A Service for
Thanksgiving Day
and
Celebrating the Anniversary
of the Merger of
Grace and St. Luke’s Episcopal Churches

November 28, 1940 ~ November 26, 2020
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 & Preacher: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

All are asked to observe silence during the

Voluntary: “NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT” Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Welcome, Announcements and Children’s Message

The Word of God

Hymn 290, stanzas 1-2 & 4, “COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME”

text: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt.

music: St. George’s, Windsor, George Job Elvey (1816-1893); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1892-1971)

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text: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt.

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.
Song of Praise said three times
Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to all Israel: For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

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

Psalm 65 read responsively by whole verse

1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; *
   to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, *
   because of their transgressions.
3 Our sins are stronger than we are,*
   but you will blot them out.
4 Happy are they whom you choose
   and draw to your courts to dwell there!*
   they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
   by the holiness of your temple.
5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
   O God of our salvation,*
   O Hope of all the ends of the earth
   and of the seas that are far away.
6 You make fast the mountains by your power; *
   they are girded about with might.
7 You still the roaring of the seas,*
   the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; *
   you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.
9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous; *  
the river of God is full of water.

10 You prepare the grain, *  
for so you provide for the earth.

11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

12 You crown the year with your goodness, *  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *  
and the hills be clothed with joy.

14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *  
let them shout for joy and sing.

The Gospel

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

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

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.
For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,  
revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.
For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
We thank you, Lord.
For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
We thank you, Lord.
For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
We thank you, Lord.
For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
We thank you, Lord.
Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The celebrant adds the following Collect.
Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the merger of Grace Church and St. Luke’s Church into one house of prayer and parish community: We give you thanks for the fellowship of those who have gone before us and for those who have worshipped in this place, and we pray that all who seek you here and are fed from your altar may find you, and be filled with your joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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
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
The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth: Through Jesus Christ our great High Priest; in whom we are built up as a living stones of a holy temple, that we might offer before you a sacrifice of praise and prayer which is holy and pleasing in your sight. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.
Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.
Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**Anthem at Communion, “We Gather Together”**

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music: Kremser, from Nederlandtsch Gedenckclank, 1626; arr. Eduard Kremser (1838-1914)
text: Anon. 1625; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934)
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We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing:
sing praises to his Name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning:
thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation:
thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

**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**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.
Hymn 397, stanzas 1 & 3, “Now thank we all our God”

music: Nun danket alle Gott, melody Johann Cruger (1598-1662); harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), after Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
text: Martin Rinckart (1586-1649); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1662)

1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,

who from our mother’s arms hath blessed us on our way
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
eternal, Triune God, whom earth and heaven adore;

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, evermore.

The Dismissal

The people are dismissed with these words
Minister Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary: “Voluntary on Old 100th”

BCP 366

Henry Purcell
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. Ollie V. Rencher, Celebrant & Preacher
Debbie Smith, Assistant Organist-Choirmaster
Elizabeth Hornor, Isabel Wittman, Charles McGowan, & Andrew Carroll, Cantors
Lucy Owens, Communications Administrator
Weekly Message from the Clergy

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

Take Note: New Highlights

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

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

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

Happy Thanksgiving, and thanks for giving! Read below under Stewardship.

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

A Message from our Senior Warden. Read Sr. Warden Simon Wadsworth’s August message to the parish by following this link: www.gracestlukes.org/news/a-message-from-the-sr-warden-november.

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

Virtual Offerings

The First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 9:15-9:45 a.m. Adult Formation. An Advent Like No Other with The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector Details below under Adult Christian Formation.

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist. Livestream Service of Holy Eucharist including music via the GSL website (www.gracestlukes.org/events/sunday-worship) and Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/gracestlukes/live); also in person.
5:30-6 p.m. Advent Organ Concert with Assistant Organist-Choirmaster Debbie Smith and Director of Music and Organist Patrick A. Scott, via Facebook (www.facebook.com/gracestlukes/live) and YouTube (www.youtube.com/gracestlukes).

Tuesday, December 1, Compline (Night Prayers), 8-8:15 p.m. via Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/gracestlukes/live).

Wednesday, December 2, 6-6:45 p.m. The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder, discussion via Zoom, details below under Adult Christian Formation.

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

Worship and Music

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

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

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

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

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

Visit www.gracestlukes.org/worship for more about worship, and to explore past and upcoming services, follow this link www.gracestlukes.org/events/sunday-worship.

Stewardship: Time, Talent, Treasure

Happy Thanksgiving, and thanks for giving! In this season of gratitude, we give thanks for all you do to support the life of our parish. 2020 has brought change, uncertainty, and challenges. Through it all, the people of Grace-St. Luke’s have showed compassion, resiliency, and creativity. We continue to offer each other hope. If you haven’t already, please make your pledge for 2021 now. A pledge is simply an estimate of what you hope to give and how you hope to serve in the coming year, and your estimates of giving directly impact how the church budgets. The finance committee would greatly appreciate your input no later than the close of business on Wednesday, December 2, so that an accurate budget may be presented at our annual parish meeting on December 6. Please visit www.gracestlukes.org/pledge to make your pledge today. We give thanks for you!

Christian Formation

Adults.

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

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

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

Youth.

November 29. No EYC, Happy Thanksgiving to all! If you wish to be added to the Youth Formation email list, contact Youth Formation Director 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. Read all about the Virtual Video Premiere of GSL Youth & Children Holiday Greetings and Christmas Pageant in your December-January Messenger.
For details about these or any Children’s programs at GSL, or to be added to the Children’s Formation email list, please contact Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation.

Athletics

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

Community Life

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

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

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

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

Outreach

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

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

Our prayers are asked for those who have died: especially for those who have died from coronavirus.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays, especially Grace Adams, Alister Cowgill, Powell Crider, Lesley Hartney, John Horn, Minor Moore, Patrick Munson, William Owens, Brent Powell, Theresa Prather, Doug Ray, Ramsey Rule, Garner Smythe, Robert Stagg, Will Thinnes, Amzie Williams, and Ellen Wills, and for those celebrating wedding anniversaries, especially Bruce & Andi Orpet, Jim & Mimi Taylor, and John & Shelley Baur

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.

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 Auhegment, 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), Jimpse 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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