

First Sunday of Advent
Grace Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. Dr. John C. Bauerschmidt, Bishop
The Rev. Joseph N. Davis, Vicar
Deanie Moore, Director of Music

December 3, 2023

*Please keep silence in the church before the service
and turn off all cell phones.*

Prelude

Procession “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” Hymn 57

Acclamation BCP, p. 355

Priest: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever.

Collect for Purity

Kyrie Eleison Hymnal S-95; BCP p. 356

The Collect of the Day BCP, p. 211

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122 BCP, p. 779

(See lesson insert for text.)

Epistle Romans 13:11-14

Sequence “O Day of God, Draw Nigh” Hymn 601

The Gospel Matthew 24:36-44

Before the Gospel

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon	The Reverend Joseph N. Davis
Nicene Creed	BCP, p. 358
The Prayers of the People	Form V, BCP, p. 389
Confession	BCP, p. 360
The Peace	BCP, p. 360

Offertory Sentence

Offertory	“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”	Hymn 68
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The Great Thanksgiving

(All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion.)

Eucharistic Prayer B	BCP, p. 361
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(See service music sheet in your pew.)

Sanctus	Hymnal S-124; BCP, p. 362
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The Lord's Prayer	BCP, p. 364
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The Breaking of the Bread

Agnus Dei	Hymnal S-161; BCP, p. 407
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Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

(All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion. If you would like to receive the chalice by intinction, please allow the Eucharistic minister to take the host from your hand, dip it into the chalice, and place the host on your tongue. If you would like a blessing instead of receiving communion, bow your head and cross your arms over your chest, and the priest will give you a blessing.)

Music During Communion

“Sleepers Wake! A Voice Astounds Us” Hymn 61

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding” Hymn 59

Post Communion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Blessing

Procession

“The King Shall Come”

Hymn 73

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

A Note to Visitors

We are glad to have you with us. Please fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering plate and sign our guest register in the narthex. Please come to coffee hour after the service in the parish hall.

The Next Ten Days at Grace

We won't be having our inquirer's class Tuesday or our noon Eucharist Wednesday. Next Sunday is our Advent Service of Lessons and Carols at 10:00 a.m.

I will be away next weekend at my son Paschall's wedding. Fr. Sandy Herrmann will be our supply priest. Because of the wedding, I will be on vacation this week.

Inquirer's Class returns on December 12, and the noon Eucharist on the 13th. The Mission Council meets on 12/13. Fr. Joe

Christmas Parade

The Spring Hill Christmas Parade will be Saturday, December 9 at 5 pm. The police close the roads leading to the parade route around 4 pm, so our people should come to Grace by 3:30. We will decorate the church, putting lights and garlands up outside, with the tree up in Faith Hall.

We will keep alive one of our church traditions and have hot beverages and cookies to decorate for the parade onlookers, as well as crafts for the kids. This is a great outreach opportunity, as many parade-goers come through our church to see it, get a hot drink, and have refreshments. See Lynn Reiger for further details.

Donations to The Well

If you would like to donate items to this local food pantry, there is a collection box located in Faith Hall. Thank you for your contributions to this outreach ministry.

Stewardship Drive

We hope everyone will have had time to think and pray over this decision and turn in a pledge, either on a pledge card or online, by today. Turning in your pledge early helps our treasurer make out a budget before 2023 begins. We very much appreciate the way the people of Grace come forward to support the Church financially. The pledges will be blessed as part of the service today.

Father Joe and the Mission Council

Annual Meeting and Mission Council Elections

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 7, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. At this meeting, we will hear from representatives of the ministries of our church and elect two new members of the mission council. We offer our thanks to Robert Chapman and Will Pomeroy for their years of service on the mission council as their terms of service conclude this January.

Giving to Grace Church

To make a contribution to Grace Church, you may use the offering plate when it is passed, send your contribution in the mail, or give online through our website or by scanning the computer code below into your smartphone.

If you have particular needs for prayer or other ministrations of the Church, please contact me, the office, or the senior warden.

Father Joe



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Learn more about Grace Church
on our website at graceepiscopalspringhill.org.

It is the Mission of Grace Episcopal Church
to bring glory to God, build the spirituality of our people,
and bring Christ to our community.