



Advent 4
A season of...

PEACE

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

December 24, 2023



*The Lovely Poinsettias on
the Christmas Altar are
Given to the glory of God...*

In Loving Memory of:

- Rev. John & Doris Skinner, Stanley & Meeva Skinner, and Christian & Julia Friedrichsen by Janet & Tom Maxwell
- Inez Johnson by Kelli Johnson
- Tom and Brian Ketcham by Gary Ketcham
- Our dear parents: Archie & Catherine Bradley and J.W. & Mary Ridge by Patricia & Stephen Bradley
- Our parents and grandparents by Marlene & Van Odom
- Clifton Franklin by Diamond Franklin
- Fred Stanley, Jimmy Buffet, and Jodie Beth Swaringim by Sharon & John Champlin
- Emil & Marion Stratton, Emily Edwards, and David & Linda Edwards by Michael Stratton
- Marilyn Synnestvedt by Kaia & Tim Holder
- Cooper Cox, George & Betty Kapp, and C.V & Loretta Wilkinson by Nancy & D.I. Wilkinson
- Vonnie Honea by Betty & Tom Honea
- George & Audre Lynde and Cynthia & Gerry Haugland by Cornelia & Richard Haugland
- Our fathers: Paul Archer and Kenneth Sellers by Lora & Jerry Sellers

In Honor of:

- Cedric Johnson by Kelli Johnson
- Our children and grandchildren by Marlene & Van Odom
- Richard & Connie Haugland by Brita Cantrell
- Pat Wilcox and Malcolm McGuire by Katherine Coburn
- Rick & Chris Ewing by Pat & David Wilcox



We Gather

Prelude:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Rick Ewing, Bagpipes

Advent Candle Lighting

Reader 1: According to tradition, each candle has a special meaning. The fourth one is called the candle of peace. We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah speaks of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim throughout the world.

Reader 2: We light these candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.

During this week, take a moment each day to reflect on God's peace during this season of preparation. **Amen.**

All four candles are lit and all say:

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

Processional Hymn: #267

Praise we the Lord this day

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit;

People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People: **One God and Father of all.**

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. 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; 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: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Please be seated.

Reader: A reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary (*Magnificat*) Luke 1:46-55

Read responsively by half verse.

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: Romans 16:25-27

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

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: #265 *The angel Gabriel from heaven came* *Please stand & sing as you are able.*
(v. 1 before, v. 4 after Gospel)

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Please remain standing.

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

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: The Rev. Chris Cole

Please be seated.

We Pray

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

The candidate is presented by her Parents & Godparents/Sponsors.

Celebrant: The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents & Godparents/Sponsors: **I present Keeleigh Joy Clark to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

Celebrant: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents & Godparents/Sponsors: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents & Godparents/Sponsors: **I will, with God's help.**

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of those who speak on behalf of the child:

Celebrant: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Parents & Godparents/Sponsors: **I renounce them.**

Celebrant: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Parents & Godparents/Sponsors: **I renounce them.**

Celebrant: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Parents & Godparents/Sponsors: **I renounce them.**

Celebrant: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Parents & Godparents/Sponsors: **I do.**

Celebrant: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Parents & Godparents/Sponsors: **I do.**

Celebrant: Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Parents & Godparents/Sponsors: **I do.**

Celebrant Addresses the Congregation

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in her life in Christ?

People: **We will.**

Celebrant: Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **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.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **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.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidate

Celebrant: Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

A person appointed leads the following petitions:

Leader: Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

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

Leader: Open her heart to your grace and truth.

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

Leader: Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

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

Leader: Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

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

Leader: Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

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

Leader: Send her into the world in witness to your love.

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

Leader: Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

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

The Celebrant, Candidate, and Sponsors process to the font.

Celebrant: Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying:

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water:

Celebrant: Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Baptism

The candidate is presented to the Celebrant who then immerses or pours water upon her saying:

Celebrant: Keeleigh Joy Clark, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

When this action has been completed, the Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over the candidate, saying:

Celebrant: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Then the Priest places a hand on the child's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying:

Celebrant: Keeleigh Joy Clark, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

When all have been baptized the Celebrant says:

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant & People: **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

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 Anthem:

Away in a Manger

Grace Children

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." † † †

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 Music:

Jesu Joy

Malcolm McGuire, Piano; Kaia Holder, Cello

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: #269

Ye who claim the faith of Jesus

Please stand & sing.

Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**



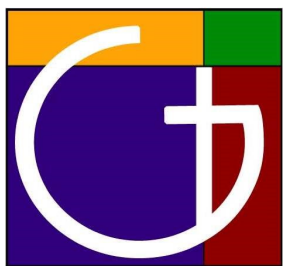
End of 2023 Contribution Year

In order for giving to be credited to the 2023 tax year, contributions must be received in the office no later than:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST.

Any cash or check contributions received after this will be posted to 2024 as this is the last deposit date for 2023.

Contributions made online through Sunday, December 31st, will also be counted towards 2023.



Grace Episcopal

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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

