

Grace Episcopal Church

A Parish Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
established 1828



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle Leaflet, page 3

Opening Acclamation BCP 323

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

Collect for Purity BCP 323

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

Trisagion BCP 324

The Collect of the Day

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a Leaflet, page 4

Psalm 80:1-7 Leaflet, page 4

The Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10 Leaflet, page 4

The Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-55 Leaflet, page 5

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Brandon Nonnemaker

The Nicene Creed Leaflet, page 6

The Prayers of the People Leaflet, page 6

The Confession and Absolution 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

Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:45AM

Prelude *The Shepherds at the Manger*

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) arr. E Power Biggs

Community Minute

Lighting of the Advent Candle: A selection from Psalm 62

For God alone my soul in silence waits;
from God comes my salvation.

God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall not be greatly shaken.

For God alone my soul in silence waits;
truly, my hope is in God.

God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

In God is my safety and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before God, for God is our refuge.

At the Entrance: Hymn 56 verses 1-5

Veni, veni Emmanuel

The Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

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

Collect for Purity

BCP 355

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.

Trisagion: Hymn S102 *Hymns beginning with an S are found in the service music section at the front of the hymnal.*

The Collect of the Day

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

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

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 and hymn, the preacher will offer a sermon that seeks to help nurture our personal and communal reflection.

The First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Reader: 8:15/Chaudron Gille, 10:45/Marsha Kump

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7

8:15/Leader: Chaudron Gille, 10:45/chanted by the choir BCP 702

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Reader: 8:15/Ray Schuetze, 10:45/Daniel Grizzle

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-55

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Brandon Nonnemaker

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 I

Leader: 8:15/Chaudron Gille, 10:45/Daniel Grizzle BCP 383

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Bishop, Rob, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the city of Gainesville, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially Kay Stringer, parishioner; Don Thomas, friend of Susan Longley; and the Rev. John Cromartie, friend of the parish; let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

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 Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Leader 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 Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

The Peace

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Please be seated.

Helpful notes: We have arrived at the point of the liturgy that focuses our attention on Christ's presence with us in the Holy Eucharist. "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving," and we are called to remember our gratitude to God for the blessings of our lives. Together, we share in Holy Communion, which we believe is the Real Presence of Christ both within the bread and wine and within each soul present. We offer ourselves and visualize ourselves on the altar, as we pray for a transformation of heart that will nurture our ongoing lives.

The Offertory Anthem *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

K. Lee Scott

Rejoice! Rejoice believers, and let your light appear! The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, and soon is drawing nigh; up, pray and watch and wrestle, at midnight comes the cry.
The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near. Go forth as He approaches with alleluias clear,
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand; Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand.
The saints who here in patience, their cross and sufferings bore, Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory, The Lamb they shall behold; In triumph cast before Him, their diadems of gold.
Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

At the Presentation: Hymn 65 verses 1 & 2

Bereden vag for Herran

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

BCP 361

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. 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. (the Celebrant will offer a prayer for the day)

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:

Sanctus: Hymn S125

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.*

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: Hymn S164

Celebrant Behold who you are: The Body of Christ.
People *May we become what we receive.*

Please be seated. Ushers will guide the congregation forward for Holy Communion.

Communion Music

Hymn 78

Forest Green

Hymn 89

Carol

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

*God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. 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

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God, strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn 66

Stuttgart

The Dismissal

BCP 366

Postlude *Fugue in C Major*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- There is a **pageant rehearsal** in the nave after the 10:45 AM service today.
- Our 4 PM service on **Christmas Eve** will feature a pageant followed by Holy Communion. A musical prelude will begin around 3:45 PM. Our traditional Midnight Mass at 10 PM remains a highlight of the year, with Holy Communion and music with choir, strings, and organ. The Choir and Cumberland Brass will present a concert beginning at 9:30 PM.
- Join us in the nave at 12 PM on **Christmas Day** for a said service of Holy Communion.
- The **Christmas season** continues on December 29 and January 5, with Rite I Eucharist at 8:15 AM and Rite II Eucharist with carols at 10:45 AM. Please note there will be no Christian Education classes and no Children's Chapel offered December 29.

THINGS TO NOTE

- The parish office will be closed December 24, 25, and 26 and is always closed on Fridays.
- Grace Church is **collecting food** for the Gainesville-Hall County Food Pantry. Needed items: cans of corn or green beans, canned fruit, tuna, dried beans, 16 oz jars of peanut butter, jars of pasta sauce, bars of soap, or toilet paper.
- **Christian Education** (CE/Sunday School) classes meet from 9:30 – 10:30 AM most Sundays until May 4. This winter, classes will not meet December 29, January 19, or February 16.
- Sign up at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/foyer if you are interested in joining a **winter/spring 2025 foyer** group!
- 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. Please note there is no nursery at the 10 PM service on Christmas Eve.
- 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.

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:

The Shepherds at the Manger from the Piano Suite *The Christmas Tree*, Franz Liszt (1811-1886) arr. E Power Biggs | *O come, O come, Emmanuel*, Latin, ca. 9th cent.; Hymnal 1940, ver. alt., Copyright The Church Pension Fund, VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL, Plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent., Adapter: Thomas Helmore, Arranger: Richard Proulx, b. 1937 | *The angel Gabriel from heaven came*, Basque carol, Paraphraser: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, Tune: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Harmonizer: Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943, © 1961, B. Feldman & Co. Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd., 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England, Now Public Domain | *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*, K. Lee Scott | *Prepare the way, O Zion*, Adapter: Charles P. Price, b. 1920, Author: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1772-1847, © 1982, Charles P. Price, Tune: *Bereden Väg För Herran* | *Holy, holy, holy Lord*, Composer: Richard Proulx, b. 1937, Copyright © 1971, 1977, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. | *Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world*, Composer: David Hurd, b. 1950, Copyright © 1981, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. | *O little town of Bethlehem*, Author: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, Tune: FOREST GREEN, Adapter and Harmonizer: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, By permission of Oxford University Press | *It came upon the midnight clear*, Author: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876, Tune: CAROL, Composer: Richard Storrs Willis, 1819-1900 | *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*, Author: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, Tune: STUTTGART, Adapter and Harmonizer: William Henry Havergal, 1793-1870 | *Fugue in C Major*, J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

**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 2025 Frank Rinker - Administration, Compassion
Julia Greene - Junior Warden
Beth Neidenbach - Participation, Formation, Compassion
Sally Pittman - Participation, Formation
Term ends 2026 Jim Brim - Compassion
Stuart Deaderick - Senior Warden
Helen Scovill - Compassion
Anita Smith - Compassion, Formation, Liturgy & Creative Expression
Term ends 2027 Sue Bowron - Administration, Liturgy & Creative Expression
Kimberley Boyd - Compassion
Steve Carlson - Administration
Cheryl Kelley - Formation, Compassion

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