



Grace Episcopal Church
First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023

Everyone is welcome here at Grace!

If you are our guest this morning, see Rev. Milly (or look for a Greeter who will be wearing a cross on a red ribbon) after worship. We would love to welcome you to Grace!

If you are tuning in online, please email or call us and tell us a bit about yourself. You may reach us through the church office at 828-254-1086 or at office@graceavl.com. Also feel free to email our Rector, Rev. Milly Morrow at milly@graceavl.com or call her between 7 am and 7 pm at 828.772.1429.

We are now receiving the Cup either by sipping or simply touching the Cup. Please do not "dip" your wafer in the Cup as that is the best way to spread germs. Thank you!

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

PRELUDE: *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the tolling of the tower bell, the congregation is asked to stand.

THE ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: *Sleepers Wake! A Voice is Calling*

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COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

All **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Text: The Community of Taizé

Music: Jacques Berthier

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart.

CCLI #2605153

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 64: 1-9

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 hide 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80: 1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph / **like a flock**;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon **the cherubim**.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, / **and Manasseh**,
stir up your strength and / **come to help us**.

Restore us, O / **God of hosts**;
show the light of your countenance, and we / **shall be saved**.
O Lord / **God of hosts**,
how long will you be angry, despite the prayers of **your people**?

You have fed them with the / **bread of tears**;
you have given them bowls of / **tears to drink**.
You have made us the derision / **of our neighbors**,
and our enemies laugh / us **and scorn us**.

Restore us, O / **God of hosts**;
show the light of your countenance, and we / **shall be saved**.
Let your hand be upon the man of / **your right hand**,
the son of man you have made so strong / **for yourself**.

And so will we never turn away **from you**;
give us life that we may call upon **your Name**.
Restore us O Lord / **God of hosts**;
show the light of your countenance, and we / **shall be saved**.

THE EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN: *Thy Kingdom Come, On Bended Knee*

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Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

THE GOSPEL: MARK 13:24-37

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.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE HOMILY

Rev. Milly Morrow

THE NICENE CREED *(standing)*

BCP 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR ADVENT

Lector: Waiting and watching for our sure and certain hope in the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, let us pray for the world, the church and all people. God calls us to love one another. As a sign of that love, let us lift up our prayer to God for the needs of all people throughout the world, ...[pause] ...God, in your mercy,

People: ***Hear our prayer.***

Lector: We pray for the peace of the world, that our instruments of war may be transformed into instruments of peace, and that nations shall cease to learn war any more... God, in your mercy,

People: ***Hear our prayer.***

Lector: We pray for all people of good will who seek to cast off the works of iniquity, that we may be enlightened through our service with others in the name of Christ... God, in your mercy,

People: ***Hear our prayer.***

Lector: We pray for those who are assembled here today, that we may be clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ and go forth from this place to be Christ in the world. ... God, in your mercy,

People: ***Hear our prayer.***

Lector: We pray for Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for José our bishop; and for all bishops, for Milly our Rector, and for Mike, our Associate Rector. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Church of North India; and, in the Diocesan Cycle of

Prayer we pray for St. Andrew's, Bessemer City and St. Andrew's, Canton
God in your mercy.

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Lector: We pray for the sick, for the poor and for those who are alone. We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for those who have asked for our prayers: ...*Daniel and Hannah, Michelle, Laura and Tsz-yan, Kelly and Sydnor ...*

and for those in our parish who are homebound: *Bill Coward; Dorothy Engel; Eunice Ferguson; Ed Denison; Bobbie Eblen; Marion Mayfield-Johnson; Deb Pegel; Rita Spragg; and, Shirley Turner.....* Are there others? ...

God in your mercy.

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Lector: We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: *Artus Moser; Lisa Okes; Joyce Noble; Jeff Russell; Suzy Young; Sylvia Greenwood; Archie Clarkson; Peter Booth* God in your mercy.

People: *Hear our prayer.;*

Lector: We pray for those on the anniversaries of their deaths: *Mary Jane Pearson, Ham Bryson; Houston Harbin; Bob Baker; Veronica Drzewiecki; John Miller, Edward Stackhouse;* God in your mercy.

People: *Hear our Prayer.*

Lector: We praise you, Lord our God, that you have called us to be your people and the instruments of your presence in the world. Grant us grace to discern your will and the strength to do it, through Christ our Lord....
Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* John Behnke

DOXOLOGY: Old One Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II- ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant continues

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before you made the creation ready. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna is the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna is the highest.**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friend. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

BCP 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM:

Cassarino

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *(gluten free wafers available upon request)*

COMMUNION HYMN: *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

When a Eucharistic Minister is to be sent forth, the following is said:

Celebrant: In the name of God and this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: We who are many are one body because we all share the Word, one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

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THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

Robert Hobby



Please join us after the service for Advent Wreath Fellowship in the fellowship hall.

The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by Nora and Steve Jones in celebration of the birthday of their grandson Walker Webb.

The Advent Wreath is given to the Glory of God by Sylvia and Buddy Greenwood in memory of Roy Wilson Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Greenwood, and Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Morrow.

LAY MINISTERS

Acolyte: Cole Woodcox Chalicerist: Sally Withers

Lectors: John Woodson, Cole Woodcox Intercessor: Nancy Walters

Ushers: Mike Vines, Elaine Potter

Greeters: Chris Shaw, Bea and Jeff Russell

Vestry Member of the Day: Elaine Potter

ELECTRONIC GIVING MADE EASY: Grace Church receives electronic giving via our website at graceavl.com. There is a "Give to Grace" button on the top blue banner of our home page. Additional ways to give to our "*virtual collection plate*" and various fundraising efforts are through the Simple Church app and the Venmo app @GraceEpiscopal-Church.



SimpleChurch CRM



venmo



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 ANNUAL MEETING OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH JANUARY 14TH AT 9:00 IN THE PARISH HALL.

Join us for breakfast before services for our annual meeting. Together we will vote on new vestry members, celebrate those that are rotating off vestry, and hear about ministries of the church.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

It is time to consider those who wish to serve Grace Church as vestry leaders for 2024. If you feel called or have a nomination to make please email Rev. Milly with names by December 20th! Thank you!

" The vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. The number of vestry members and the term of office varies from parish to parish. Vestry members are usually elected at the annual parish meeting. The presiding officer of the vestry is the rector. There are usually two wardens. The senior warden leads the parish between rectors and is a support person for the rector. The junior warden often has responsibility for church property and buildings. The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances."

CHRISTMAS GREENERY AND FLOWER DONATIONS

The flower guild will be decorating the altar and chancel areas as well as the two front doors this year. Therefore, donations will be welcomed to cover the costs for those areas. Please make checks payable to Grace Flower Guild or use [venmo](#) to complete your payment.

DECEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



ANGEL TREE

Our Angel Tree is here, providing again an opportunity to make wishes come true for families caring for children/youth in both foster and kinship programs. Each angel bears the name, age, sizes and wishes of a child or young person. Choose one or several. And as always, you don't have to purchase every item on a list. Do what you are able to do, or share the list with a friend or group. Gifts should be returned to the church by **December 10th**.

We are grateful for your ongoing and enthusiastic support for this Outreach ministry. Your generosity offers hope and encouragement to those in need in our community, and makes Christmas special for many.



PUBSING

Come join us for our PubSing, an informal gathering on the second Sunday of each month to sing hymns, old-time gospel, folk, and Americana inspirational music. We'll

meet on **December 10** at Cork & Keg Bar, 86 Patton Ave., Asheville from 3:00-5:00 p.m. For directions go to <http://www.weinhaus.com/cork-keg-bar/>. For more information contact Monty Wooten at montywooten@bellsouth.net

BISHOP'S VISIT



 **GRACE**
Episcopal Church
ASHEVILLE, NC

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, GRACE
COMMUNITY! ON **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17,**
BISHOP JOSE MCLOUGHLIN WILL BE
JOINING US FOR WORSHIP.

ALSO HAPPENING ON THE 17TH:

- Chili cook off,
- Hanging of the greens,
- Confirmations,
- And new members receptions!

Come welcome your bishop and new church
community members!



Chili and fixins and desserts are needed for the Bishop's visit. Please email Shannon Townsend (gstownsend@att.net) if you are able to help.

ADVENT IN A BAG

We're continuing our great tradition of helping ABCCM fill its food pantry and feeding the poor and hungry in Asheville during the cold winter months. Please pick up a bag from your pew or in the lobby and let's get started!

Each day during Advent, read the appointed scripture (included with your bag), put the requested food item in the bag, and let the kids (and grown-ups) use the complimentary colored pencils to color that day's bag decoration on the tree. By the end of the Advent season, you'll have an Advent calendar "work of art" and a bag full of much needed non-perishable food items that can be brought to the church either on Christmas Eve or on Sunday, December 25.

And to help inspire us, a pamphlet, "25 Advent Verses to Reflect on With Your Family This Christmas", is also included in your bag. Last year, Grace delivered one-half ton of food to ABCCM. This year, ABCCM needs more food to offset the pressures and impact inflation is having on our lives. Let's work together and by the Grace of God, let's help meet this need!

FLOWER OPPORTUNITY

Would you like to honor or memorialize someone this year? We have an opening for flowers on December 31. Please email Jennifer Witt (jmwitt5384@gmail.com) to sign up.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Paper Bag Pageant - 4:00 pm -Bring the family for the tradition at Grace

Holy Communion - 8:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES 10:00a.m

GRACE ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2024

Please go to tinyurl.com/grace-stewardship-2024 to make your pledge, or use the QR code below.

RADICAL STEWARDSHIP IS AN ACT OF TRUST

When we pledge to Grace Church we are practicing radical trust in the belief that we have an abundance to share in stewardship for the common good.

RADICAL STEWARDSHIP 2024 BEGINS NOW!

MAKE YOUR 2024 PLEDGE TO GRACE CHURCH HERE:

tinyurl.com/grace-stewardship-2024



And thank you for being a part of this community.

Pledges will be totaled and celebrated on January 7th at our Epiphany service.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: *Mondays at 10:00am* We study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday service. Please join us virtually by clicking on the button at graceavl.com/.

TAIZE: *Tuesdays at 6pm* Weekly Taize services are held in the sanctuary. Healing prayer is offered throughout the service for oneself or on behalf of someone else. For more information on Taizé at Grace visit: www.graceavl.com/taize-grace

WOMEN WALKING THE WAY: *Thursdays at 8:00am* meet at the Bird Sanctuary parking lot. No need to email or notify Milly; just come!

PASTORAL CARE

Reach out to us by emailing the team at Pastoralcare@graceavl.com. You can also email, text or call Fr. Mike at 860.771.1656 or Rev. Milly at 828.772.1429, Sunday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., unless it's a pastoral emergency.

PRAYING TOGETHER: Rev. Milly holds open spiritual direction sessions for individuals or couples weekly by appointment Wednesdays 1-3 pm in the sanctuary. *Please email Rev. Milly to schedule your time with her.* milly@graceavl.com.

HAVE YOU ACCESSED OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY? An online directory is available to our members. *If you want to know how to become a member of Grace, please contact Rev. Milly Morrow at* milly@graceavl.com.



SimpleChurch CRM

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES AND MEETINGS

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Service or Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday 9a	Children's Sunday School	Atrium
Sunday, 10:30a	Holy Eucharist Service*	Sanctuary/YouTube**
Sunday after service	Advent Wreath Fellowship Acolyte Training	Parish Hall Sanctuary
Mondays, 10am	Aunt Dinah's Quilting Circle	Library
Mondays	Chair Aerobics	Parish Hall
Tuesdays 6p	Taizé Service	Sanctuary
Wednesdays, 9:30a	Pastoral Care Team Meeting	Library
Wednesdays 1p	Tai Chi	Parish Hall
Wednesdays, 1-3p	Praying Together with Rev. Milly - <i>by appointment</i>	Sanctuary
Wednesdays, 6:30p	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thursdays, 8a	Women Walking the Way	Beaver Lake
	* BULLETIN AVAILABLE **LINK ON HOME PAGE	graceavl.com

OUR PRAYER LIST

For Parishioners: Daniel and Hannah Johnston; Michelle Neally; Laura & Tsz-yan Snyder; Kelly and Sydnor Thompson.

For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: **Bill Coward; Ed Denison; Bobbie Eblen; Dorothy Engel; Eunice Ferguson; Marion Mayfield-Johnson; Deb Pegel; Rita Spragg; Shirley Turner.**

For Others: (Names will remain on the list for 6 weeks unless we hear otherwise.)

David Albertson (cousin of Cliff Albertson); Allen (brother of Cheryl Aull); **Wes Auret** (godson of Elaine Potter); **Gabriel and Lara Brongel and family** (grandson and daughter of Jackie Schauer); **Cherie Brown** (daughter of Ed and Maria Woeckener); **Don Fowler** (friend of Pat and George Davis); **Jackie Haines** (sister of Carol Booth); **Cherry Howe** (friend of Rusty Herman and Janice Orson); **Ashley Israel** (daughter of Jennifer Witt); **Jim Kaderabek** (father of Todd Kaderabek); **Candy Kelly** (friend of Dodie King); **Scott Mall** (friend of Doug McClellan); **Dennis Mason** (friend of Pat Walters); **Sandra McPeters** (friend of Cheryl Aull); **Mike Mohney and family** (friends of Greg Townsend, James Cassarino and others); **David Moltke-Hansen and Patricia Poteat** (friends of Jeanne and Ron Sims); **Barney Noble** (son of Joyce and Walt Noble); **Bob Noble** (brother of Walt Noble); **Meredith Peppers** (cousin of Carole McClellan); **Addy Poole** (great nephew of Pat and George Davis); **Jeanne Schenk** (friend of Jeanne and Ron Sims); **Linda and Barry Swaim** (sister and brother in law of Cathy Adkins).

For Those in Service to Our Country: **Tommy Brown** (grandson of Ed & Marla Woeckener); **Martha and Matt Cardenas** (daughter & son-in-law of Hannah Pennell); **Matthew George** (son of Zoe Davis); **Jason Marino** (son of Lynda McCredie); **Jonah Silvers** (son of Mark Silvers and Chance Wyatt); **Sarah Jane Wilkey** (daughter of Diane & Tony Wilkey).

For Those in the Episcopal Church: **Michael** (our presiding Bishop); **José** (our Bishop); **the clergy, vestry, staff, ministries, and people of this parish; Church of the Advocate.**

For our President Joe Biden, his Cabinet, Congress & our country; for victims of violence across the world; for local agencies & those who work for relief of the poor; for better stewardship of the environment; for resolution of crises throughout our world.

Please go to graceavl.com/spiritual-growth/prayer-ministries/ for more opportunities to request prayer. Get permission from anyone you would like to add to this list and contact our Pastoral Care Ministry at pastoralcare@graceavl.com or contact the church,

Grace Episcopal Church
871 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, NC 28804
828-254-1086
Office Hours - Tuesday, Thursday 9-3
Wednesday 9-12
office@graceavl.com | www.graceavl.com

The Right Reverend José McLoughlin, *Bishop*
The Reverend Milly Morrow, *Rector*
The Reverend Mike Reardon, *Associate Rector*
James Cassarino, *Director of Music*
Cathy Adkins, *Organist*
Sidney Haga, *Nursery and Youth Minister*
Esta Levine, *Nursery Minister*
Katie Douglas, *Finance Officer*
Jill Stevenson, *Office Manager*
Angel Stoudt, *Sexton*
Archie Clarkson, *Tech Director*
Katherine Johnson, *Wedding Coordinator*