

Grace Episcopal Church

November 30, 2025

The First Sunday of Advent

Grace's Mission

We are disciples of Jesus, helping one another be the hands and feet of Christ
by sharing God's love with the world.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

First Sunday of Advent (Promise)

Leader: Advent is here, and the wait for the birth of Christ begun.

As we light the first candle, we are reminded of God's promise of a Savior. God's promise of hope is for all people; together, we anticipate the day of his coming.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." (*Jeremiah 33:14-16*)

Holy and Gracious God, we pray that as we light this candle so too will a fire of Hope be kindled in our hearts. May we hold this Hope gently, as we are urged to stay awake and be ready for a most amazing event! As we prepare to receive the Christ Child, may we be ever-mindful of our love for you, and Yours for us. This will keep the flames of Hope burning in this Advent season. We pray all this in the name of Emmanuel. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Lo, He comes, with clouds descending

Blue Hymnal #58

Holy Eucharist Rite Two

Red Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p355

Trisagion

S-99 (Front of Praise Book)

The Collect

BCP p 211

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the
mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of
the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.’
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from
Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Hear what the spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122

Laetatus sum

1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.

5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
9 Because of the house of the LORD our
God, *
I will seek to do you good."

A reading from **Romans 13:11-14**

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hear what the spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Sleepers, wake! A voice astounds us

Blue Hymnal #61

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 24:36-44

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

"The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. J. Jeffrey Baker

The Nicene Creed

BCP p 358

Prayers of the People

Form III

BCP p 387

A Prayer for Change: Lord, give us the courage to view the future with hope and expectancy and, most of all, with faith. In the face of change, help us set aside our fears, and urge us to seek and see your hand at work, while opening our hearts to recognize that change brings new life. *Amen.*

Let his resurrection power bring healing and hope to those for whom we pray, For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Especially we pray for Valorie Lephart, Vivian, Paul, Sue & Michael. Baby Drake, Aria, 8 yr old Charlie, Willow, George & Sandy Luther, Clare McElroy, Charlotte Stoldt, Martha Mackey, Phil Bennett, Beth and Ray, Bill, Janet, Chris, Matthew, Janice, Carolyn Stacks, Sheila Smith, Kathy Hill, Sherry Occkial , Franny E., Dick D., Kevin, Patty, Erin, Pat, Gail, Sue, Sherrie, Sharon Shephard, Susan Shepherd, Dave Petro, Riley Gumto and the Sherman and Miragliotta families.

The flowers on the altar are given by Elizabeth Estep in memory of Mary Knettle-Placeway and we celebrate the birthday of Toni Swisher.

Confession of Sin

BCP 359

The Peace

BCP 360

Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Grace Choir

The Doxology

Front of Praise Book

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharist Prayer C

BCP 369

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord

Front of Praise Book

The Great Amen

Front of Praise Book

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP p 364

Fraction Hymn

Lamb of God

Front of Praise Book

Communion Hymn

Alleluia, He is Coming

Praise Book #31

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p 366

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

The King shall come when morning dawns

Blue Hymnal #73

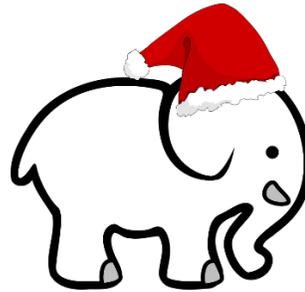
The Dismissal



You can still make a donation for Little Feet!! Make checks out to Grace Episcopal Church (Little Feet on the memo line) or drop your donation into the big boot in the lobby! Thank you!!! Blessings!
The Evangelism/Outreach Team

Please sign up to help out with our Little Feet Shopping Days, Dec. 6 & 7.

Mark your calendars now!!!! Saturday December 13, 2025 is our annual Christmas Party!!! Details on Lobby board and in the PACE!!!



Hanna's Home Giving Tree

Gift Tags labeled with gift wish items needed for resident moms and babies, alumni moms and their children.

Please return your unwrapped gifts along with the original tags to the church office by Sunday, Dec. 7th. The gifts will then be delivered to Hannah's Home.

Thank you all so much for helping to make a Happy Christmas for our moms and babies.

Kathy Hill Evangelism/Outreach Team