

Grace Episcopal Church

A Parish Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
established 1828



First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 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

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.

Gloria

BCP 324

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word: Grant that the same light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; 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: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Leaflet, page 4

Psalm 147:13-21

Leaflet, page 5

The Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Leaflet, page 5

The Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18

Leaflet, page 5

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed

Leaflet, page 6

The Prayers of the People

Leaflet, page 7

The Confession and Absolution

Leaflet, page 8

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 *In dulci jubilo* (BWV 729)

J.S. Bach

Community Minute

At the Entrance: Hymn 100

Antioch

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.

Song of Praise: Hymn 96 verses 1 & 4

Gloria

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; 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 First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Reader: 8:15/Edith Collins, 10:45/Marsha Kump

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

The Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Reader: 8:15/Chip Branch, 10:45/Jo Brewer

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

At the Sequence: Hymn 109 verses 1, 2, 5

The First Nowell

The Gospel Lesson: John 1:1-18

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed *All stand.*

BCP 358

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.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

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, 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.

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.

The Offertory Anthem *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

arr. by Chip Davis, Aidan Voyles, piano

At the Presentation: Hymn 107 verses 1, 3 *Please stand*

In dulci jubilo

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

BCP 361

Eucharistic Prayer B

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are as follows:

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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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 S130 *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 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.

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 99

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Hymn 105

God Rest Ye Merry

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.*

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 87

Mendelssohn

The Dismissal

Postlude *Ding Dong: Merrily on High*

Geoffrey Atkinson

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- Grace Church Friends of Music welcomes treble chorus, **Lux**, on Sunday, January 26 at 4:00 PM.
- The **Annual Parish Meeting** is Sunday, February 2. Join us in the parish hall from 9:30 - 10:30 AM to hear key reports of parish business and enjoy a continental breakfast.
- Save the date for another **fellowship gathering** at NoFo Brew Co. on Thursday, February 13.

THINGS TO NOTE

- Welcome **Guest Organist** William Hildebrandt.
- The parish office will be open by appointment only on Tuesday, December 31 and closed on Wednesday, January 1.
- **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 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.
- 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:

In dulci júbilo (BWV 729) J.S. Bach | H100 Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt, Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872) | H96 Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt., Music: Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958) | H109 Words: English carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901) | *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* arr. by Chip Davis | H107 Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *In dulci júbilo*, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) | S102 Setting; ver. Hymnal 1982, Alexander Archangelsky, 1816-1924 | S130 Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) S130 Adaptation copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications | S164 Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) S164 Adaptation copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. | H99 Words: Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (b. 1901); Music: Go Tell It on the Mountain, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935) | H105 Words: London carol, 18th cent., By permission of Fleming H. Revell Company.; Music: God Rest You Merry, melody from Little Book of Christmas Carols, ca. 1850 | H87 Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915) | *Ding Dong: Merrily on High* Geoffrey Atkinson Publisher OECUMUSE Copyright 1986

**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