



# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide  
Anglican Communion.

## A LITURGY FOR HOME

*When life's circumstances prevent us from attending Church*

### The Third Sunday of Advent

*December 13, 2020 — 10:30 am Service*

*Before the Service — Speak quietly to God  
During the Service — Let God speak to you  
After the Service — Speak to one another*

### ***TO JOIN THIS SERVICE LIVE VIA ZOOM***

**To join this service online, visit our website at [gracechurchmtclemens.org](http://gracechurchmtclemens.org) and follow the link.**

**To join this service by phone, call 312-626-6799**

**Meeting ID: 899 8049 9374**

**Password: 382635**

Officiant: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik  
Cell: 203-641-2068

Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan  
Ms. Amy Saari, Minister of Music

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Visit us on the web at

[www.gracechurchmtclemens.org](http://www.gracechurchmtclemens.org)

## Opening Hymn: The Desert Shall Rejoice

The des-ert shall re-joice and blos-som as a rose:

1. It shall  
2. For the  
3. For the  
4. For the

blos - som a - bun - dant - ly and re - joice with praise and sing - ing.  
ears of the deaf shall hear And the blind, their eyes be o - pened.  
tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with glad - ness.  
ground will be - come a pool and the dry land springs of wa - ter.

5. The desert shall rejoice  
and blossom as a rose:  
as the ransomed return to God  
and come singing back to Zion.

6. The desert shall rejoice  
and blossom as a rose:  
unto Zion we come with joy,  
for our God has come to save us.

## CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER

Today we re-light the Prophet's Candle of Hope and the Angel's Candle of Peace and we now light our third candle: the Bethlehem Candle of Joy. Traditionally, this is often a pink candle to represent joy, instead of the purple or blue candles that represent our penitence and Christ's royal kingship. As the birth place of Jesus, Bethlehem is a unique symbol of life-changing joy. In a season filled with laughter and celebration, take some time this week to observe the small joys in your life: the smile of a child, the touch of a loved one, the smells of home, the kindness of friends. Delight in the quiet joys of this holy, happy season.

**ALL: Almighty God, thank you for the blessing of the angels. May we hold Your peace in our hearts as a rock, upon which we can anchor our lives and find sure footing in the midst of life's storms. You came to bring peace to all people – Jew and Gentile alike. Help us work to find peace even with those who see different than us. Keep us mindful of others and make us brave to share your peace with a world that so desperately needs it. Amen.**

## Candle Lighting Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel

O Come, O come thou Lord of might  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## **The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant: May God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## ***THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD***

### **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***THE RESPONSE***

### **Psalm 126**

#### ***In convertendo***

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

#### ***The Second Reading***

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church .

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **The Gospel Hymn: Prepare the Way of the Lord**

Prepare the way of the Lord  
Prepare the way of the Lord  
And all people shall see the salvation of our God

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, from John 1:6-8,19-28

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Christ**

**The Homily: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik**

*We observe a brief silence for reflection.*

**The Affirmation of our Faith**

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I give my heart to God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I give my heart to Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried,**

**And descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I give my heart to the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic and apostolic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *The People stand or kneel.*

Wherever we are, in the wilderness, the countryside, or the city, God, you are there. That our hearts may be stirred up in thanksgiving for the life you have given us, let us pray, saying:

***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and stars that shelter the night: May our eyes be open to the beauty around us, the subtle changes in the sky, the delicate coating of soil from which breaks forth our food and flowers and in which animals make their home. Help us to protect and nurture your creation around us and ever proclaim its wonders.

***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

For the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of the church, the persons next to us in the pew, those in neighborhood churches, the national, international and ecumenical church of every race, nation and economic circumstance.

***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

For those in authority in our community, state and nation: that you may guide their hearts and minds to make good decisions for the welfare of all people.

***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

For those at greatest risk among us: Let us pray for those who are lonely, rejected, homeless or oppressed, for the sick especially those with COVID-19 and those who struggle with addictions and for all those who do not have enough food to eat or clean safe water to drink.

***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

For those who have died: Let us remember those who have gone before us, those who have sacrificed for us, our families, friends, neighbors.

***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

For all those who are sick or infirmed or who have asked for our prayers: **Ena, Cynthia, Michelle, Jeff, Samantha, Thor, Rosy, Cindy, Deborah, Jeanne, Michelle, Pam, Liz, Janice, PamZ, Sue, Frank, Carol, Candy, Jennifer, Nina, Susan, Barbara, Dan, Donna, Herman, David, Keta, Brianna, Helen, Craig, Matthew, Jennie, Al, LaCara, Jerry, Earlene, Dan, Owen, Joe, Mimi, Katherine.**

For Mimi Lambert's grandson, Odin, who died over the Thanksgiving holiday. May God bless and comfort Odin's family and receive him into the joy of eternal life.

***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

Bless, comfort and protect all those for whom we pray

***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

## **CONCLUDING COLLECT**

O God, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place and as you prepare the way, making every valley filled and every mountain brought low in blessing and adoration, guide us to Jesus. **AMEN.**

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
*A brief silence may be observed.*

**For all the ways in which we break,  
And wound, and mock your love  
By how we treat each other,  
We are truly sorry,  
And we ask your forgiveness and mercy.**

**Give us the grace to apologize  
The courage to forgive,  
And the will to reconcile –  
With ourselves, each other, and you.  
Amen.**

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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING ADVENT 3

*Celebrant:* May God be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them up to God.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to our God.

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

*Celebrant:* It is good and right to give you thanks, O God our Creator.

Like a potter with her clay, you fashioned the world and all its creatures.

You shaped humankind in your image and breathed life into us, that we would show forth your glory and honor.

*People:* ***We are your people, and the work of your hand.***

*Celebrant:* However, our faithfulness faded like the leaves of winter; we turned and sinned against you.

You did awesome deeds that we did not expect,

but still we forgot your Name and ignored your glory. And so you fed us with the bread of tears and made us the scorn of our neighbors. We cried to you in despair and penitence.

*People:* ***We are your people, and the work of your hand.***

*Celebrant:* We give you thanks, O God, that you heard our cry. Our Creator, you refashioned our hearts and restored us to your love. And at the right time you sent your beloved Son, to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life. Therefore, from generation to generation we join with angels and saints, gathered from all tribes and peoples and languages, to sing our hymn of joy:

## SANCTUS: Holy Holy

*Celebrant continues.*

Glory, praise and honor to you, Lord God. Born of your promise, Jesus lived among us, proclaiming the day of your coming. He taught us to watch and listen, to learn your signs and keep awake.

On the night before He died for us, Jesus was at supper with his friends.  
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.”

We ask you, Lord God, to send your Spirit upon these gifts: Let this bread and wine become for us the Body and Blood of Christ. And send your Spirit upon us, also, that our lives may reflect your light in the darkness, and show the world whose people we are.

*People: We are your people, and the work of your hand.*

*Celebrant:* Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, from the ends of the earth to the heights of heaven, we praise you with the joy of the redeemed.

*People: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

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

**Our Father in heaven, Holy is your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **BREAKING OF BREAD**

*Celebrant:* He whom the universe could not contain is present to us in this bread and this wine.

*People: In them God comes to us, so that we may come to God.*

## **FRACTION ANTHEM**

*Celebrant:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People: Therefore let us keep the feast.*

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

## **Music for Communion: One Bread, One Body**

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
We are one body in this one Lord.*

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
woman or man, no more. *Refrain*

Many the gifts, many the works,  
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one for all. *Refrain*

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:** *said by all, standing or kneeling*

**We praise and thank you, God our Creator, for you have not left us alone. Each year you come to us as Emmanuel, God with us, in a manger; Each time you come to us, in the broken bread and cup we share. Give us courage to see your Christ in all who suffer; and to offer our hands to the helpless, food to the hungry, and rescue for the oppressed. In his holy Name we pray. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

May the blessing of the one, true and Holy God, who made us for love, who saved us by love and who still loves us; be upon us and around us, filling us with love, peace and joy, this day and forever more. Amen.

## **Closing Hymn: Holy Darkness, by Amy Saari**

1.  
Holy darkness, holy light;  
Every day is born of night.  
Sun of morning, star of night;  
Jesus comes to bring new sight.

2.  
Holy darkness covering me;  
Holy light I've still to see.  
Holy Jesus, Baby to be,  
Holy Child, be born in me.

3.  
Holy Advent, holy time;  
Darkness opens to light sublime.  
Holy Jesus, glory be thine;  
Make us holy and wholly thine.

## **The Dismissal**

**Priest:** Our worship has ended, let our service begin. Go forth into the world to love and serve God and our neighbor.

**People:** Through worship, outreach, and love for all, Amen.

## **The Prayers of this Congregation**

For all refugees, especially those at our southern border; for the farmers across our country who are struggling; for Bonnie Perry, our Bishop, for Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., our retired bishop; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod; Stewart Wood, our retired bishop; and our whole diocesan household, including St. Thomas' in Trenton, St. Paul & St. Luke in San Isidro DR, Christ Church in Detroit; for Gretchen, our Governor; Donald, our President, and all members of Congress.

For Ena Pederson, Cynthis Burdie, Michelle, Jeff, Samantha, Thor, Rosy, Cindy, Deborah Pinto, Jeanne Nowak, Michelle Wisneski, Pam Sherry, Liz Moorehouse, Janice Kibler, Pam Zawierucha, Sue Schlanbusch, Carol Bales, Candy Dixon, Jennifer Holland, Nina DiGaetano, Susan Fox, Frank & Barbara Davenport, Dan Davenport, Donna Hanes, Herman Houser, David Sonntag, Keta, Brianna, Helen Stein, Craig Anderson, Matthew, Jennie Berube, Al Hunt, LaCara Hunt, Dan, Jerry & Earlene Gardner, Owen F., Joe Fettue, Mimi Lambert, Katherine Domienik.

***Please note: Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.***

***In order to add someone or keep someone on the prayer list, please fill out a new prayer card (from the back of the pews) and place it in the offering tray.***

***Do you know someone who is ill? Please contact the office and we will add them to the prayer list.***

**JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY**

Tuesdays at 7 pm on Zoom *(Meeting info will remain as follows each week)*  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89732417015?pwd=Z0NkeFQ4L2FFSExYelB3WXoyUmFvZz09>  
Meeting ID: 897 3241 7015 Password: 683930 Or call: 312-626-6799

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

A blood drive will be held on Thursday, December 17 from 10 am until 4 pm here at Grace. Visit [Redcross.org](http://Redcross.org) to schedule online or see Martha Houser for more information.

**PATTI FRALEY ORDINATION**

Bishop Bonnie Perry will ordain Patricia A. Fraley to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Saturday, December 19 at 9 am at The Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Service will be livestreamed at <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsdetroit> and at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPdX8xy9NcesFgk0tbhtCw>  
Your virtual prayers and presence are requested

**WARMING CENTER FEBRUARY 14-21**

Warming Center is not rotating among churches this year, but our help is still needed to provide food for their guests. Volunteers are needed to make food in their own homes and deliver to the church. We will make soups, stews and sandwiches. Volunteers will also be needed to transport the food from the church to the shelter each day between 11 am and 1 pm. Donations requested include individual servings of cereal, breakfast bars, chips, snacks, lunch items, as well as laundry pods and dryer sheets.

<b>Grace's Income and Expenses</b>		<b>Capital Campaign</b>
Nov. total expenses: \$27,385.62	Dec. pledge income: \$3,598.91	Goal for 2020-22: \$150,000.00
Nov. total income: \$16,484.21	Dec. outreach income: \$2,050.00	Pledged to date: \$85,850.00
	Dec. rental income: \$00.00	Received to date: \$31,875.00

**The MINISTRIES of GRACE CHURCH**  
*Currently*

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Sundays, online 8:30 & 10:30 am. Visit our website for more information.  
Bible Study: Thursdays at 10 am.

**OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

**Community Suppers:**

**Sundays** at 4:30, take-out meals only  
**Wednesdays** at 4:30, take-out meals only

**Food Pantry:**

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 am -12 noon, curbside pickup  
*Serving from 250 - 350 people every month*

**All outreach ministries welcome volunteers,  
financial donations, or food and clothing donations.**

*Call the office to learn about helping or giving:  
586-465-4573*