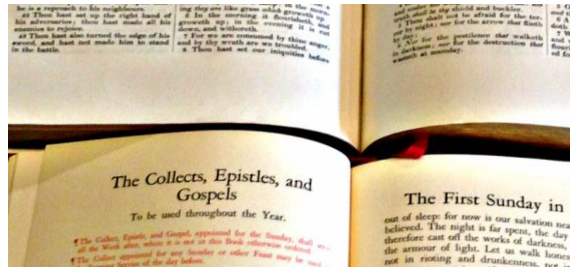
Parking for Worship: Free parking for Sunday worship is provided:

- 1.) in the lot directly across Snow Street from our lot, at the SW corner of Westminster and Snow; and
- 2.) In the Grace Church parking lot accessed via Snow Street. We ask your kind cooperation in reserving this lot, to the extent possible, for seniors and those with limited mobility.



December 8, 2019 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.



This Sunday's readings are: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

This week from the Episcopal Church: [Journeying with Family and Friends](#).

Would you like to add someone to the prayer list? Please email cbarker@gracepvd.org 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.
