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.

Grace-St. Luke’s Use of “Enriching Our Worship” during Advent. Enriching Our Worship is one of the supplemental liturgical materials to The Book of Common Prayer. Its use is in keeping with The Episcopal Church’s continual seeking of an authorized language of Common Prayer capable of expressing what we believe about God, as well as reflecting on our own corporate and individual relationship to the Godhead. This supplement is not intended to supplant the Book of Common Prayer, but rather to provide additional resources to assist worshiping communities wishing to expand the language, images and metaphors used in worship.

Today, worshippers will say and experience different words, similar to those in The Book of Common Prayer, for the opening acclamation, scripture lesson responses, confession, creed, beginning of communion, invitation to communion, and prayer after communion. Text in boldface type is read aloud by the congregation. Text in italics provides directions or details. During this service, feel free to stand, sit, or even kneel at the appointed times and practice any personal pieties that might enhance your engagement in this experience.

Welcome, Announcements and Children’s Message

The Word of God

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: The Rev. Laura F. Gettys  
Lector & Intercessor: Dan Pigg  
Preacher: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

All are asked to observe silence during the  
Voluntary: “NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, BWV 659” Johann Sebastian Bach

The Word of God

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

Scripture: John 13:34 – Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Prayer: Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.
Hymn 54, “Savior of the nations, come!”

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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Book Second Book Samuel

7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.” But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

  *my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;*
  *for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.*

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

  *He has mercy on those who fear him*
  *in every generation.*

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

  *He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,*
  *and has lifted up the lowly.*

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

  *He has come to the help of his servant Israel,*
  *for he has remembered his promise of mercy,*

The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

  *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*
  *as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith--to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People Thanks be to God. Silence

All stand for the Gospel

The Gospel

1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher
The Priest invites the People to stand for.

**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, 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, especially Margaret Shyue Lan Sheng and Donnell Cobbins, 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 Peria Gober and Barton Williams, 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
Celebrant 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
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.

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

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, “Song of Mary”

music: Harold Friedell (1905-1958)
text: Leonard Young, 1949

Bring not a crown to wear,
on his head so fair,
He needs no gold upon his shining hair,

Place not a sceptre in his hands,
For This my babe no glory understands,
Nor shall he reign o’er earthly lands.

Bring not your incense sweet,
to lay before his feet,
For thrones shall pass and kingly joys are fleet.

Greet not my babe in homage deep,
Let no praise break upon his sleep,
Like guarding angels, silence keep.

Bring him your hearts alone,
to God such gifts are known,
The poor and meek the father calls his own,

Only your love and service bring,
At gifts so sweet the Heavens sing,
O enter now and greet your King!
**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 56, stanzas 1-2 & 6-7, “O come, O come, Emmanuel”

music: Veni, veni, Emmanuel, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.;
adpt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (1937-2010)
text: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em-man-ue-l, and ran-som
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, who or-derest
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Je-sus’s tree, free them from
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da-vid, come, and o-pen
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De-sire of na-tions, bind in one the
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em-man-ue-l, and ran-som

1 cap-tive Is-ra-el, that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile
2 all things might-i-ly; to us the path of knowl-edge
3 tribes on Si-nai’s height in an-ci-ent times didst give the
4 Sa-tan’s tyr-an-ny that trust thy might-y power to
5 wide our heav-en-ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw-ing night; dis-perse the gloom-y clouds of
7 hearts of all man-kind; bid thou our sad di-vi-sions
8 cap-tive Is-ra-el, that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile

1 here un-till the Son of God ap-pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma-jes-ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic-to-ry o’er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis-er-y.
6 night, and death’s dark shad-ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy-self our King of Peace.
8 here un-till the Son of God ap-pear.

Em-man-ue-l shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el!

The Dismissal

BCP 366

The people are dismissed with these words

Minister Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary: “FINALE ON NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND”

Anton Heiller

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, Preacher
Dan Pigg, Lector & Intercessor
Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist
Debbie Smith, Assistant Organist-Cantormaster
Isabel Wittman, Charles McGowan, & Andrew Carroll, Cantors
Jeff White, Livestream Support
Lucy Owens, Communications Administrator
December 20, 2019 – Advent 4 (B)
Fourth Week of Advent: Journeying in the World

As we come closer to the joy and promise of the Incarnation, we invite you to continue journeying the Way of Love. Consider this week which of the seven practices captured your imagination this Advent. Which challenged you or brought the most joy? Where did you find blessings or cross boundaries? Where is God calling you to witness to salvation being birthed into the world today?

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Sunday, December 20
WORSHIP
Linger before leaving worship today. Ask God to prepare and send you on a journey into the world to witness to God’s love.

Monday, December 21
GO
Go out into your neighborhood today. Where do you see God at work? What attributes of God’s love are visible? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate and join in that love.

Tuesday, December 22
LEARN
Read Luke 2:8-10. When has God surprised you? Share with a friend.

Wednesday, December 23
PRAY
Set aside a time today to pray for others. Include three minutes of intentional silence, asking God to speak to you.

Tuesday, December 24
BLESS
If you are gathering with others today, take turns naming a way the person on your right or left has blessed you.

Wednesday, December 25
TURN
Read Luke 1-2. Give thanks for the birth of the Christ-child. Pray that you may follow Christ Jesus on his Way of Love with your whole heart, mind, body, and spirit.

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

Waiting during Advent. Waiting. Waiting for the light to change. Waiting to be let in for a Zoom meeting. Waiting for a vaccine. Waiting for a time to hug all those around you. Waiting to go to a concert and dance your toosh off. – The Rev. Laura F. Gettys

Click here for the full text and video: www.gracestlukes.org/news/advent3-clergy-reflection.

Take Note: New Highlights

December Message from the Senior Warden. Follow this link for the December message from Senior Warden Simon Wadsworth on behalf of the Vestry: www.gracestlukes.org/news/a-message-from-the-sr-warden-december.

A Festival of Christmas Lessons & Carols, Virtually on Sunday, December 20, at 5:30 p.m. See details below under Worship and Music.

Christmas Eve & Day Service Schedule. See below under Worship and Music for the schedule of services for Christmas Eve & Day.

Church Office Hours During the Holidays. The church office will be closed December 25, 28, 29, 30, and January 1. The office will be open December 31 and resume regular hours on January 4.

2021 Basketball GSL Season. Details below under Athletics, Recreation, and Wellness.

2021 Firepit Soirees, Sign Up Today. Read below under Community Life about how to sign up for the Firepit Soirees.

The Feast of the Epiphany, Wednesday, January 6, 6 p.m.
Festival Burning of the Greens and Holy Eucharist with homily and music, in person and virtual. Save wreaths and garland to add to the fire. Signup coming soon.

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.com/GSLWorshipSignup or access livestream services via GSL website (gracestlukes.org/live) and Facebook Live (facebook.com/gracestlukes).

5:30-6 p.m. A Festival of Christmas Lessons & Carols. Join on Facebook (facebook.com/gracestlukes), YouTube (youtube.com/gracestlukes), or the GSL website (gracestlukes.org/live) as the choirs, organists, clergy, and lay readers of Grace-St. Luke’s present a service of Lessons and Carols for the Christmas season. So often we enjoy the rich procession of light for Advent Lessons and Carols, but this year we’ll follow the model set forth on Christmas Eve by the Choir of Kings College Cambridge and present a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols. We’ll hear readings, carols, and hymns celebrating the birth of Jesus.

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.

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

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!
## Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Service Schedule

### Christmas Eve

**Noon -** Virtual Video Premiere of GSL Youth & Children Holiday Greetings and Christmas Pageant featuring parishioners and members of the clergy-staff team. (Facebook, YouTube, or the GSL website)

**2 p.m. -** Holy Eucharist with sermon and music, in person and virtual
   (In-person signup: tinyurl.com/GSLEve2pm)

**4 p.m. -** Outdoor Holy Eucharist with homily and music
   (Weather-permitting. A decision will be made TODAY, Christmas eNews sent via email.)

**9 p.m. -** Holy Eucharist with sermon and music, in person and virtual
   (In-person signup: tinyurl.com/GSLEve9pm)

### Christmas Day

**10 a.m. -** Holy Eucharist with homily and music, in person and virtual
   (In-person signup: tinyurl.com/GSLDay10am)

## Christian Formation

### Adults

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

### Youth

**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

Thank you so much, families of Grace-St. Luke’s! Your photo and video submissions for our special Christmas Eve video premiere are wonderful, and we’re so excited for you to see the final product. Be on the lookout for this special video premiere at Noon on Christmas Eve!

All children are invited to join Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation, for the Virtual Prayer Table at 11:30 on Sunday morning for conversation, singing, prayer, and contemplation of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Zoom link will be sent to all families via the Children’s Formation email list.

Note: No Virtual Prayer Table on Sunday, December 27. Resumes Sunday, January 3.

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

## Athletics, Recreation, and Wellness

### 2021 WINTER BASKETBALL PROGRAM.

This Winter, GSL Church is offering a 7-week (8 Sessions) Basketball Program to include Fundamental Training & Skill Development/Skill Stations/Contests/Scrimmages & Tons of FUN! Follow this link for details: www.gracestlukes.org/youthbasketball/

### YOGA WITH SHANTIH.

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. Shantih’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-shantih) 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.

### 2021 Firepit Soirees: A Cold But Socially Distanced Solution to Gathering.

Bundle up and join us to celebrate Epiphany around the fire pits of fellow GSL members from 6-7 p.m. on three evenings in January & February. Bring your own beverage, chair, blanket, mask, and visit for an hour with new and old friends. We will randomly assign you to three soirees on your chosen weekday evening so it’s an opportunity to meet different Episcopalians at each soiree. Additional details and signup link here: www.gracestlukes.org/news/2021-firepit-soirees.
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.

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 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, 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, Donnell Cobbins, and for those who have died from coronavirus.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays, especially Phil Ashford, Mark Billions, Martha Billions, Marty Carr, Mary Coleman, Amelia Cowan, Allison Harris, John Hartney, Charles King, Lisa Landman, Mary Lovelace, Hope McClew, Elizabeth Mercer, Tem Mitchell, Jack Montgomery, Mary Katherine Thennes, and Susanna Weston, and for those celebrating wedding anniversaries, especially Amy & Brooks Smythe, Webster & Sandy Riggs, Mark & Debbie Herr, and for the marriage of Peria Gober and Barton Williams on December 19.

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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