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, 2023 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. 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!

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

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! Nicholas Halar, Baritone

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) 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 Geneva Walker

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 Nicholas Halar

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 Jane Ditmars

The shepherds go to the manger.

CAROL

PAST THREE O'CLOCK, AND A COLD FROSTY MORNING, Past three o'clock; Good morrow, masters all!

Born is a Baby, gentle as may be, Son of th'eternal Father supernal.

Seraph quire singeth, angel bell ringeth; Hark how they rime it, time it and chime it! Past three o'clock...

Mid earth rejoices hearing such voices ne'ertofore so well carolling 'Nowell'.

Past three o'clock...

Hinds over the pearly, dewy lawn early seek the high stranger laid in the manger.

Past three o'clock...

Cheese from the dairy bring they for Mary, and, not for money, butter and honey.

Past three o'clock...

Words: Refrain traditional, Verses by George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934) Music: Traditional English Carol, arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

THE FOURTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Read by Adrienne Southgate

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 attributed to John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906 Descant: Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And 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.

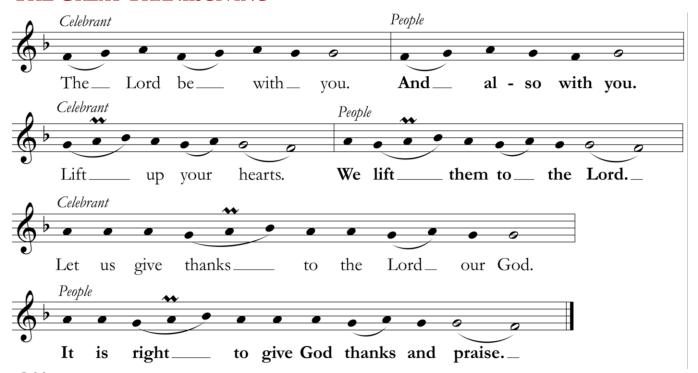




Words: Edward Caswall (1814-1878) Music: Sir John Goss (1800-1880), arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)



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:

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.

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

TE 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, 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 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

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. Jacob Chippo & Chelsea Sardoni, Soloists

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.

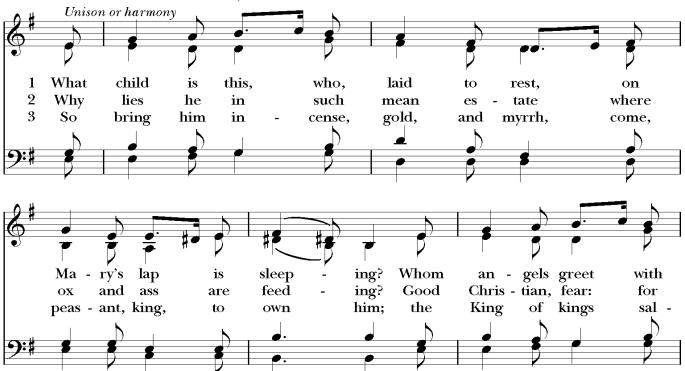
Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: Harold Darke (1888-1976)

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

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!

Keith Chapman (1945-1989)

~ 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": Quinn Dellinger, Treble
Lectors: Geneva Walker, Nicholas Halar, Jane Ditmars, Adrienne Southgate
Ministers of Communion: Frank Ward, Carolyn Dellinger

Ushers: Luci Scanlan, Josh Dellinger
Greeter: Matthew Sneider
Altar Guild: Sandra Read, Sue Hall
Audio/Visual: Clinton Crocker

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.

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

Newcomer? Visitor? Scan for our Welcome Card!



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.

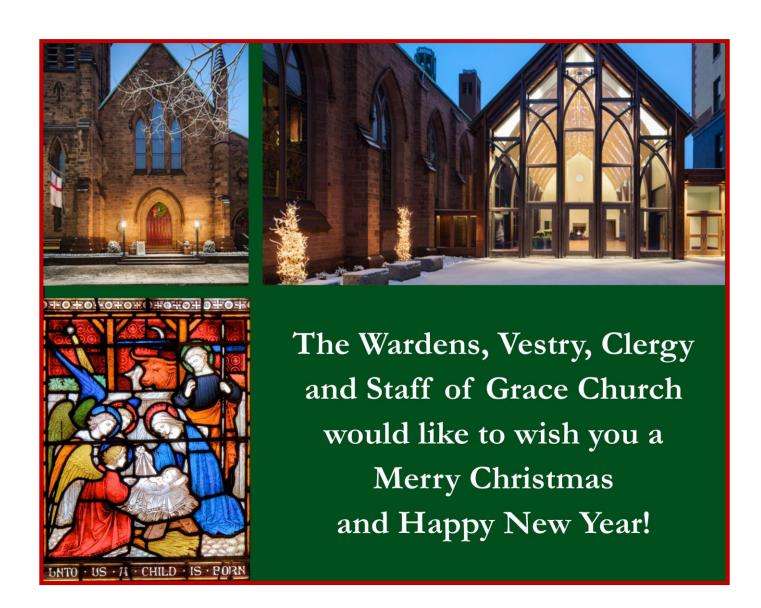
LESSONS & CAROLS FOR EPIPHANY: On Sunday, January 7, 2024 the Choir of Grace Church will offer a service of readings and music to mark the visit of the Three Wise Men to the baby Jesus. The service will feature a festive procession of The Three Kings with their gifts. Pieces of chalk will be blessed 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 prayers@gracepvd.org. 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



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.

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 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

VESTRY

Class of 2024
Diane Stamp
Joseph Berryhill
Michael D'Alesandre
Anaezi Modu

Class of 2025
Carissa Mills
Lori Brown
Joel Goloskie
Nicholas Halar

Class of 2026
Pat Trosclair
Laurie DiBattista
Jeff Williams
Frank Ward



GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

300 Westminster Street • Providence • RI • 02903

401-331-3225 • www.GraceChurchProvidence.org

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