

**Prelude** Flowing Like a River, Honore

Start Recording



If you are joining us for the first time, [Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church!](#)

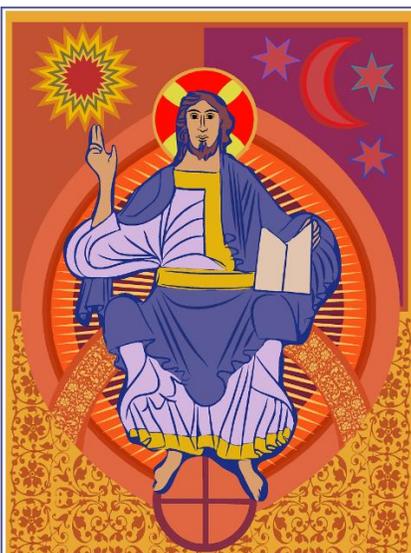
If you want to connect with us, please contact Barb Hanson at 508-930-0620.

Also, you can visit our website: [www.gracechurchna.org](http://www.gracechurchna.org) or

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## Grace Episcopal Church

### Second Sunday of Advent



### Virtual & In Person Worship

Reverend Grant Barber

Dr. Bob Lambe, Musical Director

Mel White & Louise Thomas readers

12.03.21

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of our Advent Preparing: Faith and Healing

*To the themes of preparing and figuring out what is true in our lives in the here and now we add faith and healing to our Advent reflections. After discerning what is true—both the lapses and failures as well as blessings and God with us, we claim the faith that has led us so far. The faith tells us the hard things will not overwhelm us. We claim healing: the longed-for restoration of all persons' dignity. For example, where race divides us we seek in faith God's guidance forward while we recognize that both those who call the shots—here in the US that would be white people—and those understood as 'less-than,' which would be Black, Asian, and Latino—all need God's restoration and healing.*

*Following the opening hymn:*

*Celebrant: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God... Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together. - Isaiah 40:3, 5*

Reader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \*then were we like those who dream.  
*All: Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.*

Reader: Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The LORD has done great things for them."  
*All: The LORD has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.*

Reader: You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
*All: We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.*

Reader: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.  
*All: Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.*

Reader: Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## Lighting the Candle

*The second candle is lit.*

Reader: Light of the world, in grace and beauty, mirror of God's eternal face, transparent flame of love's free duty,

*All: You bring salvation to our human race.*

Reader 1: Sacred Mystery, we light the second candle of Advent for faith and healing.

*The second candle is lit.*

Reader 2: We kindle it with faith. As mighty God and tender infant, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

*All: Sacred Mystery, look upon your world. Give us faith and courage so we can repair the breach created through injustice and oppression. Help us to heal your land and your people. This Advent, teach us, like you, to be tender and just. Amen.*

**Song of Praise**    Kyrie    S91

## The Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

*All: Thanks be to God*

## Canticle 16

1. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.

*Refrain:*

## Canticle 16

Hawthorne

In the ten-der com-pas-sion of God the dawn from on  
high shall break up - on us.

2. Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.

*Refrain*

3. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

*Refrain*

4. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

*Refrain*

5. In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Refrain*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Refrain*

## **Gospel Luke 3:1-6**

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of the Lord

*People: Praise to you Lord Christ*

**HOMILY Rev. Grant Barber**

## **The Nicene Creed**

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

## **Prayers of the People – Reader**

*Please enter prayers and petitions into the chat if attending virtually.*

Leader: We are invited to prepare, to discern what gives us true life.

*People: Gracious God, in the midst of busy lives may we hear the invitation to reflection, quiet, and to know the true joy which satisfies our hopes and desires.*

Leader: The cold arrives in this season. As we warm our homes, may our hearts be kindled with love for the dignity and well-being of all: peace in our homes, our streets, our towns, between friends, family members, for our parish and in the hearts of all who seek you.

*People: Lord God, may our thoughts, and actions testify to the love we find in you.*

Leader: During a holiday season life can be hard for the lonely, those who are sick, those who grieve. We pray now especially for those in any need, and especially those on our prayer list:

Ron, Ginny, Marilyn W., Carol HP., Muriel C., Richard T., David T. Sunrise T., Betty H.,  
Laura K. and Natalie W.

Dear Lord, we continue to lift up to you in prayer all those parishioners, family members, and friends who have been a part of our Prayers of the People. Their needs are many, and they remain in our hearts and minds. Lord, we pray that you will continue to heal them and nurture them. Amen.

*Please let the office know (1) if you have any person in urgent need of prayer to be added to these prayers and (2) those with longer term, chronic needs, will be added to the Prayer Chain for long term prayer care.*

Leader: We pray for those serving in the military, especially: Baron S., Zachary S., Christopher, & Joey

Leader: We give thanks for those whom we love but see no longer, especially Margot Pirnie, and those we now name silently or out loud. They stand before you and pray for us, as we now pray for them.

*People: May light perpetual shine upon them.*

Leader: Are there other intercessions or thanksgivings others wish to name?

*All are invited to speak out loud or enter in the chat and offer further prayer needs, including birthday or anniversary remembrances. **Leader or other person reads petitions entered into Zoom Chat.***

Celebrant: asks if there are any birthdays or anniversaries to be celebrated in the coming week, then prays for those named; if none come forward with birthdays or anniversaries, the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

## **Confession and Absolution**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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, stands and 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 of the Lord be with you always!

**Anthem** English Advent Carol

**Eucharistic Prayer B**

*Contained in the other document.*

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

*Sanctus*

## Creation Mass - Sanctus

1 Haugen

4

10 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord; God of

16 pow - er, God of might. Hea - ven and earth are full of your

22 glo - ry: \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - san - na in the high - est! \_\_\_\_\_

28 Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; \_\_\_\_\_ Ho -

34 san - na in the high - est, \_\_\_\_\_ ho - san - na in the

high \_\_\_\_\_ est! \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 Fraction Anthem

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

To receive communion please come up the center aisle and return to your pew by turning to your left and going down that side aisle.

## Communion Hymn The desert shall rejoice WLP722

### Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. *Celebrant and People*

Almighty and ever-loving God, we know we are the body of Christ in this world and commissioned to do your work.

With your guidance, help us to grow Grace Church in ways we cannot now imagine.

In your compassion, Lord, help us to be open to all possibilities,

In your love, Lord, help us to accept those things that we need to change, and not limit ourselves in moving forward.

In your wisdom, Lord, please show us the way to go as we become your hands, your heart, and your voice in the world.

This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen

## Blessing

## Closing Hymn People, look East WLP724

## Postlude Echo Noel, Daquin/Fox

### Announcements

12/12 Lunch takeout, Volunteers needed

12/15 Christmas flowers due

12/24 Christmas Eve- Friday 4:30

No service Christmas Day



### Choir Practice

each Sunday following the service. Join if interested.



### Grief Support

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> following the service



## Christmas Flowers

To purchase please **contact Maureen** Cost is \$15, due by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Dismissal



Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord,

Alleluia, alleluia!

*People: Thanks be to God.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*