GRACE CHURCH

IN PROVIDENCE

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.



THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: ~ CHRISTMAS EVE ~

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS
WITH CHORAL HOLY EUCHARIST
RITE II

DECEMBER 24TH, 2022 5:00 PM

WELCOME TO GRACE CHURCH!

Christmas greetings to you! We are thrilled that you have come to Grace Church to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Whether this is your first time at Grace or you are here every week – or here each Christmas – you are welcome at Grace. Having so recently been through a pandemic that restricted our ability to gather together in prayer and worship, we are especially thankful that we can hear the timeless Christmas story and sing the beloved Christmas hymns as we gather together in this sacred place on this holy day. May this time of joyful worship be a light of hope in your life, just as Christ's birth was more than 2,000 years ago.

Welcome, and Merry Christmas! The Reverend Canon Jonathan Huyck + Rector of Grace Church

Please turn off or silence all mobile devices prior to the service. Thank you!

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Solo

Brad Kleyla, Tenor; Olivia Kleyla, French Horn

WHEN BLOSSOMS FLOWERED 'mid the snows upon a winter night, was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, The King of Love and Light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced; And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night, that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light. Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell. From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell. O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Words: 'Gesu Bambino', Italian Carol Music: Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

SOLO

Nicholas Halar, Baritone

MINUIT, CHRÉTIENS, c'est l'heure solennelle, Où l'Homme Dieu descendit jusqu'à nous pour effacer la tache originelle et de Son Père arrêter le courroux. Le monde entier tressaille d'espérance En cette nuit qui lui donne un Sauveur. Peuple à genoux, attends ta délivrance. Noël, Noël, voici le Rédempteur! Midnight, Christians, is the solemn hour, when God as man descended unto us to erase the stain of original sin and to end the wrath of His Father.

The entire world thrills with hope on this night that gives it a Saviour.

People, kneel down, await your deliverance.
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer!

Words: Placide Cappeau (1808-1877) Music: Adolphe Adam (1803-1956)

Organ Voluntary

Cradle Song

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

HYMN IN PROCESSION, 102

The Choir sings Stanzas 1 & 2; the Congregation joins for Stanzas 3-6.

- 1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a Mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed; Mary was that Mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.



Words: Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895), alt; Music: Irby, Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur H. Mann (1850-1929); Descant: Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

THE BIDDING PRAYER

BLOVED IN CHRIST, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Read by Jane Ditmars

The Prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

CAROL

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY, WHEN THEY ARE BOTH FULL GROWN, of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

The rising of the sun, the running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a prickle, as sharp as any thorn, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn.

The rising of the sun...

The holly bears a bark, as bitter as any gall, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.

The rising of the sun...

Words: Traditional Cornish carol Music: June Nixon (b. 1942)

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Read by David Olsen

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.



Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an gels be - side the wea - ry road And sing. О hear the an gels And the whole world send back the song Which now the an gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: Carol, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Read by Len Flood

The shepherds go to the manger.

CAROL

SAID THE NIGHT-WIND to the little lamb:
"Do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
Do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night
with a tail as big as a kite."

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy:
"Do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
Do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song, high above the trees,
with a voice as big as the sea."

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king:
"Do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king,
do you know what I know?
A child, a child shivers in the cold,
let us bring him silver and gold."

Said the king to the people everywhere:

"Listen to what I say!

Pray for peace, people everywhere!

Listen to what I say!

The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night, he will bring us goodness and light"

Words: Noël Regney (1922-2021)

Music: Gloria Shayne Baker (1923-2008), arr. Sarah E. A. MacDonald (b. 1968)

THE FOURTH LESSON

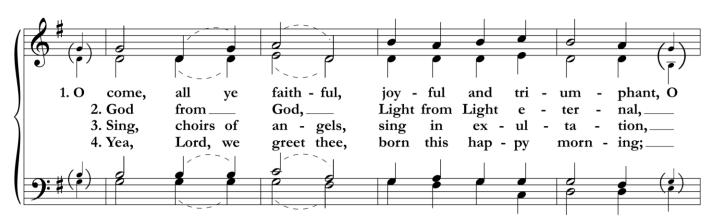
John 1:1-14

Read by Nicholas Halar

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Please stand as you are able to sing the hymn.

HYMN 83





Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others Music: Adeste fideles, present form of melody attrib. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906 Descant: Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

CelebrantPeopleAnd also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

GOD, YOU HAVE CAUSED THIS HOLY NIGHT to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Canon Jonathan Huyck, Rector of Grace Church

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE WELCOME

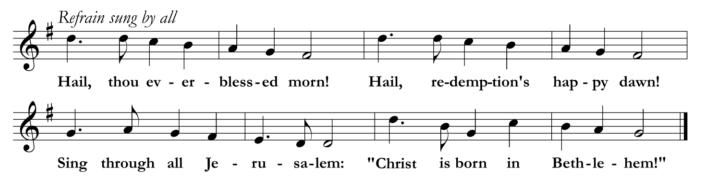


THE HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY & PRESENTATION

Stanzas 1-4 are sung by the Choir, the Refrain is sung by all. The Congregation joins in on Stanza 5. Please stand as you are able, as the Ushers bring forward the Offering during the interlude before Stanza 5.

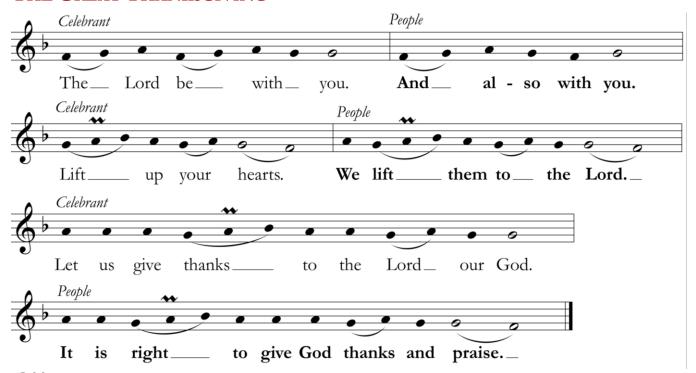




Words: Edward Caswall (1814-1878) Music: Sir John Goss (1800-1880), arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Celebrant

T IS RIGHT, AND A GOOD AND JOYFUL THING, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

BLESSED IS HE that cometh in the Name of the Lord, Hosanna in the Highest.

Setting: from Mass of the Quiet Hour, George Oldroyd (1886-1951)

Celebrant

OLY AND GRACIOUS FATHER: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant

E CELEBRATE THE MEMORIAL OF OUR REDEMPTION, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

AGNUS DEI

Sung by the Choir

O LAMB OF GOD, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace.

Setting: from Mass of the Quiet Hour, G. Oldroyd

THE INVITATION

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts, by faith with thanksgiving.

THE COMMUNION

To receive communion, extend your hands to the Priest, who will place the wafer in your hand (if you would like a gluten-free wafer, please ask for one). If you wish to receive the wine in an individual cup, approach the Communion Station in the Baptistry to the <u>left of the Eagle Lectern</u>, take a small, compostable cup from the table next to the pillar, and the Minister of Communion will pour a small amount of wine into it. After drinking the wine, place the cup in the basket by the pillar and return to your seat via the Side Aisle.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest when you come to the Altar.

AT THE COMMUNION, ANTHEM

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day, a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay. Enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.

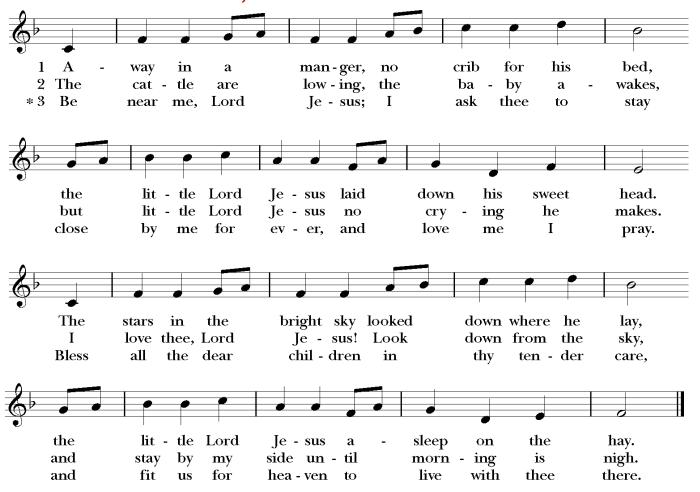
Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain. Heav'n and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable place suffic'd, the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: Harold Darke (1888-1976)

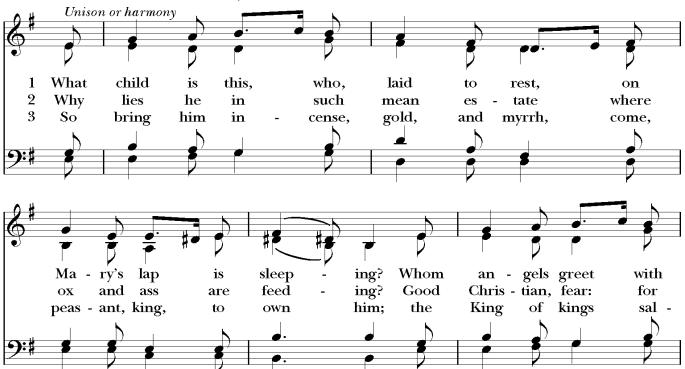
~ Brad & Olivia Kleyla, Soloists ~

THE COMMUNION HYMN, 101



Words: Traditional carol Music: Cradle Song, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

THE COMMUNION HYMN, 115





Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871

At the conclusion of Communion, we sing Silent Night on the following page. The Congregation kneels or sits as they are able.



HYMN 111



Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885) Music: Stille Nacht, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-LIVING GOD,

we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Rector

HRIST, WHO BY HIS INCARNATION gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please remain standing, as you are able, and join in singing the hymn on the following page.



HYMN IN PROCESSION, 87







Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915) Descant: Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People Thanks be to God!

VOLUNTARY

Final from Première Symphonie, Op. 14

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

~ THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE ~

Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Canon Jonathan Huyck

Assisting Priest: The Reverend Michael Coburn

Crucifer: Jim Mahoney

Soloist for "Once in royal David's city": Benjamin Huyck, Treble

Lectors: Jane Ditmars, David Olsen, Len Flood, Nick Halar

Ushers: Luci Scanlan, Duncan Cook, Christopher Tompkins, Wade Bright

Altar Guild: Sue Hall, Sandra Read

Audio/Visual: Clinton Crocker

Cover art: Stained Glass Window in The Baptistry at Grace Church depicting Christmas morning.

WE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN OUR PRAYERS: the family & friends of Kim Wood, Laurie DiBattista, the family of Peter Kuhn, Dave Reedy, Janet Tougas, Gordon Martin, Gail Kenney, Selina Olawoye, and Laura.

A SPECIAL GIFT TOWARD THE MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Is given by David C. Olsen & Leonard J. Flood in Thanksgiving for the ministry of Reverend Canon Jonathan Huyck

And in Memory of

The Rev. & Mrs. Howard C. Olsen ~ Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Flood ~ Mr. Edward A. Flood Mr. & Mrs. Roy William Howard

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS THAT DECORATE THE CHURCH AND THE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL OFFERINGS

Are Given to the Glory of God, and in Loving Memory of: The Annaldo Family ~ Charles Ada & Susan Pear ~ Helen M. Graves, Ph. D James H. Graves, M.D. ~ Joann Landskroener ~ Harvard Knowles Janet Brinckerhoff Chase ~ John Mataya ~ Henry Charbonneau ~ Rex & Margaret Hodges Kenneth & Auriel White ~ Leonard & Dorothy Hoebeke ~ Steven Hoebeke John & Mary Wall ~ Robert Daly ~ Mahsa Amini ~ Olga V. Cooper ~ Doloress Pratt Nancy Winter ~ The Rev. Lloyd Winter ~ Lloyd & Isabel Hughes ~ Ed & Marcia Stone Paula A. Remy ~ Mitch & Shirley ~ Ben & Grace ~ The McCutcheon & Stamp Families Kathyrn Chamberlain ~ Fred C. & Ellen White ~ William F. & Hazel W. Smith Russell G. Duly ~ Ethel & Ray Weissmuller ~ Ethel & Jack Scanlan Bob & Elaine & Christopher Scanlan ~ Melinda & Chester & Sadie Horton Bob, Carl, Elaine, Wendy & Jane Nelson ~ Bruce D. Phelps ~ Robert & Lois Moseley Gary Hackenberg ~ Aiden Shevlin ~ Richard LaPlante ~ Marie Camparone ~ The Rev. Canon Peter Chase ~ Rhea & Phil St. Onge ~ Herbert Rodman Read William Ennis ~ Donna Stolassi ~ Wilie Knight ~ Ruth Horace ~ Etta Y. Seton Talia Delmonico ~ Ray Broderick ~ B. Felix McGuigan ~ Robert Gibbons ~ Bernie Devlin

In Honor of:

The People of Ukraine ~ God's mercies & faithfulness ~ Vince Edwards

And In Thanksgiving for:
Emi & Mari Southgate ~ All the blessings of this life ~ Our Family

OTHER CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT GRACE CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

Festal Choral Eucharist with String Quartet at 10:00 PM
Prelude Music begins at 9:40 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Festal Sung Eucharist with Christmas Carols at 10:00 AM

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS: THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME

Sunday, January 1st, 2023

Spoken Holy Eucharist at 8:00 AM
Festal Sung Eucharist with Christmas Carols at 10:00 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRACE CHURCH HOLIDAY CLOSURE: The Parish Offices and the church will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2022 and will re-open on Tuesday, December 27, 2023.

EPIPHANYTIDE AT GRACE BROCHURE: The weeks following Christmas are no less busy here at Grace Church and we have several exciting worship opportunities planned for the Epiphany season (from January 6 onwards). Check out these offerings by picking up a brochure at the back of the church!

SPECIAL EUCHARIST FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: On Friday, January 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM, we will observe the Feast of the Epiphany with a special Festal Eucharist led by The Choristers of Grace Church. Music for the service will include Benjamin Britten's Missa Brevis in D for Treble Voices, Op. 63 and a new anthem composed specifically for this service by our Director of Music, Vincent Edwards. A reception will follow in The Pavilion.

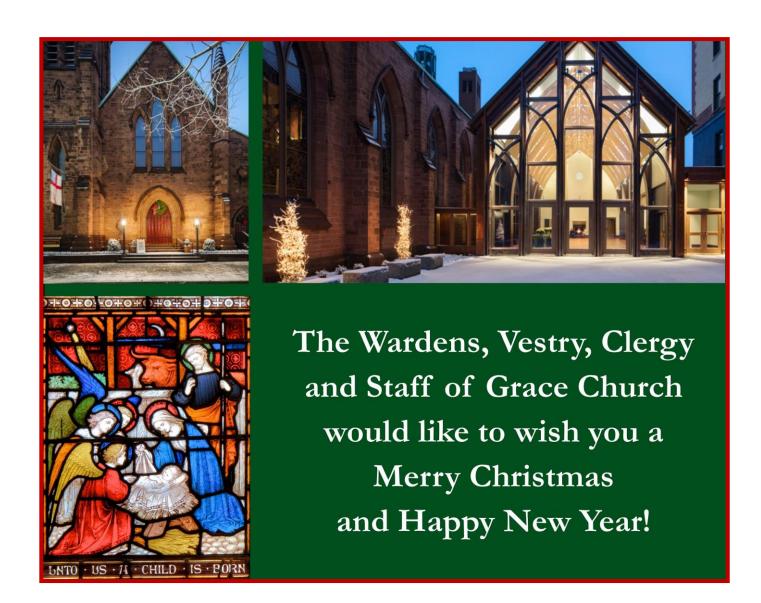
LESSONS & CAROLS FOR EPIPHANY: On Sunday, January 8, 2023 the Choir of Grace Church will offer a service of readings and music to mark the visit of the Three Wise Men to the baby Jesus. The service will feature a festive procession of The Three Kings with their gifts. Pieces of chalk will be blessed for all to take home and mark their homes with a blessing for the new year. A reception will follow in The Pavilion.

PARISH PRAYER LIST: Each Sunday we pray during worship for those whose names have been given to the parish office. To submit names for the prayer list, email them to <u>prayers@gracepvd.org</u>. Names are kept on the list for 4 weeks, unless otherwise requested.

parish here in Providence, St. Peter's and St. Andrew's Church, to support their Food Pantry. We invite you to bring non-perishable items to Grace on Sundays when you come to church and place them in the woven baskets in the rear of the church. We'll deliver the donations to Sts. Peter & Andrew. All non-perishable donations are welcome but especially encouraged are tuna, peanut butter, cereal, diapers & wipes, toilet paper, and paper towels. Thank you for your generosity!

GRACE IS GREEN! Please join us in our efforts to tread lightly upon God's green Earth. Please place unsoiled recyclables and used Orders of Service into the dedicated receptacles throughout the church.

GRACE ABOUNDS ENEWS: If you are not yet receiving our new weekly E-News and announcements via e-mail, and would like to be on our growing list, kindly e-mail admin@gracepvd.org



A COLLECT FOR THE NEW YEAR

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds; that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son, Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

FESTAL CHORAL EUCHARIST

LED BY

THE GRACE CHURCH CHORISTERS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 2023 6:00 PM



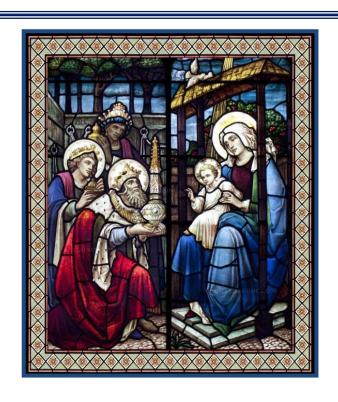
A special choral eucharist in observance of the Feast of the Epiphany, sung by
The Grace Church Choristers. Music for the service will include
Benjamin Britten's Missa Brevis in D for Treble Voices, Op. 63
and a new anthem composed for this service by Vincent Edwards.

A reception will follow in The Pavilion.



GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

300 Westminster Street • Providence • RI • 02903 401-331-3225 • www.GraceChurchProvidence.org



A SERVICE OF

LESSONS & CAROLS FOR EPIPHANY

WITH THE **BLESSING OF CHALK**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 2023 4:00 PM

The Choir of Grace Church sings music of Peter Cornelius,
Everett Titcomb, Herbert Howells, Jacobus Handl,
Malcolm Archer, and Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy.
The service will feature a festive procession of The Three Kings with their gifts and pieces of chalk will be blessed for all to take home and mark their homes with a blessing for the new year. A reception follows in The Pavilion.



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Christmas Message 2022

There is a Christmas carol not that well known here in the States, maybe better known in Great Britain, that says quite simply, "Love came down at Christmas. Love all lovely. Love divine. Love was born at Christmas. Star and angel gave the sign. Love came down at Christmas." The older I get, the more I am convinced that God came into this world in the person of Jesus for one reason, and one reason alone: to show us the way to be reconciled and in right relationship with the God who is the creator of us all, and with each other as children of that one God who is the creator of us all, and of all things. Jesus came to show us how to live, reconciled with God, and with each other, and He taught us that the way to do it is God's way of love. For God's way of love is God's way of life. It's our hope for our families, our communities, our societies. Indeed, it is our hope for the whole world. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, and love came down at Christmas. Now, look, I'm 69 years old. I've been around the block a little bit. I know that sounds nice, sounds like the kind of thing we say in church. It sounds nice, but naive, idealistic but unrealistic, and yet, consider the alternative. Need I just simply say the names? Uvalde, Vestavia Hills, Tree of Life Synagogue, Club Q in Colorado Springs, Ukraine. Now, God's way of love is not naive, it is not unrealistic, it's the way. It's the way to life for us all. Dr. King once said, "Darkness cannot cast out darkness; only light can do that. And hatred cannot cast out hatred; only love can do that." Love came down at Christmas. And as some of us are beginning to say in this Episcopal church of ours, "Love always." Earlier this year, I went to Mother Emanuel AME in Charleston to be part of the seventh commemoration of the murders of the martyrs of Charleston. You may remember that a number of years ago, while members of that church had gathered for Bible study, a man came in and they welcomed him in, and invited him to join them, and he turned on them, and he killed many. It was the seventh commemoration to both honor and remember those who had died, to give God thanks for those who helped – first responders, medical persons – but it was also something else. It was a time to commit ourselves, not simply to throw up our hands in despair, but to reach out our hands to each other, to roll up our sleeves, to take God's hand and take each other's hand and do the hard and holy work of love, which brings healing, which brings hope, which binds us together, and lifts us up to be all that God dreams and intends for us all to be. Love came down at Christmas. Love always, because love is the way. It is the way that Jesus taught us based on the ancient teachings of Moses, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself," for on these two hang, depend, all the law, all the prophets, everything that God intends because God is love. Love came down at Christmas and so let this Christmas be a moment of rededication to the work of love in the world. As Howard Thurman wrote long ago, "When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star and the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are at home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, then the work of Christmas begins. To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others, to make music in the heart." For love came down at Christmas, and our work is to love always. God love you. God bless you, and may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love. Merry Christmas.

+The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, USA

LEADERSHIP AT GRACE CHURCH

CLERGY & STAFF

The Reverend Canon Jonathan Huyck, Rector jhuyck@gracepvd.org The Reverend Hartwell Hylton, Associate Rector

hhylton@gracepvd.org

Vince Edwards, Organist & Director of Music vedwards@gracepvd.org

David Heinze, Associate Director of Music dheinze@gracepvd.org

Vivian Trutzl, Director of Youth & Newcomer Ministries vtrutzl@gracepvd.org

Kim Chitic, Parish Administrator kchitic@gracepvd.org John Carbone, Sexton

Selemani Mayundo, Assistant Sexton Pedro Quinilla, Assistant Sexton

VESTRY

Class of 2023 Class of 2024 Liz Messier Diane Stamp

Emily Pera Joseph Berryhill

Frank Ward Michael D'Alesandre Jeff Williams

Anaezi Modu

Class of 2025

Carissa Mills

Lori Brown

Joel Goloskie

Nicholas Halar



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