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. Ollie V. Rencher  
Preacher: The Rev. Laura F. Gettys  
Lector & Intercessor: Anne Ayres  

All are asked to observe silence during the Voluntary: “NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND”  
Andreas Nikolaus Vetter  
Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome, Announcements and Children’s Message

The Word of God

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY. 

Prayer: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.
Hymn 76, stanzas 1-2 & 4-5, “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

text: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Doughlas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.

1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry and
2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our salvation, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose

1 Praise the Lord; the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken,
2 Straight the way for God within, and let each heart prepare;
3 Refuge, and our great reward; with out thy grace we may come.
4 Bid the fallen sinner stand; shine forth, and let thy light restore earth’s own true loveliness once more.
5 Adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

The Collect of the Day

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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.
A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People Thanks be to God. Silence

Psalm 126 read responsively by whole verse

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, * then were we like those who dream.
2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, * and our tongue with shouts of joy.
3 Then they said among the nations, * “The Lord has done great things for them.”
4 The Lord has done great things for us, * and we are glad indeed.
5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, * like the watercourses of the Negev.
6 Those who sowed with tears * will reap with songs of joy.
7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, * will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

A Reading from the First Letter of Thessalonians

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People Thanks be to God. Silence

All stand for the Gospel

The Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way
of the Lord,” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

The Homily: The Rev. Laura F. Gettys

The Nicene Creed from Enriching Our Worship

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 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 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, especially Margaret Shyue Lan Sheng, 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; for the marriage of Ashlee Rivalto and Bryce Hendry, and for other thanksgivings we now name aloud or silently. Silence
The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession of Sin and Absolution from Enriching Our Worship
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
Celebgrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The Celebrant and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory
The Celebrant 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

Celebgrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebgrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebgrant 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

BCP 364
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.

Celebrant

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

God’s holy gifts for God’s holy people.

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, “This is the Record of John”

music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)
text: John 1:19-23

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who are thou? And he confessed, and denied not; and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou? That we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

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 worshipping 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 72, stanzas 1, 3-4, “Hark! the glad sound!”

music: Richmond, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe, Jr. (1770-1843);
harm. The English Hymnal, 1906; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)
words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

The Dismissal

The people are dismissed with these words
Minister Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary: “Winchester New”

Malcolm Archer
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@gracetslukes.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. Ollie V. Rencher, Celebrant
The Rev. Laura F. Gettys, Preacher
Anne Ayres, Lector & Intercessor
Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist
Elizabeth Hornor, Isabel Wittman, Daniel Massey, & André Moore, Cantors
Philip Ramsey Rule, Livestream Support
Lucy Owens, Communications Administrator
December 13, 2019 – Advent 3 (B)  
Third Week of Advent: Journeying with Community

As we continue our Advent walk, we invite you to see the Way of Love as a journey that includes the community. The witness of Zechariah and Elizabeth who bring infant John to the Temple to be circumcised reminds us of the importance of our faith community to sustaining the Way of Love. Just as the community did for John’s family, communities provide a place for discernment, sometimes challenging us and other times affirming us. Communities celebrate and mark important moments along the journey.

Sunday, December 13  
WORSHIP  
Pray for each person as they receive communion. Imagine who you’d like to see at church next week. Invite that person to join you.

Monday, December 14  
GO  
Choose to take a different route to work, to school, or to play today. Whom or what did you encounter differently?

Tuesday, December 15  
LEARN  
Read Luke 1:64. When Zechariah could finally speak, he began by praising God. For what can you praise God? Share on social media or with a friend.

Wednesday, December 16  
PRAY  
Keep a lookout for anyone who might seem lonely, stressed, or sad. Offer this simple invitation: “May I pray for you?” Then offer prayers – silently or aloud – on the person’s behalf as you move through your day.

Thursday, December 17  
BLESS  
Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.

Friday, December 18  
TURN  
Turn away from the busyness of the week and turn toward someone who gives you life or to whom you give life. Give thanks.

Saturday, December 19  
REST  
In Genesis 1-2, God calls the creation “good” and rests. What can you proclaim to be “good” instead of “not enough” as a witness to God’s love for the world today?

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.
Weekly Message from the Clergy

Unpacking a familiar passage. We know these words of Jesus by heart, but when we think more deeply we find an invitation and a promise for our lives. Not just in Advent, but for every day, they’re a reason to “yoke” ourselves to the One who is coming, has come, and will come again. Being “yoked” makes all the difference.

Take Note: New Highlights

Annual Meeting Highlights. The December 6 Annual Meeting of the Parish marked another great day in life at GSL. 226 parishioners participated, including virtually on Zoom and voting to elect the Vestry Class of 2023. For meeting highlights, follow this link for the December 7 message from the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector (mailchi.mp/gracestlukes/thanksgiving-for-gsl-and-the-annual-meeting-of-the-parish) and explore the GSL 2020 Annual Parish Meeting Booklet and Ministry Highlights at www.gracestlukes.org/annualmeeting2020.

GSL 2020 Community Outreach Grants Awarded. Recently, the grants subcommittee of the Outreach Ministry Team completed the application review process, resulting in awarding a total of $62,000 to 19 agencies (“GSL Servant Ministry Partners”). Learn more below under Outreach.

Christmas Altar Flower Honoraria and Memorials. Read under Worship and Music for details on making a contribution.

Holiday Honoraria and Memorials to More Than A Meal. Amid this year’s gift-giving, consider benefitting More Than A Meal. Learn more under Outreach.

Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal School Anchor Magazine. For more information and to download the school’s fall issue of The Anchor, read below under Community Life.

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

Worship and Music

Sunday Bulletin Inserts for Advent based on the Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life Initiative. “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.” Check out each week’s worship leaflet and explore episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love.

SUNDAYS 9:15-9:45 a.m. Adult Formation. For a schedule of virtual events, visit www.gracestlukes.org/adult-formation.
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, In Person and Online. For more information and required sign up for in-person offerings, visit tinyurl/GSLWorshipSignup or access livestream services via GSL website (gracestlukes.org/live) and Facebook Live (facebook.com/gracestlukes).

5:30-6 p.m. Contemplative Prerecorded Worship & Music Events. For a schedule of virtual events, visit www.gracestlukes.org/news/contemplative-prerecorded-events.

WEEKDAYS

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Compline (Night Prayers), 8 until 8:15 p.m. via Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/gracestlukes/live).

For more information about worship, visit www.gracestlukes.org/worship; music, visit www.gracestlukes.org/music; and sacramental life events, visit www.gracestlukes.org/connect/in-the-church/life-events.

Christmas Altar Flowers. To make a donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one for Christmas flowers, you may send a check to the church office (1720 Peabody Ave., 38104, ATTN: Lucy Owens) listing the names of those you would like remembered. You may also give us your name(s) and donate online at tinyurl.com/AltarFlowersGSL. If received by December 15, these names will be listed in the Christmas leaflets.

Virtual Offerings

Visit www.gracestlukes.org/news/weekly-virtual-offerings for a comprehensive schedule of weekly and seasonal online opportunities for worship, formation, music, and connection-making.

Stewardship: Time, Talent, Treasure

Thank You for Investing in Life at Grace-St. Luke’s | 2021 Stewardship Campaign. Many thanks to all who’ve made financial pledges to support life at Grace-St. Luke’s in 2021. For those who haven’t, there’s still time! Each pledge (an estimate of what you plan to give monthly or weekly) helps the team of finance committee, vestry, and rector to budget for our essential ministries and outstanding programs. As a faith community, all our operations and ministries are funded by financial commitments from our parishioners, and every pledge amount matters. A total of 247 pledges and alms (non-pledged giving) have supported the 2020 budget, and we are so very grateful for the faithful support our parish has received in this most challenging year. We need your generosity for 2021 as well! If you haven’t done so already, please make a pledge for 2021 at www.gracestlukes.org/pledge or contact Chapman Morrow in the church office (901-252-6328, cmorrow@gracestlukes.org).

With great hope for times to come, Allison and Steven King
2020 Stewardship Chairs

Christian Formation

Adults

Sundays 9:15 a.m. December 13 & 20, Unpacking the Gospels in Advent with The Rev. Dr. Mitzi Minor via Facebook and YouTube Live (www.gracestlukes.org/discover/adult-formation)

Wednesday 6 p.m. December 16, GSL Reading Together Zoom Discussion. The Rev. Laura F. Gettys and the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher will facilitate a conversation about The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder by Richard Rohr from 6 to 6:45 p.m. To sign up and for Zoom access, visit www.gracestlukes.org/gslreading-together.
Youth
December 13. Youth Confirmation Class, 11-11:45 a.m.; Zoo Lights with Calvary. Meet outside the entrance to the Zoo. 6th-12th grades, 6-7 p.m.
December 20 Zoom Christmas Scavenger Hunt. 6th-8th grades, 3-4 p.m.; 9th-12th grades, 4-5 p.m.
If you wish to be added to the Youth Formation email list, contact Director of Youth Formation Amzie Williams (awilliams@gracestlukes.org).

Children
Our Virtual Video Premiere of GSL Youth & Children Holiday Greetings and Christmas Pageant is taking shape! All parish families are invited to share a 5-10 second video with their holiday greetings as well as a photo of their family Nativity by Monday, December 14. We’re hoping for lots of submissions that will help make this sweet memento of Christmas 2020 a GSL treasure for years to come!

All children, infants to 5th graders, are encouraged to take part in the pageant portion! Simply help your child/ren choose a part (shepherd, sheep, star, angel, cow, or donkey) and email Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation, with your child’s choice and to check costume availability, if needed. Part-specific instructions for photos and videos will be sent to you or can be found in your December 5 Children’s Formation email.

Please email all submissions to Sharon Campbell by Monday, December 14. 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. For details about these or any Children’s programs at GSL, or to be added to the Children’s email list, please contact Director of Children’s Formation Sharon Campbell (scampbell@gracestlukes.org).

Athletics, Recreation, and Wellness

YOGA WITH SHANTI. No need to let holiday stress get under your skin - join us for a weekly yoga class to help combat the holiday-crazy! The benefits of yoga range from stress reduction, physical balance and strength to improved energy, flexibility and relaxation. Shanti’s class is distinguished by the knowledge, experience and practice that only 19 years of teaching can provide. 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. Come join us! Follow this link (www.gracestlukes.org/events/yoga-with-shanti) for signup details and Zoom info.

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. Visit www.gracestlukes.org/events/gsl-church-walking-group for more information and for cancellation notices due to rain or inclement weather. Cancellation notices will be posted by noon Sunday.

Community Life

Advent Devotional Resources. To enrich our spiritual journeys from Advent into Christmas, various resources are available

The December-January edition of The Messenger includes news about Worship for Advent-Christmas-Epiphany, Pastoral Care, Formation for Adults, Youth and Children, Stewardship, Social Justice, Outreach, Music, Athletics, Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal School, and more. Read online at gracestlukes.org/the-messenger or download a copy.

The Anchor, Fall 2020 The fall issue of The Anchor magazine is now available online! Learn how GSL is staying strong - from Little Lukers through Grade 8 - and using optimism and determination to face the pandemic together. Also in this issue, you can meet new faculty members, get updates on GSL alumni, and review the annual fund donor list. Visit www.gsschool.org/about-gsl/anchor-magazine to read all that and more in the Fall 2020 issue! Note: The Anchor is published twice a year. If you prefer to receive a printed copy of The Anchor magazine in the mail, please send your name and mailing address to GSL’s Associate Director of Communications Marci Woodmansee via email at mwoodmansee@gsschool.org or mail to GSL School, Attn: Marci Woodmansee, 246 S. Belvedere Blvd., Memphis, TN 38104. For other inquiries, call 901-278-0200.

Outreach

GSL 2020 Community Outreach Grants Awarded. Recently, the grants subcommittee of the Outreach Ministry Team completed the application review process, resulting in awarding a total of $62,000 to 19 agencies (“GSL Servant Ministry Partners”): Literacy Mid-South; Indigenous Pastoral Relief (IPR); Carpenter Art Garden; Living Grace, Inc.; Thistle and Bee Enterprises Inc.; Friends for Life; Samaritan Counseling Centers; Memphis Child Advocacy Center; Church Health; Community Table Memphis; The Dorothy Day House of Hospitality; Kindred Place; Gilda’s Club Memphis; Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA); Neighborhood Christian Centers, Inc.; St. Columba Episcopal Conference and Retreat Center; Mid-South Sober Living; Multinational Memphis; A Step Ahead Foundation. For more information about Outreach at GSL, visit www.gracestlukes.org/outreach.

Holiday Honoraria and Memorials to More Than A Meal. If you like to make a donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one by supporting GSL More Than A Meal during the colder months, you may send a check to the church office (1720 Peabody Ave., 38104, ATTN: Linda Stine) listing the names of those you would like remembered. You can also give us your name(s) and donate online at www.gracestlukes.org/onlgiving. Follow the “make a donation for More Than A Meal link.” If received by December 15, these names will be listed in the Christmas leaflets. December 15 is also the deadline for any memorials and honorariums that you would like acknowledged before Christmas. For more information about MTAM, visit www.gracestlukes.org/mtam.

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

Online Giving
Make a one time gift now by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone!

Recurring
Set up recurring 2021 pledge payments by scanning the QR code with your phone!

The Prayer List

Our prayers are asked for Brad Larson, Patty McManus, Kaye, John, Caroline Clay, Betsy Tate, Nancy Wilkerson, Kristin King, Charles Chandler, Michael Wills, Jake Seymour, Alymarie “Dooney” Twele, Annelise Ware Simmons, Felix Dae Sanders, Tyler, Jeff Gibbs, Price Hays, The McKissack Family, and Robert Harrison.

Our prayers are asked for those who have died, especially Margaret Shyue Lan Sheng, mother of Elaine Sheng & mother-in-law of Jeff Barnes, Donnell Cobbs, and for those who have died from coronavirus.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays, especially Jack Abell, Keith Campbell, Darrin Davidson, Michael Davis, Liz Deely, Natalie Hendry, Amy Huber, Brenda Hudson, Jenny Johnson, Margo McDermott, Turner Morehead, Jennifer Rivera, Gwin Robbins, Rebecca Roche, Donna Sanders, Caroline Shepherd, Eila Smith, Scott Stegbauer, Thomas Stephenson, Carolyn Wills, Virginia Woo-Rasberry, and John Wynne, and for those celebrating wedding anniversaries, especially Steven & Allison King, Stanley & Billie Jeanne Johnson, Kevin & Gabrielle Davidson, Ollie & Ellie Rencher, and Dan & Nora Conaway, and for the marriage of Ashlee Rivalto and Bryce Hendry on December 12.

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@gracestlukes.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.

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