



We Gather in the Lord's Name

Prelude:

***Silent Night,
The Coventry Carol
What Child is This?***

*Cello: Kaia Holder
Violinist: Mimi Louis*

Advent Candle Lighting

Reader 1: The fourth candle on an Advent wreath, usually purple, is often called the candle of love. Christmas happened because of God's great love for all people.

As your family gets ready to open Christmas gifts, talk about why we give nice things to people we love. Ask: What are some of the most memorable gifts you've received? How can you tell when much love and thought go into a gift?

Reader 2: A reading from John 16. "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16.

Reader 1: At Christmas, God gave us the best gift ever. He sent his Son, Jesus, to live, die, and rise again so we could live with him forever in heaven. Although this gift required great sacrifice, God knew we needed Jesus.

Light all four candles on the Advent wreath

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

Reader 2: Let us pray. Dear God, we pray that our faith may be renewed once again, and may we relive the wonder of your love in our lives. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: #65

Prepare the way O Zion

Please stand & sing as you are able.

Opening Acclamation

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Collect for Purity

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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; 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.**

We Hear God's Word

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Please be seated.

Reader: A reading from the second book of Micah.

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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15 - The Song of Mary

Magnificat

BCP Page 91, Luke 1:46-55

Reader: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

People: **for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

Reader: From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

People: **the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

Reader: He has mercy on those who fear him *

People: **in every generation.**

Reader: He has shown the strength of his arm, *

People: **he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

Reader: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

People: **and has lifted up the lowly.**

Reader: He has filled the hungry with good things, *

People: **and the rich he has sent away empty.**

Reader: He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

People: **for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

Reader: The promise he made to our fathers, *

People: **to Abraham and his children for ever.**

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: Hebrews 10:5-10

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

Please stand as you are able.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **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."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: The Rev. Bob Gates

Silence for reflection after the sermon.

Nicene Creed

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All in unison; Please stand as you are able.

Prayers of the People

Please kneel, sit or stand.

Reader: As we have offered gratitude for God's grace upon this community, let us now offer our gifts to the Lord, trusting that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be led to ever more faithful fellowship and service.

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. Paul's, Clinton; St. Andrew's, Lawton; Church of the Holy Trinity, Fray Bentos, Uruguay, Diocese of Wyoming; The Church in the Province of the West Indies.**

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, 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 in the armed services. 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: **Blake, Gabriel, London.**

Reader: Also those who are traveling, (*especially...*)

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: Bless all those everywhere who give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy for love of him who laid down his life for us.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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.

People: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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Please kneel, sit or stand.

Peace

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Please stand as you are able.

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

Announcements, Birthdays & Anniversary Blessings

Please be seated.

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.

Offertory

During this time we make an offering to the church to help maintain its mission in the world, and we fully offer ourselves to be Christ in the world around us at this time. The offering of bread and wine are brought to the altar.

Offertory Sentence:

Celebrant: But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:15, 16

Offertory Solo:

My Heart Rejoices

Soloist: Lora Sellers

Doxology: #380

Please stand as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Distribution of Communion

At Grace Episcopal Church, all baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the usher if you need communion brought to you at your seat. IF you wish to receive the bread only, hold your palms upward, consume the bread, and cross your arms over your chest when the chalice bearer approaches. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are invited to come to the altar rail to receive a Blessing, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest when the priest approaches.

Sursum Corda

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Sanctus: #S-125

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Please stand, sit, or kneel.

Lord's Prayer:

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Fraction Anthem: #S-166

Lamb of God

Please remain seated.

Breaking of the Bread

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A period of silence is kept.

Communion Anthem:

Choir

We Go Out To Do Our Work

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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Benediction & Blessing:

Celebrant: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20–21*

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and for ever more. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn:# 59

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Please stand and sing.

Sending

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End of 2021 Contribution Year

IN ORDER FOR GIVING TO BE CREDITED TO THE 2021 TAX YEAR, CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE NO LATER THAN:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30TH.

ANY CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS WILL BE POSTED TO 2022 AS THIS IS THE LAST DEPOSIT DATE FOR 2021.

Garden of Lights Hayride
Sunday, December 19th
5:30 PM

Parking is in the arboretum lot & the hay wagon will be in front of the gift shop.

After Party Potluck in the Parish Hall
Immediately Following

Contact Kaia Holder or Nancy Scott to RSVP and for additional information.



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

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist
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)

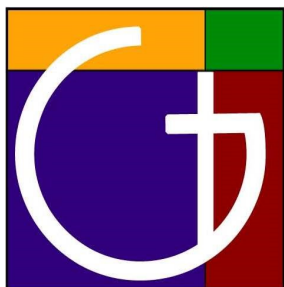
The Lovely Poinsettias on the Christmas Altar are Given to the Glory of God

In Loving Memory of:

- ✧ Mallory Paige Coburn by Katherine Coburn.
- ✧ Paul Archer, Ada Wood Kenneth Sellers and Keith Sellers by Lora Sellers.
- ✧ Kayden Stepp, Freddie Ramirez, John Chelssi, Larry Woods and, Debra House by Terra Tomlinson.
- ✧ Cooper Cox Betty & George Knapp, C.V. & Loretta Wilkinson by D. I. Wilkinson.
- ✧ Audrey Hansen by Jean Lewis.
- ✧ Cliff Franklin & Mallory Coburn by Diamond Franklin
- ✧ Madeline & Bob Minton, Don Jiles, Burk & Bonnie Gilbreath, Ray & Ruth Odom, Sandy Odom by Van & Marlene Odom.
- ✧ Emily Green, Linda Edwards, Debby Schrader by David Edwards
- ✧ Alvin & Mabel Freie, David Gaillard, Donna Maxwell by Melody & John Freie.

In Honor of:

- ✧ Freeman & June Little by Terry Tomlinson.
- ✧ Molly & Casey, Jacob, Kenize & Lainey by Doug & Lisa Duffy
- ✧ Our children & grandchildren by Van & Marlene Odom.
- ✧ Dorothy Fite by David Edwards.
- ✧ Pat & Dave Wilcox by Chris & Rick Ewing.



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

