



Grace Episcopal Church

The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

10:30 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Sleepers Awake!*

J.S. Bach

The Acclamation

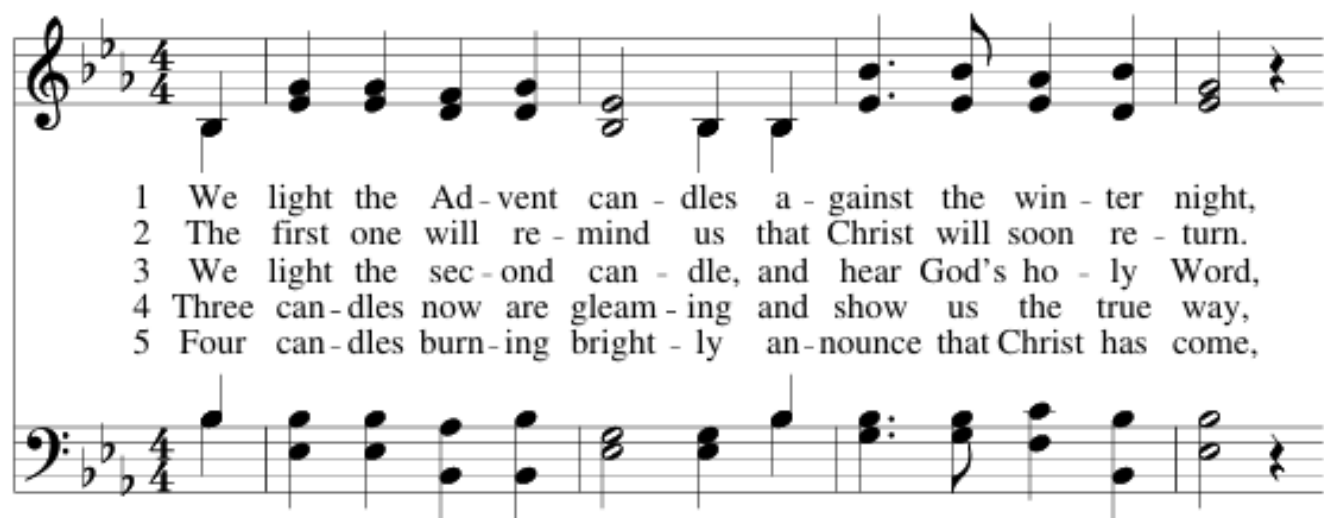
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *Lo! he comes, with clouds descending*

57

Collect for Purity



1 We light the Ad-vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night,
2 The first one will re - mind us that Christ will soon re - turn.
3 We light the sec - ond can - dle, and hear God's ho - ly Word,
4 Three can - dles now are gleam - ing and show us the true way,
5 Four can - dles burn - ing bright - ly an - nounce that Christ has come,



to wel-come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light,
We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn,
it tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord,
re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day,
pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room,



to wel-come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light.
We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn.
it tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord!
re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day!
pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 211

THE WORD OF GOD

The First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

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

Psalm 122

I was glad when they / **said to me,**
"Let us go to the house / **of the Lord.**"
Now our feet are / **standing**
within your gates, O Je-rusalem.

Jerusalem is built as / **a city**
that is at unity / **with itself;**
To which the tribes go up, the tribes / **of the Lord,**
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name / **of the Lord.**

For there are the thrones / **of judgment,**
the thrones of the / **house of David.**
Pray for the peace of Je-rusalem:
May they pros-per who love you.

Peace be within / **your walls**
and quietness with-in **your towers.**
For my brethren and companions' sake, I pray for / **your prosperity.**
Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to / **do you good."**

The Second Lesson: Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn: *"Sleepers wake!" A voice astounds us*

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

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

The Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Nicene Creed *(standing)*

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People: Form V

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers.

Leader In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "*Lord, have mercy.*"

Leader For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for José, our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God; and in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, for The Anglican Church of Australia; and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, St. Andrew's, Bessemer City and St. Andrew's, Canton, we pray to you, O Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Lector Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for Linda & David Adams, Joan & Allyn Aldrich, David Gentry, Anne Jarema, Todd Kaderabek, Nancy Lewis, The Reverend Timothy McRee, Wayne & Laura Parton, Elaine Potter, Ann Robinson, Jeff Russell, Becky & Bill Smith, Laura, Tsz-yan (G-Yen) and Roger Snyder, Shannon Townsend, and Ed & Marla Woeckener...Are there others? We pray to you, O Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Lector Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Let us give thanksgiving for those celebrating birthdays, especially David Adams, Artis Moser, Joyce Noble, Fr. John Rice, Jeff Russell, and Suzy Young; and for those celebrating their anniversaries, especially Eleanor & Randy Jameson, and Dodie & John King.

Leader We commend to your mercy all who have recently died, especially Charles Weavers, Charlotte Berry and Nancy Hutchins; and on the anniversary of their deaths we pray for Carl Baldasaro, Peggie Carey, Susie Farnam, Frank Brown, Marzy Israel, Mary Jane Peterson, Ham Bryson, Robert Dale Noble, Houston Harbin, and Bob Baker, and for those who still grieve them...Are there others? For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

People *To you, O Lord our God.*

Silence

The celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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

Dix

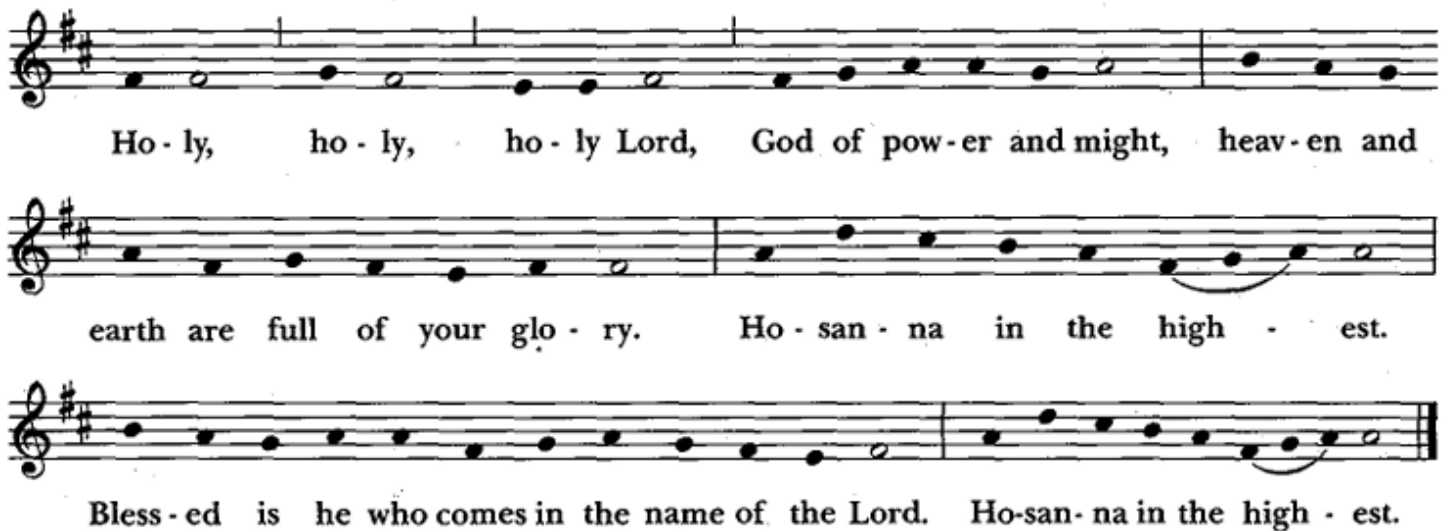
Praise to God, immortal praise,
For the love that crowns our days;
Bounteous Source of every joy,
Let Thy praise our tongues employ,
All to Thee, our God, we owe,
Source whence all our blessings flow.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

Sanctus

Hurd



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

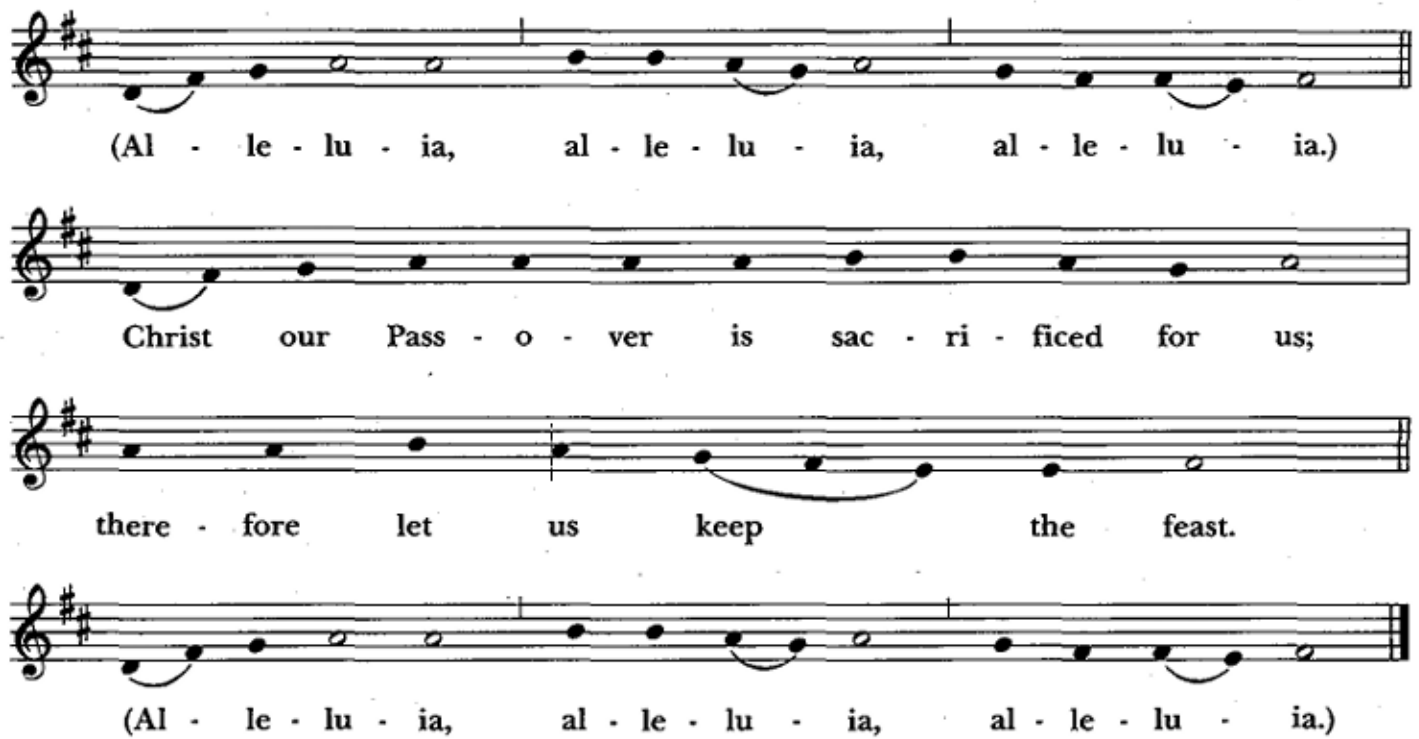
The Lord's Prayer (*Traditional*)

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Hurd



Invitation to Communion

(gluten free wafers available upon request)

Communion Anthem: Canticle of the Turning

Irish/arr. Rory Cooney

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors

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 one bread and one cup.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: The King shall come when morning dawns

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Dismissal

Postlude: *Sleepers Awake!*

David Lasky



The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by Vicki Vest in honor of Paul's birthday and upcoming retirement.

The Altar greenery is given to the glory of God by Anna Hamrick and Sam Snead and their daughters, Georgia Grace and Caroline, in thanksgiving for the Grace Church family.



LAY MINISTERS

Crucifer: Sally Withers Torches: Sarah Beasley, Lorie Tola
Chalicerist: Elaine Potter Lectors: Cliff Albertson, Kristen Dusenbury
Intercessor: Elaine Potter Presenters: Beth & John Woodson
Ushers: Kyle Lucy & Charlie Rhodes
Greeters: Ginny Moser, Jennifer Witt, Melanie Drunkenmiller
Coffee Hour: Bea Russell, Chris Shaw
Vestry Member of the Day: Kim Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wreath Making Workshop Today

As our Advent journey begins, everyone is invited to an Advent Wreath Making Workshop following worship today. The cost is \$5.00 for the wreath form and \$5.00 for a set of candles, which can be purchased separately if you already have a wreath at home.

Advent-in-a-Bag Starts with Great Enthusiasm!

It was wonderful seeing all of your enthusiasm Sunday as the Advent Bags seemed to literally fly off the table in the lobby at Grace! Now each day you can read the assigned scripture, put the designated food item in your Advent bag, and then color in the food item on your Advent-in-a-Bag Calendar for ABCCM. When you've collected all of your food items, you may bring them to the foyer at Grace by whichever way it works best for you: in your Advent Bags, plastic containers, boxes and grocery sacks.

Get Your Fresh Green Christmas Trees and Wreaths at Grace

Every Friday, Saturday (8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. both days) and Sunday (12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m.) - until December 21, we are hosting a Christmas tree sale on the front lawn of Grace Church to benefit Consider Haiti. Similar to our Pumpkin Patch, beautiful fresh trees and wreaths are being sold by C&J Christmas Trees from Boone, NC, and a portion of every sale will be donated to Consider Haiti's work. Be sure to tell everyone you know!

Advocacy and Action Meeting December 7

If you're interested in meeting with a group of like-minded Grace members and friends to discuss how we might help bring justice in a more effective and joyful way, together rather than alone, please join us on December 7 after worship in the downstairs conference room. Or, send an email or text to Tahani Sticpewich (tahaniweb@gmail.com; 828-301-0550). All are welcome.

Altar Flower Donations

If you would like to honor or celebrate a family member, friend, or special day, with altar flowers, contact Jennifer Witt at jmwitt5384@gmail.com.

Hospitality Needs Help

Do you like to have a snack after church? We all do! The Hospitality Committee is looking for help on December 7, 14 and 29. Light nibbles – nothing fancy – and extra hands are always appreciated! Sign up online or on the chart by the kitchen. Please call Bea Russell at 828-775-4304 for more information.

Pastoral Care Requests

The Pastoral Care Team is asking that your prayer requests now be submitted to the team by using the Prayer Request Form. This will ensure accuracy of our master prayer list which is used to produce the bulletin, Prayers of the People and our Growing in Grace newsletter. Your Pastoral Care Team appreciates your support. Use <https://forms.gle/4xwW6xw5UST89Fpg7>.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Confirmation Series: *Sundays at 9:00 a.m.*

Meet in the library. If you have not yet been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, you are still welcome to join this class. All that is required is your baptism in some Christian tradition.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: *On hiatus through the end of the year*

Monday Morning Bible Study: *Mondays at 10:30 a.m.*

We study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday service. Please join us virtually by clicking on the button at graceavl.com.

Taizé: *Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.*

Weekly Taizé 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: graceavl.com/taize-grace.

Women Walking the Way: *Thursdays at 8:20 a.m.*

Meet in the Bird Sanctuary parking lot by Beaver Lake for a walk around the lake and some spiritual reflection with like-minded women. For more information, contact Ann Lewis at annaflewis7@gmail.com or call her at 815-441-2282.

New Time: Soaking Prayer: *Wednesdays at 12:00 noon*

Meets in the Sanctuary. This 45 minute service uniquely blends Holy Silence with Holy Spirit. The silence allows the Spirit to move deeper into the needs and life struggles that we face week-to-week.

GRACE'S PRAYER LIST

For Parishioners: **Linda & David Adams, Joan & Allyn Aldrich, David Gentry, Anne Jarema, Todd Kaderabek, Nancy Lewis, Fr. Timothy McRee, Wayne & Laura Parton, Elaine Potter, Ann Robinson, Jeff Russell, Becky & Bill Smith, Shannon Townsend, Laura, Tsz-yan (G-Yen) and Roger Snyder, Mary Ann & Bill Warren, Ed & Marla Woeckener.**

For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: **Martha Boyette, Ed Denison, Nancy Sink, Rita Spragg, Walt & Joyce Noble.**

For Others: (Names will remain on the list for six weeks unless we hear otherwise). **Geraldine Allen** (aunt of Carole McClellan); **Allen** (brother of Cheryl Aull); **Aubrey** (friend of Joe & Cheryl Aull); **Bridget Black** (cousin of Lorie Tola); **the Brongel family** (daughter and family of Jackie Schauer); **Donna Boone** (mother of Hannah Buckner's daughter-in-law); **Bob Brennan** (relative of Anne Jarema); **Molly Breslin** (friend of Gary Coffey); **Mary Daniels Chapman** and **Tim Chapman** (friends of Nancy Porter); **Marcie Coleman** (friend of Lynda McCredie); **Peter Fitzpatrick** (friend of Eleanor Jameson); **Jill Franklin** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Tom Hunnicutt** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Jim Kaderabek**, (father of Todd Kaderabek); **Sue Larsen** (sister of Kristen Dusenbery); **Judy Wells Meehan** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Bunky Manship** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Daniel McRee** (son of Fr. Timothy McRee) and **David** (husband of Daniel McRee); **Megan** (friend of George & Pat Davis); **Mel** (cousin of Pat Davis); **Diana Noble** (daughter of Walt & Joyce Nobel); **Meredith Peppers** (cousin of Carole McClellan); **Kip & Val Pritchard** (friends of Cliff); **Valerie** (daughter of Sharon & Jim Rains); **Kevin Randall** (friend of Ron & Jeanne Sims); **Sarah Ray** (cousin of Doug McClellan); **Peter John Rouse, Sr.** (grandfather of Mike Vines); **Wiley Thornton** (cousin of Carol McClellan); **Stephanie Tugurian** (daughter of Ron & Jeanne Sims).

For the recently deceased: **Charles Weavers, Charlotte Berry, Nancy Hutchins.**

For those celebrating birthdays: **David Adams, Artis Moser, Joyce Noble, Fr. John Rice, Jeff Russell, Suzy Young.**

For those celebrating anniversaries: **Eleanor & Randy Jameson, Dodie & John King.**

For Those in Service to Our Country: **Tommy Brown** (grandson of Ed & Marla Woeckener); **Matt & Martha Cardenas** (daughter & son-in-law of Hannah Buckner); **John Davids** (nephew of Elaine Potter); **Matthew George** (son of Zoe Davis); **Jason Marino** (son of Lynda McCredie); **Brady Paschall** (granddaughter of Gael Paschall); **Sarah Jane Wilkey** (daughter of Diane & Tony Wilkey).

For Those in the Episcopal Church: **Sean**, our presiding Bishop; **José**, our Bishop; **the clergy, vestry, staff, ministries, and people of this parish;** in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for **The Anglican Church of Australia;** and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, **St. Andrew's, Bessemer City and St. Andrew's, Canton.**

For our Nation and the Wider World: For the President and his Cabinet; for Congress; and for our country; for victims of violence around the world; for local agencies and those who work for relief of the poor; for stewardship of the environment; for resolution of crises throughout our world.



Grace's Mission Statement

Grace Church exists as a diverse community of the Body of Christ, to serve Jesus Christ our Lord. Our mission is to nurture and develop each individual to reach out and share God's love.



Grace Episcopal Church

871 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28804

828-254-1086

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

office@graceavl.com

The Right Reverend José McLoughlin, *Bishop*

The Reverend Timothy McRee, The Reverend John Rice, *Clergy*

James Cassarino, *Director of Music*

Cathy Adkins, *Organist*

Anne Spruance, *Office Administrator*

Katie Douglas, *Finance Manager*

Angel Stoudt, *Sexton*