

Advent 1
A season of...

HOPE

Welcome to our home!
We would love for you
to join our family!

December 3, 2023

We Gather

Advent Candle Lighting

Reader 1: According to tradition, each candle has a special meaning. The first one is called the candle of hope. People in the Old Testament knew that God had promised to send a Savior. And Jesus came to Earth on the first Christmas so he could share hope with the world. As we get ready to light the first candle on our Advent wreath, let us listen to a reading from Romans.

Reader 2: I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13.

During this week, reflect on the ways that you're filled with hope because you know Jesus or how Jesus makes a difference in your lives. **Amen.**

After sharing, the first candle is lit and all say:

People: **One candle, burning bright, chasing away the darkness for light.
One candle, glowing light, the blessing of God, giving new sight.**

Processional Hymn: #423 *Immortal, invisible, God only wise*

Please stand & sing.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

Collect For Purity

Celebrant: 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.**

Trisagion #S-102

Please remain standing.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. 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.**

We Hear God's Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

Please be seated.

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. 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. 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. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Read responsively by half verse.

Reader: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;

People: **shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

Reader: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,

People: **stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Reader: Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: **show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Reader: O Lord God of hosts,

People: **how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

Reader: You have fed them with the bread of tears;

People: **you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

Reader: You have made us the derision of our neighbors,

People: **and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Reader: Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: **show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Reader: Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,

People: **the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

Reader: And so will we never turn away from you;

People: **give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**

Reader: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

People: **show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: #58

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending
(v. 1-2 before, v. 4 after Gospel)

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Please remain standing.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: The Rev. Chris Cole

Please be seated.

We Pray

Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

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

Please kneel, sit, or stand.

- 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. Stephen's, Guymon; St. Stephen's, Montevideo, Uruguay; Diocese of Connecticut; Diocese of Maine; The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria.**
- 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; Chris & Tom, our clergy; Alex & Audrey, 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; Josh, our Congressman; James & Markwayne, 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:* **Johnson family, Ronnie, Mike, John, Geneva, Glenn, Rose, Karen, Paul, Tracey, Adriana, Fred, Stuart, John Paul, Michael, Joey, Nancy, Dale, Gary, Brittney, Thomas, Catheryne, Jennifer, Patricia, Kenny, Cathy, Dustin, those impacted by war and violence, 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:* **Louisa, Martha, Tad, and Carole.**
- 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.**

Confession and Absolution

Please kneel, sit, or stand.

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is observed.

- Celebrant & 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.**
- Celebrant:* 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.**

Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Greet one another in the name of Christ.

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.

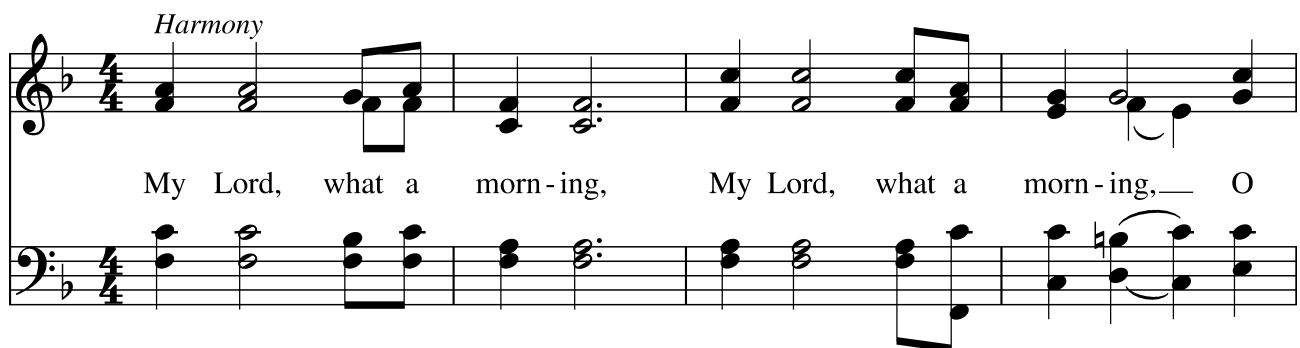
Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:2

Offertory Hymn: LEVAS #13

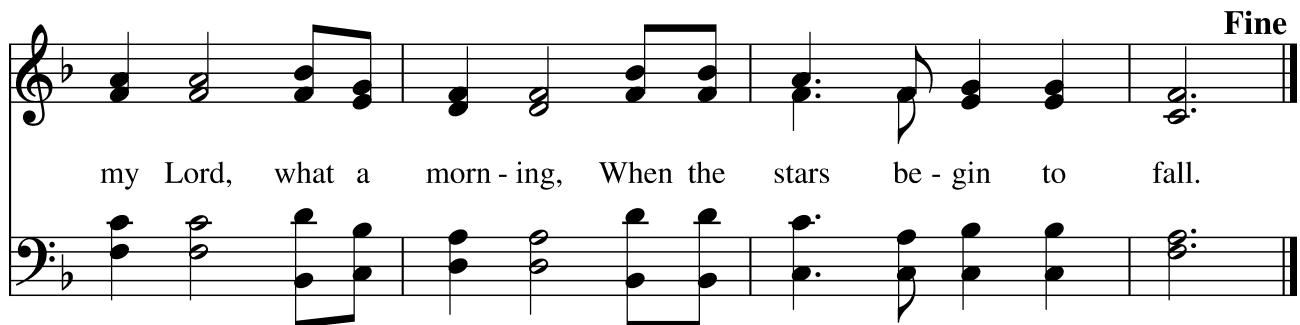
My Lord, What a Morning

Remain seated.

Harmony

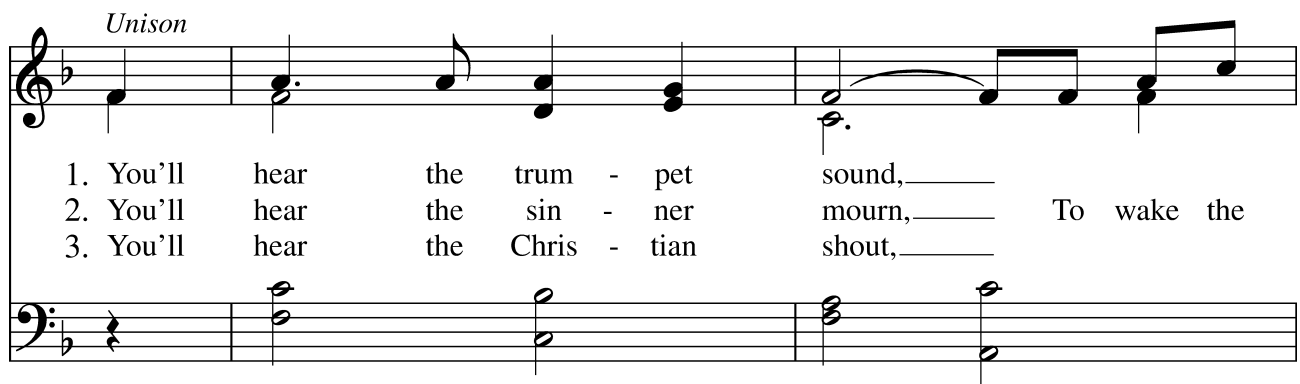


My Lord, what a morn - ing, My Lord, what a morn - ing, — O



my Lord, what a morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to fall. **Fine**

Unison



1. You'll hear the trum - pet sound, —
2. You'll hear the sin - ner mourn, — To wake the
3. You'll hear the Chris - tian shout, —

na - tions un - der - ground, Look - ing to my God's right

hand, When the stars be - gin to fall. *D.C.*

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual.

Doxology: #380 v. 3

Please stand & sing as you are able.

We Share the Meal *Eucharistic Prayer A*

Sursum Corda: #S-120

Please remain standing.

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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

Celebrant: 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 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.

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: #S-125

Please sit or kneel after the Sanctus.

Celebrant: † Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world

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." † † †

Celebrant: 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant & People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant & 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.

Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: #S-161

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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.

Communion Anthem: *Love Divine, All Love Excelling*

We Go Into the World

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant & People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent Blessing

Celebrant: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: #601

O day of God, draw nigh

Please stand & sing.

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Poinsettias for the 2023 Christmas Altar

A suggested minimum donation for each poinsettia is \$20.

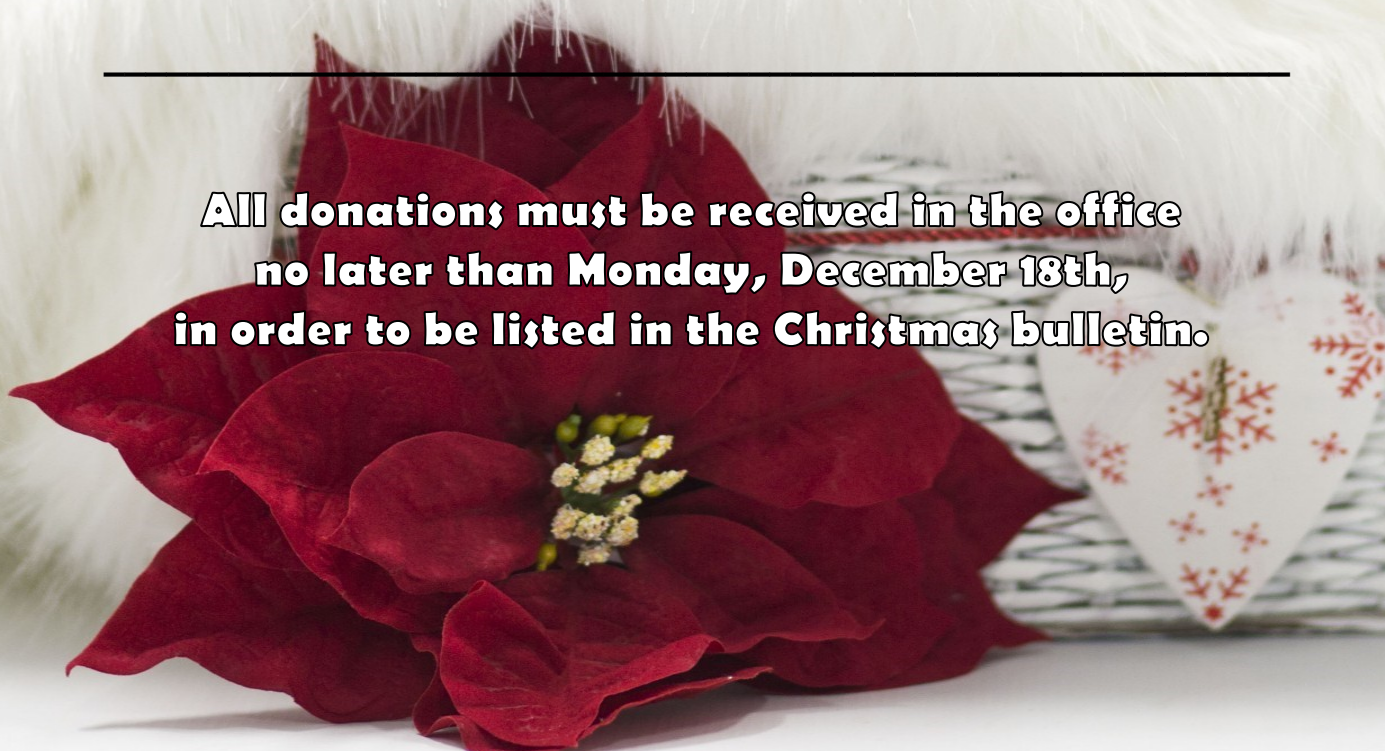
**Please make checks payable to: Grace Episcopal Church
with altar guild on the memo line and place it, along with this
form, into the offering plate or bring/mail it to the Parish Office.**

Name of Donor: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

**All donations must be received in the office
no later than Monday, December 18th,
in order to be listed in the Christmas bulletin.**





2023 Holiday Services:

December 17, 2023

Advent 3
Lessons & Carols
10:30 AM

December 20, 2023

Blue Christmas
(in the Chapel)
6:30 PM

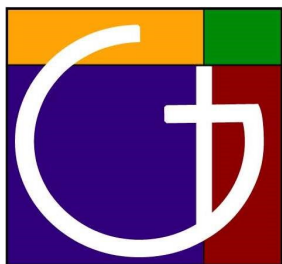
December 24, 2023

Advent 4
Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM

Christmas Eve
Holy Eucharist
8:00 PM

December 25, 2023

Online Only
10:30 AM



Grace Episcopal

218 North 6th Street Muskogee, OK 74401

Phone: (918) 687-5416; **Email:** Office@GraceMuskogee.org;

Website: www.GraceMuskogee.org; **YouTube Channel:** Grace Muskogee

Social Media: [Facebook.com/GraceMuskogee](https://www.facebook.com/GraceMuskogee) & [Twitter.com/GraceMuskogee](https://twitter.com/GraceMuskogee)

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

Priest in Charge: The Rev. Chris Cole

Sr. Warden: Alex Wilson

Jr. Warden: Pat Wilcox

Deacon Emeritus: The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

Music Director: Ken Yadon

Youth & Children's Director: Nancy Scott

