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: $\sim CHRISTMAS DAY \sim$

FESTAL SUNG EUCHARIST Rite II

> DECEMBER 25th, 2023 10:00 AM



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. We give thanks that you've joined us to 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 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!

VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo, BuxWV 197

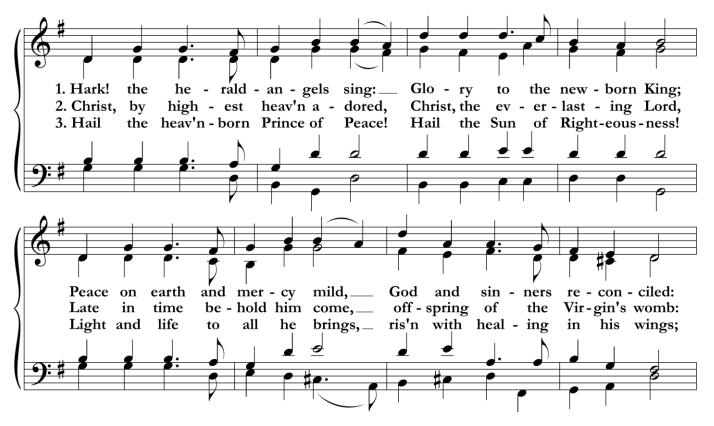
Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

THE INTROIT

The Cantor and Choir sing from The Pavilion

Christ the Lord is born today : *God's salvation now appears*. Let us go forth in peace : *In the name of Christ. Amen.*

HYMN IN PROCESSION, 87





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



THE OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever! Amen!

Celebrant

LMIGHTY GOD, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Sung by all.



Setting: Gloria, French Carol, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLet us pray.

GOD, YOU MAKE US GLAD by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings from Holy Scripture.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

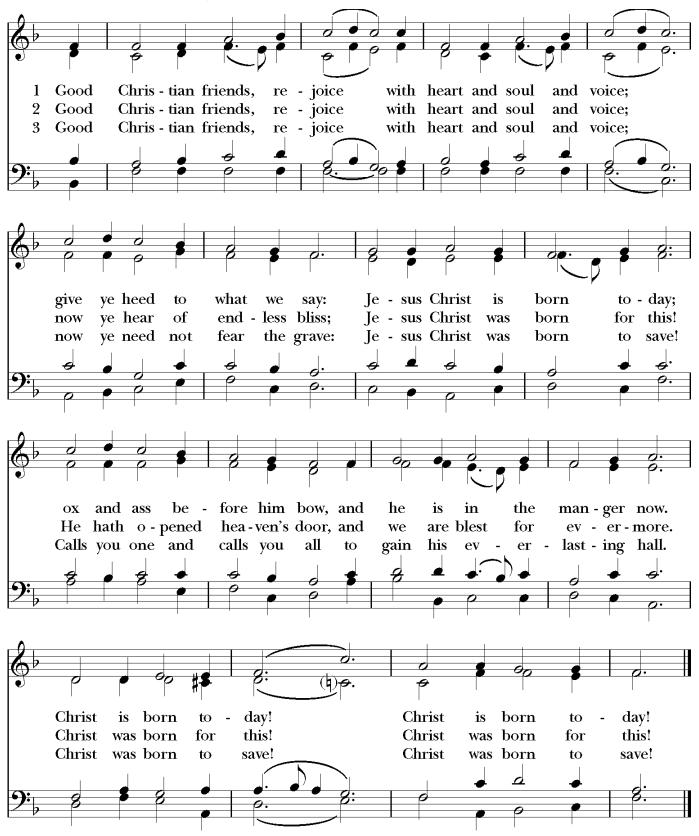
THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Please join in singing the hymn on the following page.



THE GRADUAL HYMN, 107



Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

THE EPISTLE READING

Reader A reading from Paul's Letter to Titus

FOR THE GRACE OF GOD HAS APPEARED, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to sing the hymn.



AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 92

"Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!" is Latin for "Therefore, Glory to God in the Highest!" Words: Piae Cantiones, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929) Music: Personent hodie, melody from Piae Cantiones, 1582

THE HOLY GOSPEL

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

N THOSE DAYS A DECREE WENT OUT from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Hartwell Hylton, Associate Rector of Grace Church

We stand and say together

THE NICENE CREED

WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. Who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Intercessor and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, including those we name now either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

THE PEACE

CelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

WELCOME

THE HOLY COMMUNION

AT THE OFFERTORY, ANTHEM

WAKE ALL MUSIC'S MAGIC POWERS, ON THIS BLISSFUL MORNING, Born today, the Child of ours, theme of Prophet's warning; Giant in the race he towers, toil and danger scorning. *O that blessed going out, which salvation brought about.*

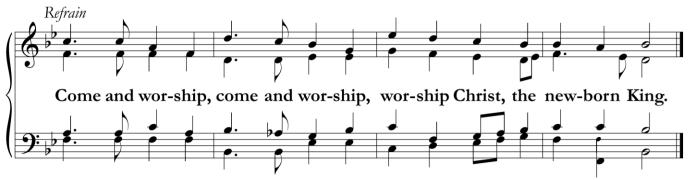
Let this glorious holiday find such holy spending, That the simple-hearted may Joy without offending, And sweet charity may stay, without our concourse blending. *O that blessed going out...*

O how bright is this day made, day with radiance glowing, Which the Light of light displayed, light in darkness showing; Chasing thus death's gloomy shade, brightness o'er us throwing! O that blessed going out...

> Words: Translated by Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917) Music: Sir John Stainer (1840-1901)

Please stand as you are able.



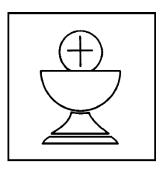


Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854) Music: Regent Square, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)



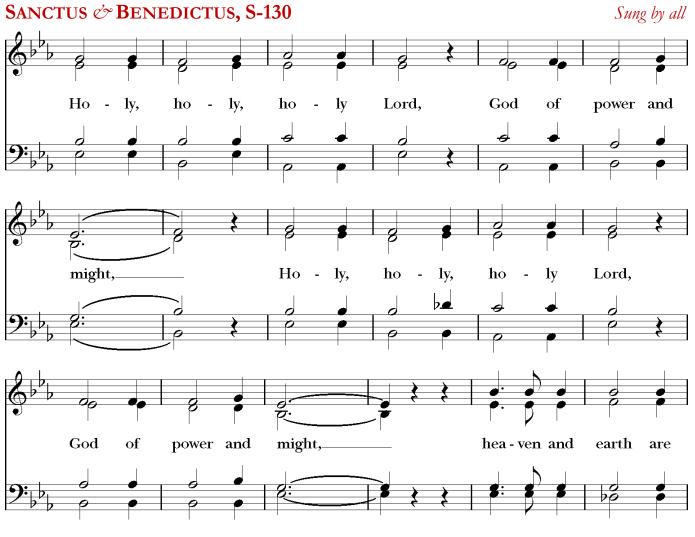
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give God thanks and praise.



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:



Continued over the page. \rightarrow





Setting: from Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

Celebrant

If 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.

N 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."

FTER 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.

Celebrant 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.

People Amen.

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

After the Celebrant breaks the host, please join in singing the Agnus Dei.



Setting: from Deutsche Messe, F.P. Schubert; arr. R. Proulx

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 ANTIPHON Sung by the Choir as the Clergy, Acolytes, and Ushers receive.

PANIS ANGELICUS FIT PANIS HOMINUM; Dat panis caelicus figuris terminum, O res mirabilis! Manducat Dominum Pauper, servus et humilis. The bread of the angels becomes the bread of mortals; the bread of heaven puts an end to prefigurations. O wondrous thing! Upon their Lord and Master, the poor and humble feed.

Setting: from Sacris solemniis, Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

THE COMMUNION

To receive communion, extend your hands to the Priest and they will place the wafer in your hand (if you would like a gluten-free wafer, please ask for one). If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead, simply cross your arms over your chest when you come to the Altar. All are welcome at The Lord's Table!

AT THE COMMUNION, ANTHEM

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY THEIR OLD FAMILIAR CAROLS PLAY, And wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom Had rolled along th'unbroken song of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men."

Till, ringing, singing, on its way, the world revolved from night to day, A voice, a chime, a chant sublime, of peace on earth, good will to men!

> Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) Music: Johnny Marks (1909-1985)

When Communion is completed, we stand and say together **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 CHRISTMAS BLESSING

 M_{AY} ALMIGHTY GOD, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. Amen.

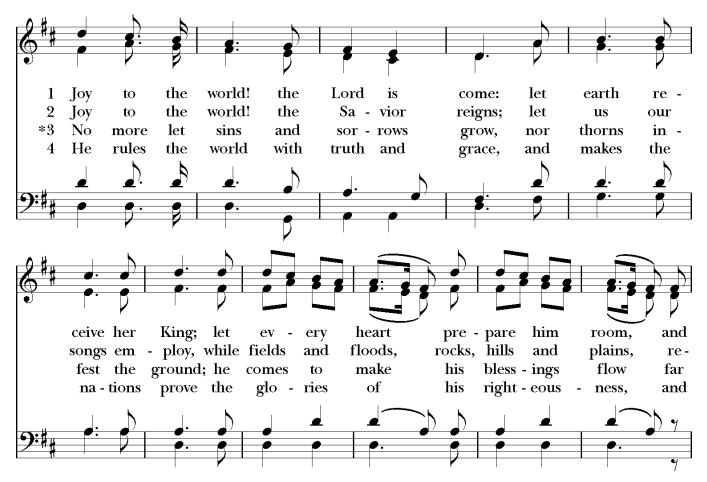
 M_{AY} GOD, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. Amen.

 M_{AY} GOD, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. Amen.

AND THE BLESSING OF GOD ALMIGHTY, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Please join in singing the hymn.

THE CLOSING HYMN, 100





Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Music: Antioch, George Frederic Händel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God!**

VOLUNTARY

Noël X: Grand Jeu et Duo

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

~ Those Participating in the Service ~

Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Hartwell Hylton Crucifer: Frank Ward Lectors: Andrew Raftery, Gailia Rutan-Annaldo Minister of Communion: Frank Ward Usher: Michael D'Alesandre Altar Guild: Denise Lapolla

WE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN OUR PRAYERS: Steve & Dot Haskell, Hernan David Salazar, Viola Cleo Bradshaw, Roger, Judge Frank Caprio, Barb, Kerry, Greg Allan Johnson, the friends and family of Lucile Allard, Doug Yocum, Kylie, Nicole, Joshua, & Fay SanAntonio, Meghan, Claire, Gert, Amanda, Daniel & Elena Couto, Judith Rodrigues, Max Harrison, Carol Violet, A.T. Wall, Jeff, Kenneth Scanlan, and Erinn Huetteman.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRACE CHURCH HOLIDAY CLOSURE: The Parish Offices and the church will be closed on Tuesday, December 26, 2023 and will re-open on Wednesday, 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 Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 11:00 AM, we will observe the Feast of the Epiphany with a special Eucharist held in the Chancel with the congregation sitting in the choir stalls.

LESSONS \mathcal{O}^{∞} **CAROLS FOR EPIPHANY:** On Sunday, January 7, 2024 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.

FOOD DONATION COLLECTION: Grace Church has partnered with a fellow Episcopal 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





The Wardens, Vestry, Clergy and Staff of Grace Church would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

LEADERSHIP AT GRACE CHURCH <u>CLERGY & STAFF</u>

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 Blais, Director of Youth & Newcomer Ministries vblais@gracepvd.org Sara Quinn, Parish Administrator squinn@gracepvd.org John Carbone, Sexton Pedro Quinilla & Selemani Mayundo, Assistant Sextons

Class of 2024

Diane Stamp Joseph Berryhill Michael D'Alesandre Anaezi Modu

VESTRY

Class of 2025 Carissa Mills Lori Brown Joel Goloskie Nicholas Halar Class of 2026 Pat Trosclair Laurie DiBattista Jeff Williams Frank Ward

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GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

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