



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

December 18, 2020

## Spotlight: Upcoming Virtual Compline & The Great "O" Antiphons of Advent

This coming Sunday, the final Sunday of the Advent season before Christmas, Grace Church will offer a 'virtual' version of a special Advent liturgy preceding a 'virtual' Choral Compline. Last year we created a meditative service featuring the Great "O" Antiphons of Advent sung from various points throughout the darkened church.



The O Antiphons, also called "The Great Os", are seven antiphons that precede the Magnificat at Vespers (an evening service that originated in the ancient church) during the final seven days of Advent. Each of these begins with the vocative particle "O" followed by one of the seven Messianic names of Christ found throughout scripture, those being: **S**apientia (Wisdom - December 17), **A**donai (Lord God - December 18), **R**adix Jesse (Root of Jesse - December 19), **C**lavis David (Key of David - December 20), **O**riens (Day-Spring - December 21), **R**ex Gentium (King of the Gentiles - December 22), and **E**mmanuel (God Among Us - December 23). When the first letters of each of these names are put in reverse order, they create the corresponding Latin phrase **ERO CRAS**, which translates as "Tomorrow, I will come", thus a fitting acronym for the coming of Christ.

A portion of the evening psalms that correspond to the appointed dates of each antiphon, will be read in between each antiphon. We hope this liturgy creates a meditative and prayerful atmosphere and that it moves you during this unique season of anticipation.

## LAST CALL FOR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!!! DEAD-LINE: SUNDAY, DEC. 20

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 20th. Festive settings most welcome, and if you know how to say, "Merry Christmas" in a different language, go for it!



## A Virtual Advent/ Christmas Pageant

On Sunday, December 20, the Grace Sunday School and Choristers will hold a virtual Christmas pageant via Zoom. We hope to record the Zoom pageant and share portions of it with the whole parish after Christmas!



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## A Great Big Thank You

Even during this period of challenges impacting health, finances, and even our very culture, Grace parishioners have shown their resolve to support their church. 94 households have pledged their support for 2021 thus far, with additional pledges still trickling in.



A letter of gratitude and acknowledgement of each pledge would normally have been sent by this time, and your parish administrator requests your kind forgiveness for his delay.

A very recent outpouring of support also needs to be highlighted. Earlier this week we invited parishioner contributions for an exciting new endeavor to produce a real-time online broadcast of our worship (called a *live stream*). Inspired by a generous challenge gift by vestry member Jeff Williams and his husband Tim Walsh, members of the parish raised 82% of the remaining \$10,000 needed to make it happen... just over the past couple of days!

While we don't have any tallies as yet, we know that your gifts of many types (food, toys, store cards and more) have made a substantial impact upon the holiday drive that our Outreach Ministry has organized for the benefit of families in need within the TAPA school community. Our thanks also to Outreach chair Charlie Carroll for his leadership of this effort.

And finally, thank you in advance for completing your 2020 pledges as you're able, and for sending in a 2021 pledge card if you haven't had a chance to yet. Pledge envelopes for 2021 will be mailed out during the first week of the new year.

For all of the ways in which you as a community have manifested your faith-filled generosity throughout this most unusual year, on behalf of Grace Church we express our most profound gratitude.

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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](#)



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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 in by phone:

(929) 205-6099

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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## 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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## Final 'Virtual' Thursdays at Noon Concert for 2020

In keeping with the spirit of Rhode Island's "pause", the **Thursday Noon concerts were virtual only for the remainder of 2020**. We are grateful to our guest artists that they were 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) **Patrick Aiken, Organist & Choirmaster of Central Congregational Church in Providence**. Patrick presented a virtual program of music for the Christmas season. To watch the concert, please click on the image to the right or [click here](#).



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 20, 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

For the texts of the readings for The Fourth 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](#).

