



GRACE-ST. LUKE'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICE OF EUCHARIST, PRAYERS, MEDITATION & MUSIC

DECEMBER 6, 2020 10:30 AM

VIA LIVESTREAM

This service is according to the Holy Eucharist 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
Lector & Intercessor: Preston Wilson

Preacher: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

All are asked to observe silence during the

Voluntary: "REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS" (*Haf trones lampa färdig*)

Swedish folk tune,
arr. Robert J Powell

Welcome, Announcements and Children's Message

The Word of God

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant Today we light the first and second candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. This first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE.

The candle is lit.

Scripture Colossians 3:15 – Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

Prayer Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.

Hymn 444, "BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL"

music: Thornbury, Basil Harwood (1859-1949)
text: Michel A. Perry (b. 1942), alt; para. of The Song of Zechariah



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
2 He from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
3 On pri - son - ers of dark-ness the sun be - gins to rise,



he vis - its and re - deems us, he grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sa - vior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The pro - phets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes his her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
He guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall fill his prom - ise and bring his peo - ple peace.____
the pro - phet of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of Day.____
O bless our God and Sa - vior, with songs that nev - er cease.____

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

The Collect of the Day

BCP 230

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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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

40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *read responsively by whole verse*

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.**
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.**
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter

3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

All stand for the Gospel

The Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. 1:1-8
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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, 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 Mary Frances Ponder, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*

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

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

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Let us confess our sins to God. *Silence may be kept.*

Minister and People

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

The Priest says

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

The Peace

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

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

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.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Anthem at Communion, "COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE"

music: Charles Beaudrot, Jr. (b.1951)

words: German, Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684), transl. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

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 65, "PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION"

*music: Bereden väg för Herran, melody from Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697
text: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1874); tr. Composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999)*



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

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: "PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION" (*BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN*)

Swedish folk tune,
Robert J. Powell

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
Preston Wilson, Lector & Intercessor
Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist
Elizabeth Hornor, Isabel Wittman, Daniel Massey, André Moore, Cantors
Kelly Herrmann, flute
Lucy Owens, Communications Administrator



BULLETIN INSERTS

December 6, 2020 – Advent 2 (B)

Second Week of Advent: Journeying with Family and Friends

As we continue our Advent walk, we invite you to see the Way of Love as a journey that can expand to include family and friends. Mary said “yes” to the call to birth Jesus, God’s Word, into the world and immediately went in haste to share her good news with her cousin, Elizabeth—a four-day journey into the Judean hills. Isn’t that what happens when we hear good news? We are driven to go and tell others. The Way of Love is good news that demands to be shared.

Sunday, December 6

WORSHIP

What part of gathering for worship fills your heart with hope?

Monday, December 7

GO

Read or watch your local news. Where is reconciliation needed? Pray for healing.

Tuesday, December 8

LEARN

Read Luke 1:45. Consider how your faith is a blessing. Share your faith story with a friend.

Wednesday, December 9

PRAY

Offer a prayer of thanks for each person you encounter – both stranger and friend – silently or aloud.

Thursday, December 10

BLESS

Call or write a family member with whom you desire a closer relationship. Share with them how they are a blessing.

Friday, December 11

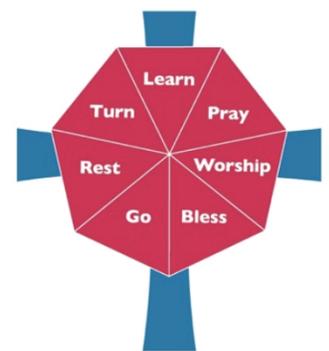
TURN

Reflect: Where have I fallen short this week? How can I make amends? Give thanks for the gift of fresh starts that we have through God’s grace.

Saturday, December 12

REST

Set aside 30 minutes to rest, pause, and breathe deeply with a friend or family member. Give thanks for the restorative power of love in relationship.



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

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

Awaiting The One Who Cures And Feeds. Advent means “coming” in Latin and the season is packed with biblical stories and imageries associated with preparation and provision. Take a moment to read Matthew 15:29-39, a lesson about Jesus curing many people and feeding the four thousand. Jesus, the fully divine and fully human incarnation of God, entered the heart of a hurting and hungry world at Christmas. – The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher Video and full text of December 2 Advent Reflection by the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher with Music for Meditation. Reflection based on Matthew 15:29-39: www.gracestlukes.org/news/advent1-clergy-reflection.

Take Note: New Highlights

Happy Advent Greetings Video from The Rector. After the 10:30 a.m. service on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher offered greetings to the GSL community from the front steps on Peabody Avenue. Ollie reminds us that the Church is the people and buildings are a part of our journey. Follow this link to hear his message: tinyurl.com/GSLHappyAdvent.

Appreciation for Parish Intern Jessica Abell. November 29 marked the end of Jessica’s three-month internship at GSL as part of the Sacred Order of Deacons ordination process. As she continues serving as Director of Spiritual Life and Head Chaplain at St. George’s Independent School, let us give thanks for her ministry among us. Follow this link for a thank-you video from Jessica (tinyurl.com/JessicaAbell) and to listen to her last sermon at GSL, visit www.gracestlukes.org/sermons.

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 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.

Holiday Honoraria and Memorials to More Than A Meal. Learn more under *Outreach*.

Ongoing events, less recent news, and more, explore below: *Virtual Offerings, Worship and Music, Stewardship, Christian Formation, 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](https://www.facebook.com/gracestlukes)).

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

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

Thanks for giving! In this season of gratitude, we give thanks for all you do to support the life of our parish. 2020 has brought change, uncertainty, and challenges. Through it all, the people of Grace-St. Luke’s have showed compassion, resiliency, and creativity. We continue to offer each other hope. If you haven’t already, please make your pledge for 2021 now. A pledge is simply an estimate of what you hope to give and how you hope to serve in the coming year. The budget presented at our annual parish meeting today is based on your estimates of giving, and we need your support to ensure ministries are adequately funded, salaries are paid, our building is maintained, and our parish thrives. Please visit www.gracestlukes.org/pledge to make your pledge today. We give thanks for you!

Christian Formation

Adults

Sundays 9:15 a.m. December 6, Annual Meeting of the Parish via Zoom (www.gracestlukes.org/annualmeeting2020); 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)

Wednesdays 6 p.m. December 9 & 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/gslreadingtogether.

Youth

December 6. *RESCHEDULED EYC Movie Night at Snowden Field. This Sunday we will gather at Snowden Field (2233 Harbert Ave.) for a Christmas movie! We will watch Elf from 5-6:45 p.m. with Calvary. Please bring a mask, something comfy to sit on, and warm clothes.

December 13. 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

The Virtual Prayer Table is available for all children on Sunday mornings at 11:30 via Zoom (link emailed on Saturdays). Hosted by Sharon Campbell, Director of Children's Formation, this 20-minute gathering offers time for a brief scripture lesson based on one of the day's readings, singing, sharing, praying, and connecting for any children who would like to attend.

All family Christmas greetings and pageant clips are needed by Monday, December 14! Please contact Sharon Campbell with any questions. Read all about the Virtual Video Premiere of GSL Youth & Children Holiday Greetings and Christmas Pageant in your December-January *Messenger* (www.gracestlukes.org/the-messenger).

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

Athletics, Recreation, and Wellness

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

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.

Advent Devotional Resources. To enrich our spiritual journeys from Advent into Christmas, various resources are available at www.gracestlukes.org/discover/spiritual-guidance.

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/onlinegiving. 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/realms

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.

Our prayers are asked for those who have died, especially Mary Frances Ponder, mother of the Rev. Brian Ponder, and for those who have died from coronavirus.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays, especially Melissa Adams, Rebecca Burnett, Khaki Callan, Samuel Callan, Brad Canada, Myra Gammon, Jack Gerber, Wakefield Gordon, Judy Heiter, Abby Huber, Will Hudson, Jana Larson, Paul Owens, Taylor Owens, Elizabeth Robinson, Blaney Rowe, Lee Schaffler, Patrick Smith, Lynda Strickland, Bruce Taylor, Lorraine Taylor, and Juliana White, and **for those celebrating wedding anniversaries**, especially Bradley Harris & Libby Deeley and John Weeden & Lyle Wardlaw, and for the **November 21 baptism** of Jack Abell, son of Jessica and Peter Abell.

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.

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!



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

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

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