Welcome to Worship: Thank you for making Grace-St. Luke’s part of your spiritual journey and for joining us today for this virtual worship offering. If you are new among us, please complete an online Connect Card at gracestlukes.org/online-visitor-card. Our clergy-staff team would like to reach out to learn more about you and to explore how life at Grace-St. Luke’s might bless your journey and you bless ours. For more about our thriving faith community including online formation (learning) offerings, please visit www.gracestlukes.org.

Celebrant: The Rev. Laura F. Gettys  
Preacher: Jessica Abell  
Lector & Intercessor, Assisting: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher  

All are asked to observe silence during the  
Voluntary: “WACHET AUF, RUFT UNS DIE STIMME” BWV 645  
Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome, Announcements and Children’s Message

The Word of God

Lighting of the Advent Wreath  
Celebrant: Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. This first candle is HOPE. The candle is lit.  
Scripture: Psalm 33:20 – We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.  
Prayer: Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.
Hymn 57, stanzas 1 & 4, “Lo! He comes, with clouds descending”

music: Helmsley, melody Augustine Arne (1710-1778)  
text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Celebrant  Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People    You come to your people and set them free.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant  God be with you.
People    And also with you.
Celebrant  Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like
one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like
the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden
your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay,
and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember
iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. Silence

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 read responsively by whole verse

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
    shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
    stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
    show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts, *
    how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
    you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
    and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
    show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
    the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
    give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
    show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because
of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech
and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not
lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the
end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the
fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. Silence

All stand for the Gospel

The Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the
stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man
coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds,
from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes ten-
der and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know
that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken
place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows,
either the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time
will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work,
and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of
the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he
comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

_Gospeller_  The Gospel of the Lord

_People_  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Homily:** Jessica Abell

_The Priest invites the People to stand for 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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 Fa-
ther. 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, 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 Priest invites the People to stand or kneel for the_

**The Prayers of the People, Form IV**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. _Silence_

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal
your glory in the world. _Silence_

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another
and serve the common good. _Silence_

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others
and to your honor and glory. _Silence_

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as
he loves us. _Silence_

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring
them the joy of your salvation. _Silence_

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, including those in whose memory the Advent candles and wreath
decorations are given: Thomas Hogan Sr., F. M. Hogan, Thomas Hogan Jr., J. M. Pigg, Wendell Pigg, Doris Priest, and
Harriss Siler, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal
kingdom. _Silence_

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the gifts of time, talent, and treasure offered by all to support life at Grace-St. Luke’s; and for other
thanksgivings we now name aloud or silently. _Silence_

_The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect._
Let us confess our sins to God. Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

The celebrant and people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory

The Offertory first offers instructions about the ministration of communion and the consecration of pledges to the stewardship campaign. Then the Celebrant and Assisting Priest wash their hands with soapy warm water and sanitize them. During the setting of the Holy Table and the choral anthem, your financial offerings may be made to support life at Grace-St. Luke’s: visit gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving; text GSLChurch ALMS to 73256 to give to ALMS; text GSLChurch PLEDGE to 73256 to give to your PLEDGE; or you may mail offerings to the church office. Our 2021 stewardship campaign, Resilience and Connection by Giving, is seeking 100% participation from all parishioners: visit gracestlukes.org/pledge. For information about worship, formation for all ages, ways to connect, serve and more, visit www.gracestlukes.org.

Music at the Offertory

Eucharistic Prayer 2: Enriching Our Worship

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 our thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.
The Celebrant continues.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and
gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Luke, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

**Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation**

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.

**Anthem at Communion, “A W A I T I N G  P R A Y E R”**

*music: Lee Dengler*
*text: Susan Naus Dengler*

O come, O come and be with us, Emmanuel. We wait for you.
We long for you every morning, and at midday watch for signs of your coming.
We seek your face in the evening.
O come quickly; you alone can save us.
Come, Lord Jesus; you alone can save us.
O come, O come and be with us, Emmanuel. We wait for you.

**Spiritual Communion Prayers**

While the congregation gathered in person receives communion, the congregation worshipping via livestream offers the following prayers. These rich words are recited daily throughout the church catholic (universal) by individuals and communities unable to gather for public worship for whatever reason, while also longing for the occasion to participate in the Episcopal Church’s central practice of receiving the Holy Sacrament.

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly Grace-St. Luke’s and those worshiping there, I long to offer praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory, and particularly for the blessings given me.
I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The Blessing
May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. Amen. May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. Amen. May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. 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.

Hymn 59, stanzas 1 & 3-5, “Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding”

music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)
text: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861, alt.
The Dismissal

Minister

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Voluntary: “WACHT AUF, RUFT UNS DIE STIMME”

Paul Manz

Continue the day, giving thanks to God for blessings known and known, and by reaching out in care for fellow parishioners, neighbors, and any persons in need. Members of the parish with any needs or pastoral concerns: email pastoralcare@gracesstlukes.org or dial 901-252-6320, and for hospitalizations or emergencies, dial the 24/7 Clergy-on-Call phone line at 901-252-6334.

The Rev. Laura F. Gettys Celebrant
The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Lector & Intercessor, Assisting
Debbie Smith, Assistant Organist-Choirmaster
Shelby Seese, Isabel Wittman, Charles McGowan, André Moore, Cantors
Lucy Owens, Communications Administrator
Jeff White, Livestream Support
November 29, 2020 – Advent 1 (B)
First Week of Advent: Saying “Yes” to the Journey

As Advent begins this week, we invite you to orient yourself to the coming of Jesus at Christmas through the practices of Journeying the Way of Love. This journey begins by saying “yes” to God’s call to birth new life into the world—a call that is both powerful and gentle, a call that will, if fully embraced, grow beyond our imaginations, spilling out of ourselves and into our family, friends, community, and the whole world. Over the course of this holy season, we invite you to respond to that call using these daily practices, and encourage you to offer them to your friends, family, and neighbors.

Sunday, November 29
WORSHIP
What word or words from worship today have found a home in your heart? Share these words with a friend or family member.

Monday, November 30
GO
Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously or someone with a different perspective than you. Pray that you hear this person as God does.

Tuesday, December 1
LEARN
Read Luke 1:30. What are you afraid of that keeps you from saying “yes” to God?

Wednesday, December 2
PRAY
Set a timer for three minutes. Silently repeat this prayer – “Here I am, God” – until time is up.

Thursday, December 3
BLESS
The angel blessed Mary with the gift of presence. To whom can you give the gift of presence this week?

Friday, December 4
TURN
In giving generously, St. Nicholas turned from a sense of scarcity to a posture of abundance. What do you need to turn from in order to be generous of heart?

Saturday, December 5
REST
From what could you rest in order to receive renewed life? Find that rest today, and do it for as long as you are able.

For more Advent resources related to the Way of Love, visit episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove. There, you’ll find links to the full Advent curriculum Journeying the Way of Love, as well as Living the Way of Love in Community, a nine-session curriculum for use anytime.

Published by the Office of Formation of The Episcopal Church, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017
© 2020 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.
Strength for the Journey: Gratitude. Every year, the months of November and December tend to heighten a societal embrace and practices of gratitude. Between Thanksgiving Day and New Year’s Eve, a sense of gratitude seems to be more apparent in hearts, actions and even spiritual practices. In her book Strength for the Journey: A Guide to Spiritual Practices, the Reverend Renee Miller offers a poignant reflection for individual lives and our common life at Grace-St. Luke’s. “There are few spiritual practices as enjoyable and fulfilling as gratitude practice for two simple reasons. First, it lets us re-live blessing and grace and in this we have the experience twice. Just consider all the moments and experiences where the presence of God has been felt, the times when grace has hovered like a bank of coastal fog. Those memories are stored in our hearts and etched on our souls. Gratitude is the way we access them again and again. Gratitude practice invites us into the past where we experience those moments anew, the present where grace peeks out like a wildflower in winter, and the future where we are expectant in the promise of grace yet to be revealed. Second, gratitude builds on itself, and in this we find that even when we thought something had no redeeming value, grace still peers out like a shy child waiting to be coaxied out from hiding...Gratitude practice is beneficial for every spiritual personality. It is both an internal practice and a practice of ministry. We find our own souls expanding every time we feel and express gratitude, and when we’re grateful, we find that our lives expand as well. Those who are grateful bring grace into the lives of others. Gratitude builds on itself and when we grow in gratitude others grow in theirs. One moment of gratitude leads to another and in the end, we have hearts filled with you.” In this season, may you and I continue to be affirmed by our expressions of gratitude and, in turn, our giving to support the mission of God’s Church and vision of Grace-St. Luke’s Church. – The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector

Take Note: New Highlights

Annual Meeting of the Parish (Virtual), December 6, 9:15 a.m. All members and newcomers are asked to participate in this important virtual meeting. A small group will be gathered in Trezevant Hall to conduct the meeting and engage remote participation via the Zoom Meeting platform and the use of election voting software called ElectionBuddy. Paper ballots for return or hand-deliver to the church office by Friday, December 4, are being mailed to the homes of members who are non-internet users with a copy of the online “Nominees for Vestry Class of 2023” guide (www.gracestlukes.org/news/vestry-class-of-2023) and other materials. All meeting details including virtual access, agenda, vestry nominee biographical statements, and the voting process will be maintained online at www.gracestlukes.org/annualmeeting2020 and shared via eNews. According to the Parish Bylaws, “a quorum at a Parish meeting shall be not less than ten percent (10%) of the Communicants in Good Standing of the Parish as shown in the last published Annual Parochial Report. Only confirmed adult communicants, 16 years of age or older, shall be eligible to vote at Parish meetings, and no proxies shall be allowed. According to Title I, Canon 17 of the Canons of The Episcopal Church all communicants who for the previous year have been faithful in public worship, unless good cause prevents, and have been faithful in the working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing. To be eligible for election to the vestry, one must be a member of Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, eighteen years of age, a giver of record, and not employed by the Parish, Diocese or Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal School.”

Hear ye! Hear ye! Read all about it! The December-January edition of The Messenger is available for download. This issue includes news about Advent-Christmas-Epiphany, Pastoral Care, Social Justice, Outreach, Music, Athletics, Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal School, Adult, Youth, and Children’s Formation, Stewardship, and more. You can download or read a copy online at gracestlukes.org/the-messenger.

Special Events for the First Sunday of Advent, November 29: Advent Wreath-making Sessions, 1 and 2:30 p.m., details below under Community Life. Advent Organ Concert, 5:30-6 p.m., details below under Worship and Music.

Advent Season Devotional Resources for Individual and Households include Clergy Reflections with Music for Meditation. Learn more under Community Life:

Online Book Talk: Christian Citizens: Reading the Bible in Black and White in the Postemancipation South | Tuesday, December 1, 6-7 p.m. The Reverend Laura Gettys will discuss author Dr. Elizabeth Jemison new book, Christian Citizens, during an online book signing hosted by Novel booksellers. LEARN MORE/ REGISTER: https://tinyurl.com/yy4n78s

Ongoing events, less recent news, and more, explore below: Virtual Offerings, Worship and Music, Stewardship, Christian Formation, Community Life, Outreach, and Quick Links.

Virtual Offerings

The First Sunday of Advent, November 29.
9:15-9:45 a.m. Adult Formation. An Advent Like No Other with The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector. Details below under Adult Christian Formation.
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist. Livestream Service of Holy Eucharist including music via the GSL website (www.gracestlukes.org/events/sunday-worship) and Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/gracestlukes/live); also in person.
5:30-6 p.m. Advent Organ Concert with Assistant Organist-Choirmaster Debbie Smith and Director of Music and Organist Patrick A. Scott, via Facebook (www.facebook.com/gracestlukes/live) and YouTube (www.youtube.com/gracestlukes).
**Tuesdays and Thursdays, Compline (Night Prayers), 8-8:15 p.m. via Facebook Live [www.facebook.com/gracestlukes/live].**

**Event Details.** For important details about each of these and more, follow this link [www.gracestlukes.org/news/weekly-virtual-offerings] to Virtual Offerings and watch for the Friday **Looking Ahead** eNews.

### Worship and Music

**Sunday Bulletin Inserts Series for Advent based on The Episcopal Church’s Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life Initiative.** From November 22, the Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King Sunday through December 20, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, rich one-page reflections will be provided in the 10:30 a.m. services leaflets for individual and household use throughout each week. “The Way of Love is a way of life. More than a program or curriculum, it is an intentional commitment to a set of practices. It’s a commitment to follow Jesus: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest.” For more information, explore episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love.

The **First Sunday of Advent, November 29, Worship: In Person and Online**

**10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist.** In-person and livestream service of the Holy Eucharist including music via the GSL website (graces-tlukes.org/live) and Facebook Live (facebook.com/gracestlukes). Limited space is available for in person in order to maintain social distancing requirements. Visit tinyurl.com/GSLWorshipSignup to sign up.

**5:30-6 p.m. Advent Organ Concert,** Sunday, November 29, 5:30–6 p.m. will be available on Facebook (www.facebook.com/gracestlukes) and YouTube (www.youtube.com/gracestlukes). Join Debbie Smith, Assistant Organist-Choirmaster & Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music and Organist for an afternoon of organ music for Advent. They will play pieces based on familiar Advent melodies such as, “Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us, Prepare the way, O Zion, and Savior of the nations, come!

**Tuesdays and Thursdays Compline (Night Prayers), 8-8:15 p.m.,** is offered via Facebook Live [www.facebook.com/gracestlukes/live].

Visit [www.gracestlukes.org/worship](http://www.gracestlukes.org/worship) for more about worship, and to explore past and upcoming services, follow this link [www.gracetlukes.org/events/sunday-worship](http://www.gracetlukes.org/events/sunday-worship).

### Stewardship: Time, Talent, Treasure

**Happy Thanksgiving, and thanks for giving!** In this season of gratitude, we give thanks for all you do to support the life of our parish. 2020 has brought change, uncertainty, and challenges. Through it all, the people of Grace-St. Luke’s have showed compassion, resiliency, and creativity. We continue to offer each other hope.

If you haven’t already, please make your pledge for 2021 now. A pledge is simply an estimate of what you hope to give and how you hope to serve in the coming year, and your estimates of giving directly impact how the church budgets. The finance committee would greatly appreciate your input no later than the close of business on December 2 so that an accurate budget may be presented at our annual parish meeting on December 6. Please visit [www.gracestlukes.org/pledge](http://www.gracestlukes.org/pledge) to make your pledge today. We give thanks for you!

### Christian Formation

**Adults.**

**An Advent Like No Other with The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector,** this morning’s formation offering, is available on our website ([www.gracestlukes.org/sunday-morning](http://www.gracestlukes.org/sunday-morning)), on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/gracestlukes](http://www.facebook.com/gracestlukes)), and YouTube ([www.youtube.com/gracestlukes](http://www.youtube.com/gracestlukes)). Advent marks the annual occasion for the church catholic (universal) to “begin again” on the journey with Christ beginning in great expectation of his birth. This new season also is perfect for members of the body of Christ to reflect on the past, present and future. It is more and more obvious every day that life, especially for the Church, will never be the same again. The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher will highlight societal and spiritual matters that may resonate with those who tune in for the presentation.

**Looking Ahead:** Sunday, December 6, 9:15 a.m. Online - Annual Parish Meeting and Vestry Elections.

**GSL Reading Together, Zoom Discussions.** The December book, with Zoom discussions scheduled for December 2, 9 & 16, is *The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder* by Richard Rohr. For signup details and more, visit [www.gracestlukes.org/gslreadingtogether](http://www.gracestlukes.org/gslreadingtogether).

**Children.**

The Virtual Prayer Table is available for all children on Sunday mornings at 11:30 via Zoom (link emailed on Saturdays). Hosted by Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation, this 20-minute gathering offers time for a brief scripture lesson based on one of the day’s readings, singing, sharing, praying, and connecting for any children who would like to attend. **Read all about the Virtual Video Premiere of GSL Youth & Children Holiday Greetings and Christmas Pageant in your December-January Messenger.**

For details about these or any Children’s programs at GSL, or to be added to the Children’s Formation email list, please contact Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation.
Youth.
November 29. No EYC, Happy Thanksgiving to all!
If you wish to be added to the Youth Formation email list, contact Amzie Williams.

Athletics

FAB 50 Basketball Outdoor Sessions, December 5 & 12: Fitness, Agility & Basketball
WHO: JK-4th Grades; WHEN: December 5 & 12, 2020; WHERE: Church of the Holy Communion
For more details, please visit the GSL Church athletics basketball webpage: www.gracestlukes.org/youthbasketball

Community Life

Advent Season Devotional Resources for Individual and Households. To enrich your spiritual journey from the first Sunday of Advent, November 29 to Christmas Eve, December 24, explore a variety of resources: GSL Weekly Virtual Clergy Reflections with Music for Meditation, December 2, 9, 16, 23 (10-minute offerings of a brief reflection from a member of the clergy interspersed with music for cello, flute, guitar and organ via Wednesday eNews, Facebook, website; written versions mailed to non-internet users); Sunday Bulletin Inserts Series based on The Episcopal Church’s Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life Initiative (November 22, 29, December 6, 13, 20, episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love); “Advent Word” Meditations (#AdventWord, adventword.org, news.forwardmovement.org); Episcopal Relief & Development Advent Toolkit (episcopalrelief.org/1000daysoflove/2020advent); and Episcopal Church Resources (episcopalchurch.org/advent-and-christmas-resources).

Advent Wreath-Making Event, November 29. Kick off your Advent Season by making a Wreath. Sign up for Sunday, November 29, in Trezevant Hall at either 1 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. Please bring your own clippers and/or scissors and we will provide the rest! Spend time with family and friends as we prepare for the Christmas Season! There will be designated areas for you and your group to sit while being socially distanced from your fellow attendees. Please sign up soon as space is limited to 14 households/groups per session: tinyurl.com/GSLAdventWreaths2020.

YOGA WITH SHANTHI to begin December 1. Roll out your mats and STRETCH your way into better health. Experience yoga and its many health benefits. Among them are stress reduction, physical balance and strength, improved energy, flexibility and relaxation. Shanthi’s class is distinguished by the knowledge, experience and practice that only 19 years of teaching can provide. Her calm, down-to-earth demeanor endears her to students. Her teaching is grounded in her ongoing study of anatomy and inspired by her love of movement. The ability to clearly relay fundamentals of the asana practice and to maintain a compassionate and supportive environment result in students that are among the most loyal. Class will focus on proper body alignment while practicing the traditional yoga postures. Options will be offered to make the poses more or less demanding depending one’s personal interest/ability level. Classes are Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom, starting December 1. For more information, please contact Shantih Smythe at shantihsmythe901@gmail.com.
• Students will need a mat, a firm blanket (or a towel), a belt or tie for a robe, and a chair.
• Class location will be re-assessed in January 2021

Annual Meeting of the Parish (Virtual), December 6, 9:15 a.m. All members and newcomers are asked to attend this important virtual meeting. A small group will be gathered in Trezevant Hall to conduct the meeting and engage remote participation including voting for five new Vestry members via the Zoom Meeting platform. Virtual access and member voting details will be released very soon and provisions will be made for paper ballots to be hand-delivered to the church office prior to December 6. According to the Parish Bylaws, “a quorum at a Parish meeting shall be not less than ten percent (10%) of the Communicants in Good Standing of the Parish as shown in the last published Annual Parochial Report. Only confirmed adult communicants, 16 years of age or older, shall be eligible to vote at Parish meetings, and no proxies shall be allowed. According to Title I, Canon 17 of the Canons of The Episcopal Church all communicants who for the previous year have been faithful in public worship, unless good cause prevents, and have been faithful in the working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing. To be eligible for election to the vestry, one must be a member of Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, eighteen years of age, a giver of record, and not employed by the Parish, Diocese or Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal School.”

GSL Church Walking Group, Sundays at 2 p.m. The GSL Church Walking Group, led by GSL parishioner, Bev Trojan, meets every Sunday, (weather permitting) and walks 2.5 miles around scenic Central Gardens. We meet in GSL Church Main Parking Lot off Peabody Ave. Please bring your mask; physical distancing is required. For more information, please contact Athletics Director Christi Autheament (901-825-7353) or GSL parishioner Bev Trojan.
Please note: You can connect with Bev through Realm Connect (www.gracestlukes.org/realm).
Outreach

MIFA Holiday cards are here! The mission of GSL Servant Ministry Partner Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA) is “Supporting the independence of vulnerable seniors and families in crisis through high-impact programs.” These programs include Meals on Wheels for seniors and emergency services that keep families in their homes or quickly find suitable shelter for them. You can support MIFA by ordering cards featuring original artwork (watercolor by volunteer Rob Threlkeld). MIFA volunteers will address and send cards to people you choose to donate in honor of, or send you inserts for you to place in your own holiday cards to those you choose to honor with a donation. Either option is available for a $10 donation. See details and order form here: www.mifa.org/holidaycards.

Quick Links

Follow these links to frequently visited pages on our website.

• Hope and Good News: www.gracestlukes.org/discover/spiritual-guidance
• Pastoral Care, Prayer List, and Prayer Requests: www.gracestlukes.org/prayerrequest
• Subscribe to GSL, Diocesan & The Episcopal Church eNews: www.gracestlukes.org/enews
• Information about Fraudulent Emails & Text: www.gracestlukes.org/news/phishing
• The Messenger, Bi-monthly Magazine: www.gracestlukes.org/the-messenger
• Realm Connect: GSL Directory & More: www.gracestlukes.org/realm

The Prayer List

Our prayers are asked for Price Hays, Jeff Gibbs, Jake Seymour, Michael Wills, Felix Dae Sanders, Tyler, Joanna Byrnes, Annelise Ware Simmons, Tom Wyatt, Alymarie Dooney Twele, Charles Chandler, Kristin King, Nancy Wilkerson, Betsy Tate, Caroline Clay, John, Kaye, Patty McManus, and Brad Larson.

Our prayers are asked for those who have died: for those in whose memory the Advent candles and wreath decorations are given: Thomas Hogan Sr., F. M. Hogan, Thomas Hogan Jr., J. M. Pigg, Wendell Pigg, Doris Priest, and Harriss Siler, and especially for those who have died from coronavirus.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays, especially Vanja King, Charlie Savage, Rachael Simmons, Amy Kauerz, Myron Mall, Kerry Page, Jo Ann Powell, Doug Smith, Charlie Wiener, and Betsy Wilson and for those celebrating wedding anniversaries, especially Alex & Heather Collie, Bill & Julie Denman, and Tim & Melissa Adams.

Prayer List and Prayer Requests. To submit a prayer request for the Prayer List, you may contact Parish House Receptionist & Ministry Associate Abby Huber (ahuber@gracetlukes.org, 901-252-6336) or complete the online Prayer Request Form (www.gracestlukes.org/prayerrequest). Names of persons, who have given consent for names to be printed, will be listed for one month, unless a longer period is requested. While certain concerns may be confidential between the clergy and the individual, others may not be. If you are wondering about an individual, please contact the individual directly or a member of the clergy. Intercessions are offered daily by the clergy and lay pastoral care ministers and reflected in the worship service leaflet.

Clergy and Staff: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector; The Rev. Laura F. Gettys, Associate Rector; The Rev. Anne S. Carrière, Priest Associate; Jessica Abell, Parish Intern, Christi Aufton, Athletics Director; Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation; Abby Huber, Receptionist and Ministry Associate; Chapman Morrow, Stewardship Associate; Lucy Owens, Communications Administrator; Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist; Debbie Smith, Assistant Organist-Choirmaster; Linda Stine, Parish Administrator; Darling “D” Thomas, Lead Facilities Assistant; Anmie Williams, Director of Youth Formation. Clergy and staff contact information: www.gracestlukes.org/welcome/clergy-and-staff.

Vestry and Treasurer: Grant Adams (Worship & Liturgy), Jimpsie Ayres (Congregational Development), Wight Boggs (Clerk, Fellowship), Patrick Burnett (Youth Formation), Nina Callan (Pastoral Care), Ben Cowan (Children’s Formation), Mike Davis (Athletics), Jim Greer (Worship & Liturgy), Sandra Ireland (Adult Formation), Jonathan Large (Outreach), Stinson Liles (Social Justice), Charlie Pazar (Jr. Warden, Property, Stewardship), Anna Robbins (Congregational Development), Tom Stephenson (Stewardship), Bev Trojan (Treasurer), and Simon Wadsworth (Sr. Warden, Administration & Communications, Stewardship)

WWW.GRACESTLUKES.ORG
1720 Peabody Ave. • Memphis, TN 38104-6124
Tel: 901.272.7425 • Email: gsl@gracestlukes.org • Clergy on Call for Pastoral Emergencies: 901-252-6334
facebook.com/gracestlukes • twitter.com/gracestlukes • Search for “gracetlukes” in the iTunes/Google Play stores