

Grace Episcopal Church

A Parish Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
established 1828



Fourth Sunday in Lent: March 30, 2025

Our Mission

Grace Episcopal Church is a congregation in communion with all that is in God, seen and unseen. We are led by the example of Jesus Christ and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to support each other through prayer, formation, worship, and service.

Our Vision

We will welcome all with kindness, acceptance, and love, with God's help.
We are Grace, grounded in faith and relentless in compassion.

Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:15AM

Helpful notes: The 8:15 early service is a simple, contemplative service that offers you a time and space for prayer. It uses the more traditional language that can be found within the Anglican Tradition and primarily comes from the earlier 1928 Book of Common Prayer. Please feel free to take advantage of the quiet space before the service begins for your personal devotions.

Community Minute

Tolling of the Bells

Silent Procession

A Penitential Order

BCP 319

Kyrie Eleison

BCP 324

The Collect of the Day

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Leaflet, page 5

Psalm 63:1-8

Leaflet, page 5

The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Leaflet, page 5

The Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Leaflet, page 6

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed

Leaflet, page 7

The Prayers of the People

Leaflet, page 7

The Peace

The Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I

BCP 333

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

BCP 339

The Blessing

The Dismissal

BCP 339

Prelude *Flutes* from *Suite Du Deuxieme Ton*

Louis-Nicolas Clerambault

Community Minute

Helpful notes: The word "liturgy" means "the public work of the people that has a personal cost." We invest our energy and resources into our common prayer. The opening portion of the liturgy invites us to gather in this space at this time, bringing all of ourselves into this shared worship as we focus our attention on God's love for us. We are made more aware of our union with God and with one another as we remember that our worship of God is the core element of our lives as Christians.

Tolling of the Bells

At the Entrance: Hymn 391

Winchester New

A Penitential Order

BCP 351

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People *His mercy endures for ever.*

Celebrant 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.

Song of Praise: Hymn 560 Antiphon sung by Cantor; Antiphon sung by all, verse 7, verse 8, Antiphon

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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Children and Dismissal to Children's Chapel

Children ages three through second grade are invited to come forward.

People *God of all, we thank you for the joy and wonder these children bring into our lives. May they learn about you and your Word, may they grow in loving-kindness, and may they know your presence is always with them. Amen.*

Helpful notes: Our attention now turns to the assigned texts for the day, as we listen for the Spirit's guidance through ancient texts that connect with our present circumstances. We remember that it is not so much that "we read the texts," as it is that "the Spirit reads us through the texts." Following the readings, the preacher will offer a sermon that seeks to help nurture our personal and communal reflection.

The First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Reader: 8:15/Chip Branch; 10:45/Callie Flack

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

Reader: 8:15/Chip Branch; 10:45/chanted by the choir BCP 624

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Reader: 8:15/Steve Hatch, 10:45/Daniel Grizzle

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

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 Prayers of the People Form III

Leader: 8:15/Chip Branch, 10:45/Daniel Grizzle BCP 387

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 parishioners Carol Johnson, Johnny Vaughn, and Stanley Appleton; and all 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.

Silence

Grace Episcopal Church is a congregation in communion with all that is in God, seen and unseen. We are led by the example of Jesus Christ and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to support each other through prayer, formation, worship, and service.

We will welcome all with kindness, acceptance, and love, with God's help. We are Grace, grounded in faith and relentless in compassion.

The Peace

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Please be seated.

The Offertory Anthem *Angelicus*, sung in Latin

Caesar Franck (1822-1890) arr. Wanda Sobieska

Panis Angelicus fit panis hominum

The angel's bread becomes the bread of men

Dat panis coelicus figuris terminum

The heavenly bread ends all symbols

O res mirabilis! Manducat Dominum

Oh, miraculous thing! The body of the Lord will nourish

Pauper, pauper, servus et humilis

The poor, poor, and humble servant

Pauper, pauper, servus et humilis

The poor, poor, and humble servant

At the Presentation: Hymn 149 verses 1 & 3

Old 124th

The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand as you are able.*

BCP 372

Eucharistic Prayer D (adapted from the Eastern Orthodox Prayer of Saint Basil)

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.*

Celebrant

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

Sanctus: Hymn S114 *Hymns beginning with an S are found in the service music section at the front of the hymnal.*

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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, 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

*We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.*

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, (with _____) and] all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.

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

BCP 364

The Fraction Anthem: S161

Helpful notes: To receive, please proceed up the center aisle and fill around the altar from the back to the front. If you do not wish to receive the consecrated bread and wine, simply cross your arms over your chest. We will offer a blessing for you as we share in Holy Communion. You may stand or kneel at the altar rail. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.

Communion Music

Hymn 685

Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott

Hymn 635

Toplady

Prayer after Communion *Please kneel or stand as you are able.*

BCP 366

Celebrant Let us pray.

*Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

Helpful notes: We remember now that we have not left the world; rather, we have brought our entire selves into this time and space to be transformed by the Spirit's presence in our hearts. Now, we give thanks for this time of shared prayer, and we look toward the ways we can embody the Light of Christ in the world.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 344

Sicilian Mariners

The Dismissal

Postlude Cebell

Johann Pachebel (1653-1706)

LENT IS A TIME FOR REFRESHING OUR VISION

The Season of Lent offers us a time to be intentional about our practice of prayer and engage all our senses to practice our faith. These forty days call us to pay closer attention to how we notice the Spirit's presence in our lives. In this intentional time, we remember again that our life is our practice. You will notice that we have added photographs to the bulletin covers during Lent. We invite you to take the bulletins home and cut out the images if they speak to you. Perhaps this is a time when you can create an altar in your home, gathering images and objects from your life that help you stay grounded. You will also notice that we are using an incredible hymn as a focus point throughout the season, taking time to reflect on the words of the Beatitude. The hymn setting is from a Russian Orthodox chant, and we hope it helps ground us in these days.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- The Grace Parish Choir in collaboration with the University of North Georgia Chorale and Cumberland Chamber Orchestra will present **FAURE Requiem** this afternoon at 4 PM. Concert is free; a reception will follow.
- April 1 is the deadline to register for the Lenten retreat, **Living an Embodied Life**, at the Linwood Nature Preserve in Gainesville on Saturday, April 5 from 9 AM - 3 PM. Learn more at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/lentretreat
- We will begin **Holy Week** with Palm Sunday services on Sunday, April 13. Learn more about Holy Week and Easter on our website.
- The **Soul Work Book Club** will begin discussing *The Four Elements: Reflections on Nature* by John O'Donohue at the next meeting on April 27.

THINGS TO NOTE

- The vestry invites you to share your **hopes for being involved** in our church community so they can identify areas where we can grow together in faith and service. www.gracechurchgainesville.org/participation-survey/
- Donations toward **Easter flowers** can be given in memory of or in thanksgiving for family members, friends and loved ones at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/easterflowers
- **Christian Education** (CE/Sunday School) classes will not meet April 6, 13, or 20. Last day for CE is May 4.
- Explore the **Glimpses of Grace podcast** on your podcast app of choice or at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/podcast.
- Prayer is at the heart of our life as a faith community. Grace Church invites members of the parish to **request prayer** at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/prayer.
- We invite **visitors and newcomers** to fill out a Welcome Card, online at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/welcome or in the pew (and dropped in the offering plate), so we can share information about Grace and answer any questions.
- The **nursery** is located in the children's education wing and is available to all children age 4 and under on Sunday mornings from 8:00 AM until noon.
- Services at Grace Church are **live-streamed/recorded** so that we may include those who cannot be with us physically. www.gracechurchgainesville.org/photo-video-policy.

COPYRIGHTS & PERMISSIONS

All music is reprinted by permission under www.OneLicense.net (license number A-701954).

Music from The Hymnal 1982 © Church Pension Fund, except where noted below:

Prelude: *Flutes* from *Suite Du Deuxieme Ton* Louis-Nicolas Clerambault | H391 Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 100; Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889) | H560 Words: Russian Orthodox liturgy, Matthew 5:3-12; Music: *Beatitudes*, Russian Orthodox hymn, arr Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications. | H144 Words: Latin; tr. Anne K. LeCroy (b.1930) Music: *Cornhill*, Harold Darke (1888-1976), alt.; Hymn 144 Words: © 1982, Anne LeCroy, Music: By permission of Oxford University Press.. | *Panis Angelicus* Caesar Franck (1822-1890) arr. Wanda Sobieska, Copyright 2009 | H149 Words: Thomas H. Cain (b.1931) Music: *Old 12th*, melody *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) Words: ©1982, Thomas H Cain | Sanctus S114 Setting from *Missa de Santa Maria Magdalena*, Healy Willan (1880-1968) By permission of Oxford University Press | Fraction Anthem S161 Setting: From New Plainsong; David Hurd (h.1950) | H685 Words: Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), alt.; Music: *Toplady*, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872) | H635 Words: Georg Neumark (1621-1681); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.; Music: *Wer nur lieben Gott*, Georg Neumark (1621-1681) | H344 Words: Att. John Fawcett (1739/40-1817); Music: *Sicilian Mariners*, Sicilian melody; first published *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792, alt. | Postlude: *Cebell*, Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

**THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF ATLANTA**

GRACE CHURCH

The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop
Website: www.episcopalatlanta.org

Main entrance on Boulevard
Office address: 422 Brenau Avenue, Gainesville, GA 30501
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Phone: 770-536-0126
Website: www.gracechurchgainesville.org

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Stuart Higginbotham, DMin, Rector, stuart@gracechurchgainesville.org
The Rev. Brandon Nonnemaker, EdD, Associate Rector for Children, Youth & Families
brandon@gracechurchgainesville.org
Lynn Swanson, Music Director/Organist, lswanson@gracechurchgainesville.org
Sr. Genevieve Lynn, Pastoral Assistant, sistergl@gracechurchgainesville.org
Reba Page, Parish Administrator/Finance, rpage@gracechurchgainesville.org
Jennifer Williams, Director of Communication, jwilliams@gracechurchgainesville.org
Jeremy Landers, Facility Manager, jlanders@gracechurchgainesville.org
Jessica Voyles, Ministry Coordinator, office@gracechurchgainesville.org
Mike McPeek, Worship Technology Assistant

PRIEST ASSOCIATES, RETIRED

The Rev. David B. Powell
The Rev. Betsy Jennings Powell, MD
The Rev. Cynthia Park, PhD

VESTRY & OFFICERS *Emails found at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/about/vestry*

Term ends 2026 Jim Brim
Stuart Deaderick, Senior Warden
Helen Scovill
Anita Smith
Term ends 2027 Sue Bowron
Kimberley Boyd, Junior Warden
Steve Carlson
Cheryl Kelley
Term ends 2028 Jim Bradley
Jo Brewer
Darlene Hauserman
Jason Voyles

Amy Munn, Treasurer
Doug McDuff, Assistant Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry
Jason Voyles, Chancellor

**CHILDREN OF GRACE
PRESCHOOL**

Office Hours: 9 AM - 1PM
Phone: 770-536-9088
Website: www.gracechurchgainesville.org/cog
Meg McPeek, Director, mmcpeek@gracechurchgainesville.org
Liz Katz, Assistant Director, lkatz@gracechurchgainesville.org