



GRACE-ST. LUKE'S

E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
CHRISTMAS EVE
LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH MUSIC
DECEMBER 24, 2020 2:00 PM
VIA LIVESTREAM**

This service is according to the Liturgy of the Word of The Episcopal Church. Text in boldface type is read aloud or sung by the congregation. Text in italics provides directions or details. Explore the richness of the BCP online at bcponline.org including Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families. During this service, please 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 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: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

Voluntaries:

"IL EST NÉ, LE DIVIN ENFANT"
"GESÙ BAMBINO"

Traditional French Carol, arr. Dona Gilliam & Mizzy McCaskill
 Pietro Yon, arr. Karen Smith & David Snyder

Welcome, Announcements and Children's Message

The Word of God

Hymn 83, stanzas 1-3, & 6, "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

music: Adeste fideles, attrib. John Francis Wade (1711-1786)
text: John Francis Wade; tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

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

1. An-gels we have heard on high, sing-ing sweet-ly through thenight,
 4. See him in a man-ger laid whom the an-gels praise a-bove;
 and the moun-tains in re-ply ech-o-ing their brave de-light.
 Ma-ry, Jo-seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.
 Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o
 Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

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

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.** *Silence*

Psalm 98 *read responsively by whole verse*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
 for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 **With his right hand and his holy arm *
 has he won for himself the victory.**
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
 his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
 and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
 lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 **Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
 with the harp and the voice of song.**
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
 shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

**8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.

**10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.** *Silence*

The Gospel

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

1:1-14

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

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

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, including thanksgivings for the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that support life at Grace-St. Luke's; for our School and all schools that serve our community; for the Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, and the Diocese of West Tennessee; for the baptism of Ruby Catheryne Ward, daughter of Clair McCalla and Robert Ward, and granddaughter of Mary and Jon McCalla, and for all individuals, communities, and organizations working tirelessly and creatively to respond to the needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept.*

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest says

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

The Peace

BCP 360

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

During the offertory music or following this service, your offering supports this virtual ministry and much more of 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.

Anthems at the Offertory

“COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE”

music: from Messiah, George Frideric Handel (German, 1685-1759)

“EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE EXALTED”

text: Isaiah: 40:1-4

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: “Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.”

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.

Spiritual Communion 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.

At this time, we invite you to light a candle and join in singing. May our lit candles serve as tangible symbol of our unity and connectedness to one another, for the Spirit of God cannot be confined to a building.

Hymn 111, "SILENT NIGHT"

music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)
text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

The Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 100, stanzas 1-2, & 4, "JOY TO THE WORLD!"

music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759),
 adapt. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)
 text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

The Dismissal

BCP 366

The people are dismissed with these words

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary: "JOY TO THE WORLD"

George F. Handel, arr. Dona Gilliam & Mizzy McCaskill

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@gracestlukes.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
Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist
Isabel Wittman, Charles McGowan, Daniel Massey, & Andrew Carroll, Cantors
Jeanne Simmons, flute
Lucy Owens, Communications Administrator

The addition of guest musicians to this afternoon's Christmas Eve service is made possible by the generous gifts made to the Grace-St. Luke's Music Guild.

Christmas Flowers are given in honor of

Kathryn Elsberry Johnson from
Caroline Crosby
Sidney and David Hickey from Kacey
and Brian Davies

Christmas Flowers are given in memory of

Dr. and Mrs. Paul and Penny
Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Ian and
Kathy Boggs, and Dima Pajitnov
from Steven, Paula, Carter and
Cecily Boggs
Susan Taylor, Parrish Taylor Jr.,
Parrish Taylor III, and Wesley
Emerson from The Carr Family
Col & Mrs. Braxton Carter and Mr. &
Mrs. Blanchard H. Gardner from
The Carter Family
Frank Adam Cianciolo, Lucy &
Waldrup Brown, Kathryn Brown
Butler, and Kathryn Streater Cobb
from Frances B. Cianciolo
David Voss Johnson Jr. from The
Crosby Family
Ron Ireland from Kacey and Brian
Davies
Barbara A. Mallicote and Thomas
Mallicote from Dr. & Mrs. Robert
Ducklo
The Rev. John H. Moloney from
Carol Moloney

Thomas Ryan Prewitt Sr., Mary
Louise Jones Prewitt, Benjamin
Lane Carrick Jr., Mr. & Mrs.
Michael A. Manetz, Mr. & Mrs. L.
Hall Jones Sr., and Judge & Mrs.
Alan McClarty Prewitt from Mr. &
Mrs. Julian Jones Prewitt
Kyle K. Anderson from Minje and Dr.
Randy Ramey
Peggy Sighting and Steve McHugh
from Joey Sighting & Family
Stonewall Jackson Shepherd,
Caroline Davis Shepherd, Simpson
Tate, Adele Shepherd Tate,
Simpson Tate Jr., Mary Ann
Ramsey Tate, S. Shepherd Tate,
Janet Graf Tate, Adele Shepherd
Tate, Caroline Tate Walker, John
R. Walker, Gordon Edrington Tate,
Alice Price Tate, Granville Tate,
and Ellen Lee Fisher Tate from
Shepherd and Sandy Tate
Elizabeth Mullinax, Elaine Brown,
Evelyn Robbins, & Frank Mullinax
from Sharon Taylor

Christmas Gifts for More Than A Meal are given in memory of

The Rev. John Moloney from Carol
Moloney
Francis Chapman Sellers from
Chapman Morrow

Christmas Gifts for More Than A Meal are given in honor of

Barb Boucher from Jonathan Large
Mike Davis from Ruthie Lentz and
Edith Heller
Earle Donelson from Ruthie Lentz
and Edith Heller
Spencer Gooch from Jonathan Large
Karen Harper from Edith Heller and
Jonathan Large
Edith Heller from Ruthie Lentz and
Jonathan Large
Edith and Bob Heller from Elizabeth
and Andy Hyde
Jonathan Large from Ruthie Lentz
and Edith Heller
Ruthie Lentz from Edith Heller
Ruthie Lentz and Earle Donelson
from Jonathan Large
Murray McKay from Edith Heller
Murray and Dana McKay from
Ruthie Lentz and Jonathan Large
Duncan McLean from Jonathan Large
Arthur Nave from Edith Heller
Betty Peyton from Ruthie Lentz,
Edith Heller and Jonathan Large
Jerry and Donna Sanders from Edith
Heller
Tiger from Jonathan Large
McKee Whittemore from Jonathan
Large
More Than a Meal Volunteers from
Chapman Morrow
The volunteers who make this
ministry possible to help our
neighbors in need from Juan
Fuentes and Robert Thompson

Weekly Message from the Clergy

For Nothing Will Be Impossible With God. This week's reflection focuses on the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel informed Mary that she would conceive God's son by the power of the Holy Spirit. Approximately two thousand years ago, Gabriel reminded Mary that nothing will be impossible with God. Bishop Phoebe Roaf will explore how this message of hope continues to inspire faithful believers even when the challenges we face seem insurmountable. – The Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf (Full text and video available here: www.gracestlukes.org/news/advent4-clergy-reflection.)

Creating A Better World. Christmas, the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, invites us to be and do better in the name of the One for whom we wait during Advent. The birth of Christ the Savior, who was born into conditions that paradoxically mirror modern forms of poverty, division, and exclusion, was the mysterious delivery and revelation of the One we are called to follow. Today, particularly as the world journeys through the COVID-19 pandemic, Christians intentionally are called to ponder how we might respond to Christmas with our own lives. – The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher (Full text and video available here: www.gracestlukes.org/news/christmas-message-from-the-rector.)

Take Note: New Highlights

GSL Pausing In-Person Services. The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector, shared an important message regarding diocesan faith communities pausing in-person offerings effective December 21 and beginning several weeks of virtual only on Christmas Eve. Follow this link for details: www.gracestlukes.org/COVID19.

CHRISTMAS EVE, THURSDAY, DEC. 24

Virtual Video of Christmas Lessons and Carols. tinyurl.com/GSLChristmasLessonsCarols2020

Virtual Video of GSL Youth & Children Holiday Greetings, Christmas Pageant and slideshow of Creches (Nativity Scenes) from parishioner homes and GSL.

tinyurl.com/GSLChristmasPageant2020

2 p.m. - Service of Prayers with sermon, choral ensemble, hymns, music for flute and organ, and selected tenor arias from *Messiah* by Handel. Live on the GSL website and Facebook.

8 to 8:15 p.m. - Compline (Night Prayers) officiated by the clergy. Facebook Live

9 p.m. - Service of Evening Prayers with sermon, choral ensemble, hymns, music for organ, and string quartet with the "Gloria in excelsis" by Vivaldi. Live on the GSL website and Facebook.

Previously recorded live services may be viewed at gracestlukes.org/virtual-offerings/worship-music.

CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY, DEC. 25

10 a.m. - Service of Morning Prayers with homily, hymns and music for organ. Live on the GSL website and Facebook.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY, DEC. 27

10:30 a.m. - Service of Morning Prayers with sermon and music. Live on the GSL website and Facebook.

SECOND AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY, JAN. 3

10:30 a.m. - Service of Morning Prayers with sermon and music. Live on the GSL website and Facebook.

What Can I Give Christ? Read more under *Stewardship*.

Christmastide into Epiphany. Our updated schedule of offerings for Christmastide into Epiphany is available online at www.gracestlukes.org/news/advent-christmas-epiphany.

Parish Office Holiday Schedule. 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. For pastoral or hospital emergencies concerning a member or after-hours parish facilities management matters, contact the Clergy-on-Call at 901-252-6334.

1 Week, 1 Day at a Time at Mid-South Sober Living. Sponsor a one-week scholarship. Details below under *Outreach*.

The Feast of the Epiphany, Wednesday, January 6, 6 p.m. Virtual Burning of the Greens with homily and music will be available live on the GSL website and Facebook. The Advent-Christmas greenery used to decorate our buildings will be burned by the clergy.

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

10:30 a.m. Virtual Service of Morning Prayers with sermon and music. Live on the GSL website and Facebook. **Sunday morning adult formation (9:15 a.m.) and Sunday evening contemplative events (5:30 p.m.) will resume will resume on January 10.**

WEEKDAYS

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Compline (Night Prayers), 8 until 8:15 p.m. via Facebook Live. There will be no Compline on New Year's Eve.

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.

Stewardship: Time, Talent, Treasure

What Can I Give Christ? One of the most moving poems associated with Christmas is Christina Rossetti's "In the Bleak Midwinter," which speaks movingly of Christ's gift to us and our response. As we pray this Christmas, let us remember all of the ways we give through and to our parish church, Grace-St. Luke's. In the bleak, seemingly endless season that has been 2020, Grace-St. Luke's has sought to be both a source of community and connection as well as a beacon of hope. So many have come together to find creative ways of supporting one other and those in need. Now, as we look to the future with the light of Christ in us, we do so in hopes that with God's help and your support, the fullness of our community will be restored in 2021. As we long for that future, we rejoice in the ways our parish stands together, provides for one another, and gives to the church. The next year may continue to look different for a while, but our call and our response as followers of Christ remain the same. With your generous and faithful gifts, Grace-St. Luke's can continue doing what love requires of us by nurturing ministries both inside and outside our parish walls. Please prayerfully consider how you can serve and give to our church and make a pledge for 2021 at www.gracestlukes.org/pledge.

Christian Formation

Adults

Sunday morning and weekday formation offerings resume on January 10 according to the new and developing Winter 2021 Adult Formation schedule at www.gracestlukes.org/discover/adult-formation.

Youth

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your family! EYC and youth formation will reconvene on Sunday, January 10. 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 on Facebook, YouTube and www.gracestlukes.org/childrens-formation. Note: No Virtual Prayer Table on Sunday, December 27. Resumes Sunday, January 3. For more information 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

The GSL Church Walking Group is canceled until further notice.

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.

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.

Community Life

2021 Firepit Soirees: Leap Into the Light of Epiphany. 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.

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.

Outreach

1 Week, 1 Day at a Time at Mid-South Sober Living. We've all had our challenges this year, but take just a minute to think about those who have taken that brave first step away from addiction in such a stressful time. Servant Ministry Partner Mid-South Sober Living provides transitional housing centers for people who are new in recovery. Time spent in one of their centers provides individuals with the opportunity to learn to live outside of the structure of a rehabilitation program while maintaining their alcohol and drug free lifestyle. You can have a direct, positive impact on one of Mid-South Sober Living's clients by sponsoring a one week housing scholarship. See details here (midsouthsoberliving.org/donate.html).

Quick Links

Follow these links to frequently visited pages on our website and Facebook.

- Facebook LIVE
www.facebook.com/gracestlukes/live
- LIVE Virtual Worship, Music, Formation Offerings
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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, Price Hays, The McKissack Family, Robert Harrison, Carolyn Wills, and Amanda Adams.

Our prayers are asked for those who have died, especially 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 Thinnies, and Susanna Weston, Nelson Adrian, David Brown, Anna Margaret Burnett, Alice Burruss, Karen Clark, Olivia Gooch, Lucy Leitzell, Henry McGehee, Jim Moore, Mat Parker, Alice Ray, Jackie Standridge, Sharon Taylor, Clara Tragesser, Selden Tual, Faith Van Doren, Marci Woodmansee, Kathy Berrie, David Cheatham, Gabrielle Davidson, Vera Rosato, Barbara Viser, Fairfax Wynne, **for those celebrating wedding anniversaries**, especially Amy & Brooks Smythe, Webster & Sandy Riggs, Mark & Debbie Herr, Rodgers & Nancy Menzies, Jet & Betsy Tate, Lee & Mary Linda Wardlaw, Hal & Jane Morse, Jon & Faith Van Doren, Brett & Stephanie Hughes, Buddy & Barbara Adams, Richard & Ann Sullivan, and Howard & Baylor Stovall, for the December 23 baptism of Ruby Catheryne Ward, daughter of Clair McCalla and Robert Ward, and granddaughter of Mary and Jon McCalla.

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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Clergy and staff contact information: www.gracestlukes.org/welcome/clergy-and-staff.

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