

*Advent 2  
A season of...*

**LOVE**

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

*December 10, 2023*

## We Gather

### Advent Candle Lighting

*Reader 1:* According to tradition, each candle has a special meaning. The second candle symbolizes love. Christmas happened because of God's great love for all people.

*Reader 2:* "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16.

*Reader 1:* At Christmas, God gave us the best gift ever. He sent his Son, Jesus, to live among us and show us the way.

*Reader 2:* During this week, take a moment to reflect on God's love in Jesus as our greatest Christmas gift.

*After sharing, the first and second blue candles are lit and all say:*

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

**Processional Hymn: #67**      **Comfort, comfort ye my people**      *Please stand & sing as you are able.*

### 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. 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.**

## We Hear God's Word

### First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

*Please be seated.*

*Reader:* A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

### **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

*Read responsively by half verse.*

*Reader:* You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,

*People:* **you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.**

*Reader:* You have forgiven the iniquity of your people

*People:* **and blotted out all their sins.**

*Reader:* I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,

*People:* **for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.**

*Reader:* Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,

*People:* **that his glory may dwell in our land.**

*Reader:* Mercy and truth have met together;

*People:* **righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

*Reader:* Truth shall spring up from the earth,

*People:* **and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

*Reader:* The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,

*People:* **and our land will yield its increase.**

*Reader:* Righteousness shall go before him,

*People:* **and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

### **Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

*Reader:* A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Sequence Hymn: #75 *There's a voice in the wilderness crying*** *Please stand & sing as you are able.*  
**(v. 1 before, v. 2-3 after Gospel)**

**Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

*Please remain standing.*

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

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

*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. John's, Woodward; Grace, Yukon; Diocese of Massachusetts; Diocese of New Hampshire; The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.**

*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, Cathy, Dustin, Paula, Phillip, Marlene, 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:* **B.J., John, Evelyn, Ken, Sylvia, Terry, and Jamie.**

*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 Music:**

***O Come, O Come Emmanuel***

*Kaia Holder, Cello*

**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.*

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are as follows:

- Staff 1:** *Celebrant* (The Lord be with you.) | *People* (And al - so with you.)
- Staff 2:** *Celebrant* (Lift up your hearts.) | *People* (We lift them to the Lord.)
- Staff 3:** *Celebrant* (Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.)
- Staff 4:** *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." † † †

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 Hymn: #55

***Redeemer of the nations, come***

## 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: #76**

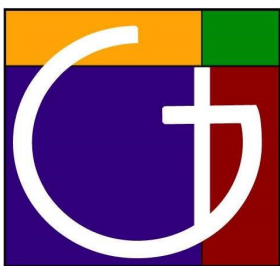
***On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry***

*Please stand & sing.*

### Dismissal

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

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



Grace Episcopal

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**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:** Audrey Stone

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

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Malcolm McGuire

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

