



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

December 11, 2020

## Spotlight: Sunday School Advent Update

Sunday School resumed via Zoom this fall, and the "Doves" and "Lambs" classes (preschool through 5th grade) are meeting each Sunday morning with Jonathan and me. Carissa Mills kindly continues to volunteer with the Lambs class, too! Both classes sing and pray together each week, and they explored the lectionary and themes of gratefulness and giving thanks all fall (making "Thankful Turkeys" as a countdown to Thanksgiving!). The older elementary children also talked with Fr. Jonathan about one line of The Lord's Prayer each week over the course of two months, deepening their understanding of the words they know by heart.



Currently, we are working together - all in our own homes - on an Advent Calendar that features a different name of Jesus each day. Over Thanksgiving weekend, volunteer drivers delivered simple craft packets to Sunday School families from Coventry to Woonsocket to Warren, from city apartments to rural homes. (What a wonderful web of Rhode Islanders we have on the Sunday School roster!!) Children have decorated cards for each day of December to flip over (whether they hung them up or kept them in a stack!) to remember Jesus as Emmanuel, the Bread of Life, the Living Water, and so on, as we look forward to Christmas! Our Advent activities will culminate in a Virtual Advent/Christmas Pageant for the kids and their families on Zoom on the 4th Sunday of Advent. It is a joy to connect with Grace Church kids each week!



-Ann Huyck

## R.I.P. Dada Fakolujo (1952-2020)

We pray for the repose of the soul of Grace parishioner Dada Fakolujo and for all victims of Covid-19. We pray as well for the family he leaves behind. May Dada rest in Peace in the Lord, and may all those affected by the virus live to see a brighter day.

*Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.  
Amen.*

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## Two Bequests to Grace in 2020

This year we lost two pillars of the Grace community, Jerry Clifford and Marty Ames. Both Jerry and Marty left bequests to Grace in their wills, for which we are deeply grateful. If you'd like information on how to give to Grace, call the rector anytime - 331-3225. And thanks to all who've made a pledge for 2021!



## Advent Reflections & Discussions

During this holy season of Advent, you will be hearing from Grace Church every day. Added to the offerings we have been sharing each week, will be roughly a dozen short reflections on an Advent theme (such as "Waiting and Expectation") written by fellow Grace parishioners. We hope you enjoy them!



Would you like to discuss the Advent reflections we are reading this month? Just email Drake Douglas at [drakecdouglas@gmail.com](mailto:drakecdouglas@gmail.com) and he will connect you with a discussion buddy.

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## Worship with the Canterbury Cathedral Community

Several services from Canterbury Cathedral are available online each day. On weekdays, Morning Prayer is available online by 5:00 AM (EST), and Choral Evensong is available online by 12:30 PM (EST). On Sundays, Eucharist and Compline are available online. To get access to these online services and to get more information about worship services and other resources made available by the Cathedral,

visit the website: [www.canterbury-cathedral.org/#onlineservices](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/#onlineservices) or [click here](#)



## A Call for Christmas Greetings for 'Voices of Grace'

Similar to what we did for Easter Sunday, we are hoping to share videos of parishioners wishing folks a "Merry Christmas!" If you can make such a video, please leave 3 seconds of silence on the front and back ends of your "Merry Christmas" (for editing purposes) and email it to [dheinze@gracepvd.org](mailto:dheinze@gracepvd.org) by **December 14th**. Festive settings most welcome, and if you know how to say, "Merry Christmas" in a different language, go for it!



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## Virtual Advent Prayer Services

Join with fellow Grace parishioners **every Sunday in Advent at 6:00 P.M. for a 10-minute prayer service by candlelight**. The service will take place over Zoom.

To join the Service, [Please Click Here](#).

### Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88061663869>

Meeting ID: 880 6166 3869

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,88061663869# US (New York)

+13017158592,,88061663869# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

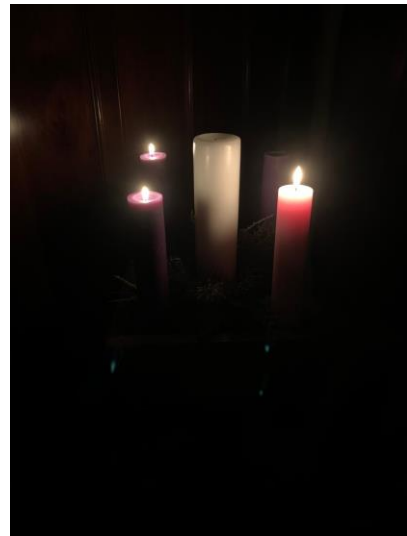
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 880 6166 3869

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88061663869>



Please have a candle on hand to light, whether or not it's part of an Advent wreath! We look forward to praying together during this sacred season of expectation.

**Advent Blessings!**

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# On-going Holiday Food & Gift Drive

The Outreach Ministry here at Grace Church is thrilled to partner with our neighbors at [Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts](#) (TAPA) for this year's Holiday Food & Gift Drive.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the TAPA community hard, so we're mobilizing support for TAPA families in need this holiday season.

Please consider contributing in one or more of the following ways:

## **Donating nonperishable foods and/or grocery gift cards**

TAPA is accepting donation drop-offs at the front door of their downtown location (275 Westminster Street) on weekdays from 8am-3pm. You'll find a list of suggested food items in the *Christmas basket* section below. Additionally, a member of Grace's outreach ministry will be accepting drop-offs at the parking lot entrance of Grace on Sundays from Noon-2pm, from November 22 through December 13. Social distancing guidelines will be followed for all in-person drop-offs. You can also drop off grocery gift cards at any time in Grace's mail slot next to the parking lot entrance.

## **Donating holiday gifts**

TAPA has provided an [Amazon wish list](#) containing gift ideas for their students and families. When you purchase an item from this list in Amazon, the item will be removed from the list automatically at checkout, and also you can have the item delivered directly to TAPA simply by selecting "TAPA's Gift Registry Address" for the shipping at checkout. Alternatively, you can drop-off gift items either at TAPA's front door (weekdays 8am-3pm) or at Grace's parking lot entrance (Sundays, Noon-2pm, Nov 22 - Dec 13) as outlined in the preceding paragraph. Please leave any gift donations unwrapped. Also, when shopping on Amazon, please remember to go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and make sure Grace Church is set as [your recipient charitable organization](#).

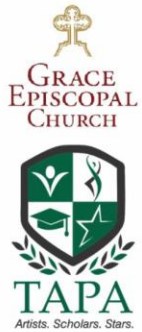
## **Monetary donations for the purchase of food and gifts**

TAPA is also accepting monetary donations for the purchase of food and holiday gifts for students and their families. You can contribute using [TAPA's PayPal account here](#), or checks can be mailed payable to "TAPA" at 275 Westminster St., Providence, RI 02903, and indicating "Holiday Drive - Grace Church" on the memo line.

## **Consider signing up to assemble a Christmas basket**

TAPA is hoping to collect 80 Christmas baskets as part of this holiday drive, so please [let us know](#) if you're willing to donate provide one or more whole baskets. Ideally, each Christmas basket would include: 2 packages of rolls, 2 cans of corn, 2 cans of green beans, 2 boxes (or 1 bag) stuffing mix, 1 can chicken broth, 1 can cranberry sauce, 2 cans/jars gravy, 1 box instant mashed potatoes, 2 boxes macaroni & cheese, 1 nonperishable dessert, a \$10-\$20 grocery store gift card, and any additional (nonperishable) touches the donor would like to include. For your safety during this period of elevated COVID cases, all such items can be purchased online from a service such as Amazon pantry, and dropped off safely as detailed above.

Questions? Email [outreach@gracepvd.org](mailto:outreach@gracepvd.org).



Grace Church Outreach Ministry

**Holiday Food & Gift Drive**

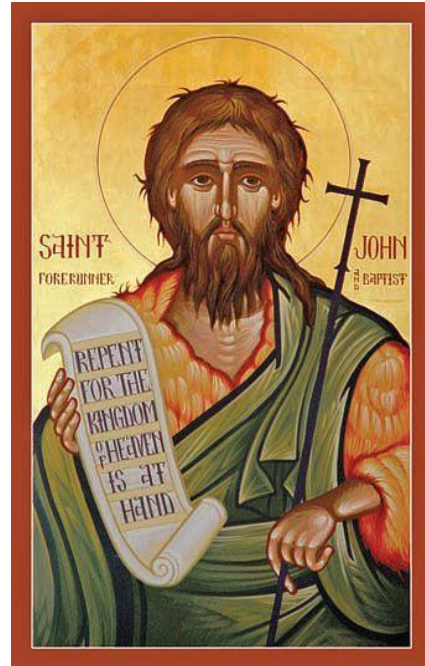


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## Voices of Grace: Virtual Worship

At Grace Church we are committed to building a loving and joyful community through worship despite temporarily not being able to gather as we normally would on Sundays or weekdays due to health concerns related to COVID-19. Until our normal rhythm of worship and gatherings resumes, every Sunday morning we will send an email, post on Facebook and upload to Vimeo and YouTube a short worship video put together by our staff that will feature clergy and parishioners participating in "virtual worship" by reading lessons from scripture, preaching, and making music all from their homes. Keep a look out for Voices of Grace: Virtual Worship every Sunday morning!

If you'd like to download or print the service leaflet for this Sunday's Virtual Worship, [please click here.](#)



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## Thursday Noon Concerts to be Virtual Only during the "Pause"

In keeping with the spirit of Rhode Island's "pause", **the Thursday Noon concerts will be virtual only for the remainder of 2020.** We are grateful to our guest artists that they are willing to record concerts for broadcast.



Miss a Thursday Concert? Can't find the email in your inbox? Click on the YouTube button on the bottom of this email to visit the Grace Church YouTube Channel where all concerts, worship services, and virtual tours have been archived for your convenience!

Just want to re-watch past concerts?  
[Click here.](#)

Yesterday we welcomed (virtually) we welcomed Frederick Jodry, Director of Music & Organist at First Unitarian Church in Providence and Director of Choral Activities at Brown University. To watch the concert, please click on the image to the right or [click here.](#)



Next week (December 17th) the recitalist will be  
**Patrick Aiken, Organist & Choirmaster of  
Central Congregational Church in Providence.**  
Patrick will present a virtual program of music for the Christmas  
season.



This will be the last Thursdays at Noon Concert for the year 2020. The series will take a brief hiatus during the month of January, and will resume on February 4th, 2021. We will keep you updated as to who our guest recitalists will be and what format we will be presenting the concerts in!

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## Wednesday Virtual Prayer Group

The Wednesday prayer group invites all parishioners to join them in prayer via Zoom every Wednesday at noon. If you can't make that time but would still like to have their prayer list for your own prayers, you can request that list instead.

Either way, contact Adrienne Southgate at [asouthgate1@cox.net](mailto:asouthgate1@cox.net) to join in.



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## December 6, 2020 The Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete

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.*

For the texts of the readings for The Third Sunday of Advent, [please click here.](#)

[Click here](#) for the latest from the Episcopal News Service. And for current news from the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, [please click here.](#)

