

December 5, 2021



## We Gather for Worship

### Advent Candle Lighting

*Reader 1:* The second candle on the Advent wreath represents peace. Hear God's promise of peace from the prophet Isaiah:

*Reader 2:* A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

*Reader 1:* The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. *Isaiah 11:1-10*

*After the reading, light the first and second blue candles*

*People:* **Two candles, burning bright, chasing away the darkness from light.  
Two candles, glowing light, the blessing of God, giving new sight.**

*Reader 2:* Let us pray. Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your peace that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord.

*People:* **God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.**

### Opening Hymn: #67

***Comfort, comfort ye my people***

*Please stand & sing as you are able.*

### Opening Sentence

*BCP Page 78*

*Officiant:* In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

### Confession

*BCP Page 79*

*Please sit or kneel.*

*Officiant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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.**

*Officiant:* Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **Invitatory**

*BCP Page 80*

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Officiant:* Lord, open our lips;

*People:* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant & People:* **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.**

## **Venite Psalm 95:1-7**

*Officiant:* Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

*People:* **let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

*Officiant:* Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

*People:* **and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

*Officiant:* For the Lord is a great God, \*

*People:* **and a great King above all gods.**

*Officiant:* In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

*People:* **and the heights of the hills are his also.**

*Officiant:* The sea is his, for he made it, \*

*People:* **and his hands have molded the dry land.**

*Officiant:* Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*

*People:* **and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

*Officiant:* For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*

*People:* **Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

## **Advent Antiphon**

*Officiant:* Our King and Savior draws near:

*People:* **Come let us adore him.**

*Officiant:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

*People:* **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **We Hear God's Word**

### **First Lesson: Baruch 5:1-9**

*Please remain seated.*

*Reader:* A reading from the book of Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle 16: Song of Zechariah**

*Benedictus Dominus Deus*

*Luke 1:68-79*

*Reader:* Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*

*People:* **he has come to his people and set them free.**

*Reader:* He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*

*People:* **born of the house of his servant David.**

*Reader:* Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, \*

*People:* **from the hands of all who hate us.**

*Reader:* He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*

*People:* **and to remember his holy covenant.**

*Reader:* This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*

*People:* **to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

*Reader:* Free to worship him without fear, \*

*People:* **holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

*Reader:* You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*

*People:* **for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

*Reader:* To give his people knowledge of salvation \*

*People:* **by the forgiveness of their sins.**

*Reader:* In the tender compassion of our God \*

*People:* **the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

*Reader:* To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*

*People:* **and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

*Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

*People:* **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11**

*Reader:* A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn:**

***Let There Be Peace On Earth***

*Please stand and sing.*

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

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

*Reader:* The Holy Gospel of our Savior 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.'"

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Homily:** Tim Holder

**Apostles' Creed**

*BCP Page 96*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **We Pray**

**Lord's Prayer**

*BCP Page 97*

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

*Officiant & People:* **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.**

**Suffrages: Set A**

*BCP Page 97-98; Please be seated.*

*Officiant:* Show us your mercy, O Lord;

*People:* **And grant us your salvation.**

*Officiant:* Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

*People:* **Let your people sing with joy.**

*Officiant:* Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

*People:* **For only in you can we live in safety.**

*Officiant:* Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
*People:* **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
*Officiant:* Let your way be known upon earth;  
*People:* **Your saving health among all nations.**  
*Officiant:* Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
*People:* **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
*Officiant:* Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
*People:* **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

### Collect of the Day

*The collect prayer "collects" the themes from the various readings for the day.*

*Officiant:* 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; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### Collect for the Renewal of Life

*Officiant:* O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Collect for Peace

*Officiant:* O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Collect for Guidance

*Officiant:* Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Collect for Mission 2

*Officiant:* O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

*Please sit or kneel.*

*Reader:* Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with one heart and mind to God our Father.  
*Reader:* For peace from things that separate us from one another and for our salvation.  
*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**  
*Reader:* For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, especially...  
*People:* **St. John's, Woodward; Diocese of West Virginia; The Episcopal Church of Venezuela.**

*Reader:* For this holy gathering and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God.  
*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* We pray for...  
*People:* **Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Poulson, our Bishop; Tom, our clergy; Tim & Pat, our wardens; vestry, delegates, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people. We pray for our leaders, especially...  
*People:* **Joe, our President; Kamala, our Vice-president; Markwayne, our Congressman; James & Jim, our Senators; Kevin, our Governor; and Marlon, our Mayor. Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For prisoners, the oppressed, all those in need or suffering, especially...  
*People:* **Barbara & Family, Blackwell Family, Brad, Brewer Family, James & Shirley, Mike & Betty, Rogers Family, Lubin Family, Al, Kenneth, Pat & Joe, Quinn & Nancy, Prisca, PJ, John & Sharon, Emma, Ronnie, John, Troy, Sarah, Ark of Faith, all emergency responders, United States Military, and those whose suffering is known only to God.**

*Reader:* We pray for those who have died, *(especially...)*  
*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For ourselves, our families, and those we love. We pray for those in our parish, especially...  
*People:* **Kirsty, Madison, Masie, Randy, Tess, Trenton**

*Reader:* Also those who are traveling, *(especially...)*  
*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* Remembering our most blessed Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.  
*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Reader:* Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Peace

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.  
*People:* **And also with you.**

*Greet one another in the name of Christ. Please return to your seats when you hear the bell.*

## Announcements, Birthdays & Anniversary Prayers

*BCP Page 830*

*Welcome to our guests today. If you are new to Grace for the first time or even if you have been here once or twice before, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the plate. We promise not to harass you, but we would like to include you on our weekly email broadcasts and other event notifications. Thank you for the blessing of your presence today.*

## For a Birthday

*Officiant:* O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## We Go Out To Do Our Work

### General Thanksgiving

*Officiant & People:* Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

### Sending

*BCP Page 102*

*Officiant:* Let us bless the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant:* Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Ephesians 3:20, 21*

### Closing Hymn: #76

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*


*Please stand and sing.*

### Dismissal

*BCP Page 366*

*Officiant:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**



**Blue  
CHRISTMAS**

JOIN US FOR COMFORT & INSPIRATION THIS SEASON

We will hold a 'Blue Christmas' service of healing and quiet reflection at

**6pm Wednesday, December 22, 2021.**

We know that the holidays can be stressful, busy, and sometimes lonely. This special service is for those in need of respite—whether due to divorce, tough economic times, the loss of a loved one, or whatever has them feeling down at the holidays.

*2021 Christmas Services:*

December 24, 2021  
Lessons & Carols - 9:00 PM

December 25, 2021  
Christmas Day Organ Concert  
From National Cathedral  
1:30 PM

December 26, 2021  
Holy Eucharist - 10:30 AM

Join us at [Facebook.com/GraceMuskogee](https://www.facebook.com/GraceMuskogee)



# Poinsettias for the 2021 Christmas Altar



**Please make checks payable to: Grace Episcopal Church  
with altar guild on the memo line and place it, along with this form,  
into the offering plate or bring/mail it to the Parish Office.**

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

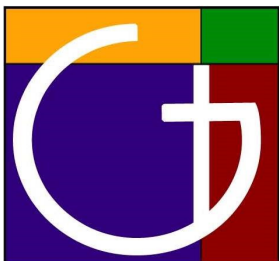
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

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**All donations must be received in the office no later than  
Monday, December 13th, in order to be listed in the Christmas bulletin.**



Grace Episcopal

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**Ministers:** All the People of God (BCP p. 855)

**Sr. Warden:** Tim Holder

**Jr. Warden:** Pat Wilcox

**Deacon Emeritus:** The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

**Music Director:** Ken Yadon

**Youth & Children's Director:** Nancy Scott

