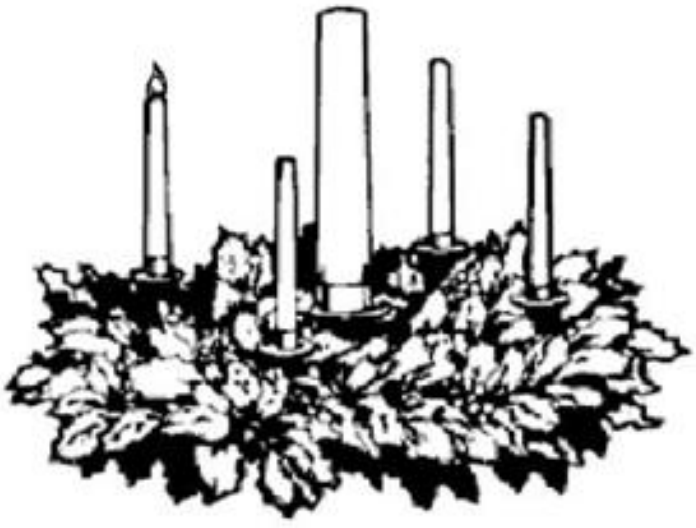
First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 10:00am

Online Service

Facebook/YouTube



Grace Episcopal Church

336 Main St, Old Saybrook, CT

PRELUDE : Then They Will Know

by: Michael Card, Scott Brasher; arr. Bethany Hamill

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THE ENTRANCE RITE (pg. 355, BCP)

OPENING HYMN

SIGNS OF ENDINGS ALL AROUND US

by: Dean W. Nelson, Ton-y-Botel, Thomas John Williams

Signs of endings all around us darkness, death, and winter days
Shroud our lives in fear and sadness, numbing mouths that long to praise.
Come, O Christ, and dwell among us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
Give us hope and faith and gladness. Show us what there yet can be.

Can it be that from our endings, new beginnings you create?
Life from death, and from our rendings, realms of wholeness generate?
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them into hopes for life anew:
Fading light and dying season sing their Glorias to you.

Speak, O God, your Word among us. Barren lives your presence fill.
Swell our hearts with songs of gladness, terrors calm forebodings still.
Let your promised realm of justice blossom now throughout the earth;
Your dominion bring now near us; we await the saving birth.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

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

The Celebrant says:

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.*

KYRIE ELEISON

Hymn #S-89

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison. Christe eleison. Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lector: In first century Christianity, Paul wrote these words to the church in Corinth:

(Eucharistic Minister lights the first Advent candle)

Lector: God has given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in Christ, in speech and knowledge of every kind– just as the testimony of Christ has strengthened among you– you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Congregation: **Advent is the season when we await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ made new again in the baby of Bethlehem. God comes to dwell among us.**

Lector: On the first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle named hope.
May this light ever remind us God is hope. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT *of the* DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever..**Amen.**

THE WORD *of* GOD

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST READING 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 hid 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.
After the reading, the Lay Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

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 angered
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 to scorn.

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: I 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.
After the reading, the Lay Reader says

The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART *by: Paul Baloche*

Chorus: **Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart;**
I want to see You, I want to see You.

(Chorus)

Verse: **To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory.**
Pour out Your power and love, as we sing holy, holy, holy.

(Chorus 2x)
(Verse)

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy;
Holy, holy, holy, I want to see You.
Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy;
Holy, holy, holy, I want to see You.

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THE GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

Then, all still standing, the Minister reads the Gospel, first saying:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark
Pe*ople* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

After the Gospel, the Reader says
The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON
The Very Rev. Charles Hamill

THE NICENE CREED *The congregation stands*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS *of the* PEOPLE Form 1 BCP p. 383

The celebrant says

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."
For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this city Old Saybrook, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, especially Donald & Virginia MacMurray, for whom the altar flowers are given, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, racism and degradation, and for cessation of war and hostilities across the world, especially in Russia and Ukraine and the Holy Land, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.
Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.
To thee, O Lord our God.

Take a moment now either out loud or in silence to add your own petitions to the Lord.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (pg. 360, BCP)

The Deacon or Celebrant then says
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

Minister and People
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says
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.**

THE PEACE

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

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

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY

COME THOU, REDEEMER OF THE EARTH
by: Richard Shephard

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall, such birth befits the God of all.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, and darkness glow with newborn light,
No more shall night extinguish day, where love's bright beams their power display.

O Jesu, virgin born to thee, eternal praise and glory be,
When with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit evermore. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW
by: Dave Moore, Lauren Moore, Thomas Ken

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye Heav'nly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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Praise Him above, ye Heav'nly host.
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Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B (BCP pg. 367)

The people remain standing.
The Celebrant faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **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
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:
HYMN #S-128 *by: William Mathias*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.
Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.
For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.
At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.
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 according to his command O Father:
Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory

The Celebrant continues
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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 forever..
AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,
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.

THE BREAKING *of the* BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation

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.

COMMUNION SONGS

CHANGE MY HEART OH GOD
by: Eddie Espinosa

Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like You.

You are the potter. I am the clay.
Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.

Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like You.

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O SHEPHERD, HEAR AND LEAD YOUR FLOCK (PSALM 80)
by: Michael Morgan, Lewis H. Redner

O Shepherd, hear and lead your flock, as lambs we crave your care;
what strength on earth approaches yours, what mercies can compare?
Restore, O God, your favor, the radiance of your face
to lighten and reveal the gift of your redeeming grace.

Our selfish prayers deserve God's wrath, our pride, a sudden burst;
we have but stones to serve as bread, and tears to quell our thirst.
Restore, O God Almighty, the radiance of your face

to lighten and reveal the gift of your redeeming grace.

God's lineage, like a vine, once spread and flourished in the land;
but now the vineyard fails, the fruit lies withered in the sand.
Restore, Lord God Almighty, the radiance of your face
to lighten and reveal the gift of your redeeming grace.

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD
by: Daniel Iverson

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.
Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

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PRAYER of SPIRITUAL COMMUNION
(For those unable to receive communion today)
In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection;
I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (pg. 365, BCP)
After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.
Celebrant and 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.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

HYMN #73 THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks;
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

Not, as of old, a little child, to bear, and fight, and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

The King shall come when morning dawns and earth's dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;

And let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold,
When right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings:
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray, come quickly, King of kings.

THE DISMISSAL

After the Recessional the Priest or Deacon says

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Celebrant and People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: How High And How Wide (How Great Is Your Love)
by: Mark Altrogge; arr. Bethany Hamill
CCLI #435313, License #338180

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Either during the service or during prayer time at home, please keep the prayers of Grace Church and the people going! Please keep us up to date on names to add and remove.

WE PRAY FOR: Myra, Lisa, Bryan, Barbara & Jon Zakhar, Deidra & George Labelle, Aurelia Knox, Sarah, Len Pass, James, Penny, Emily, Mary, Doug Hamill, JJ Evola & family, Jane Hamill, Kathi Jones, Cheryl Dudek, Debra Sticht, Elsie, Alicia Winalski and family, Marilyn, Dean, Barbara Bowie, Dick & Suzanne Watson, Judy & Clive Cowper, Alan, The Benways, Carol Wilson, Kate, Coral, Kirsten, Joyce Brinley, Curtis, Annaliese Harms, the Igelbrinks, Carol, Rory, Gianna Porcelli, Jan, Mike DeLisa, Patti & Missy Matto, Elizabeth Davey, Faith Drechsler, Josh, Walt, John, Collen, Laura and Julie Parker.

FOR THOSE IN SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY: Travis Board, Todd Buroff, Adam Randle, Susan Eaccarino, Madeline Sheahan, Matthew Auger, Eve Inglis and Will Featherstone.

FOR OUR MINISTERS AND MISSIONS: Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our presiding Bishop; Jeff and Laura, our Bishops; Charlie, Bill, Chuck, Ellendale and Ellen our priests; and for: Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, Common Good Gardens, The Grace Church RLM Teaching Garden, Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services, Early Head Start, the AA groups that meet at Grace Church, Patrick Dominguez and his church planting effort, Russ & Heidi Smith in Chile, and Kateri Medical Services in Nigeria. In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Christ Church, Ansonia: St. Paul's Parish; St. Paul's Church with Christ Church Chapel, Bantam/Bethlehem. As well as for Postulants & candidates for Holy Orders; the Commission on Ministry and its members

THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH: November 29th —December 6th

Today	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Sanctuary)
	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Sanctuary) w/music
	4:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Merrill Hall)
Monday		OFFICE CLOSED
	6:30 pm	Con Brio Choral Society Rehearsal (Merrill Hall)
	7:00 pm	Healing Ministry Bible Study
Tuesday	10:00 am	Senior Strings Musical Group (Merrill Hall)
	7:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Merrill Hall)
Wednesday	10:00 am	Early Head Start gathering
	12:00-1pm	Shoreline Soup Kitchens Community Lunch (Merrill Hall)
	6:30 pm	Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
Thursday		
Friday	10:00 am	Women of Grace Book Study (Hudson Room)
	12:00 pm	Men's Bible Study (Parthenon Diner, Old Saybrook)
Saturday	10:00 am	Grace Church Holiday Fair
Sunday	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Sanctuary)
	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Sanctuary) w/music
	4:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Merrill Hall)

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SPECIAL DATES

(All events will be held at Grace Church in the Sanctuary or Merrill Hall)

Grace Church Holiday Fair
Saturday December 6th, 10am-2pm

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24th, ONE service @ 5pm

Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25th, ONE service @ 10am

OUR PARTICIPANTS TODAY

CELEBRANT/PREACHER:	The Very Rev. Charlie Hamill	8 & 10 am
MUSIC DIRECTOR:	Bethany Hamill	10 am
CHOIR:	Joe & Jeannette Barone, JoAnn Eaccarino, Meredith Hall, Dick Mason, Bob Mulvihilll, Bill Passera, Bill Peace	
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:	Elizabeth Davey	8 am
	Julie Peace	10 am
LECTOR:	Tom Fuller	10 am
USHERS:	Nick & Lynn Iacovelli	8 am
	Charley Bates, Mary Matthews	10 am
NURSERY:	Karen Mulvihill, Kyle Trask-Kuchta	10 am
CAMERA TECH TEAM:	Matt Stosse	10 am
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Skip Fiorelli, Linda Santangelo	10 am
ALTAR GUILD:	Penny Coleman, Betty Salldin	

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Rector, The Very Rev. Charlie Hamill
Priest Associate, The Rev. Dr. Charles "Chuck" Hoffman
Priest Associate, The Rev. Canon Dr. Ellendale Hoffman
Priest Associate, The Rev. Dr. William "Bill" Veinot
Music Director, Bethany Hamill
Parish Administrator, Kate McKinney
Sexton, Sherry Schiavone

GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

Senior Warden: Jason Howey
Junior Warden: Matt Stosse
Treasurer: David Condren
Clerk: Julie Peace
Vestry Members: Sue Board, Ryan Earley, Tom Fuller, Michelle Kapp, Peter Knox, Mary Matthews

336 Main St., Old Saybrook, CT 06475

860-388-0895/ www.graceoldsaybrook.org

OFFICE E-Mail: gracechurcholdsaybrook@gmail.com

FIND US on Facebook and YouTube (for more info & livestream 10am services)

GRACE CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Giving Tree & "Socks for All" 2026

The Giving Tree and "Socks for All" Box are set up in the foyer of Merrill Hall adorned with green/red tags for purchases of a Gift Cards or Socks at the various stores and grocery stores in our area. When purchasing your gift card, please be certain to attach your RECEIPT/GIFT RECEIPT to the gift card. Thank you!

The deadline for returning gift cards/receipts and socks is ADVENT 3, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th.

It is important that a Gift Card/Receipt or Socks are given directly to a specific person versus leaving under the tree. Those specific people would be Pastor Charlie, Julie Peace, Parish Sexton Sherry Schiavone, or Karen Condren.

If you are unable to select a tag from the Giving Tree and you would still like to participate in our annual Giving Tree program, merely choose a business from the list below and purchase a gift card/receipt in any denomination and contact Karen Condren for Drop-off.

The various businesses include, but are not limited to: Stop & Shop, Big Y, Kohl's, Marshall's, Walmart, CVS, any of the Outlet Stores in Clinton or other local stores.

Thank you and Blessings,
Karen Condren, Contact Person
condrenk@comcast.net

Altar Flower Memorials

The Altar Guild is always accepting donations for Sunday altar flowers made out to "Grace Church Altar Guild" in memory or in celebration of loved ones. For more information, please contact Betty Salldin **bettysalldin@gmail.com**.

Grace Episcopal Church Prayer Line

Here's how it works…If you need prayer for something, call one of the Prayer Line Chairpersons (Joyce Brinley & Penny Coleman). Use your directory or call the church office for contact info. Please briefly tell them your request. The Prayer Line will take it from there. Once a member hangs up the phone, the intercession begins! The Prayer Line is available to receive requests from **9:00am to 8:30pm**. Typically the Prayer Line requests for the day go out to members about 7:00pm. However, requests of an emergency nature will be passed on immediately. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to have your brothers and sisters in Christ lift up your requests to God

Year End Message From The Treasurer

As we approach year end, I want to thank everyone who has faithfully supported Grace Church financially this year. For pledges or other donations to appear on your 2026 giving statement they must be **received by Sunday December 27.** Donations received after that date will appear on your 2027 giving statement.

Expenses for 2026 are over budget, mainly due to the heavy snowfall earlier this year and some unexpected boiler issues. Please consider an extra gift to the church as the year ends to help us make up for the unanticipated expenses.

Thank you,

David Condren, Grace Church Treasurer

Grace Church's Holiday Fair is coming to town!

Saturday Dec. 5th from 10am-2pm!

Please gather your treasures: dinnerware, antiques, toys, jewelry, handmade crafts, artwork, pottery, gift cards, items for silent auction, and other unique items to donate.

Note: THIS IS NOT A TAG SALE; we're hoping for nicer items!

Donations can be brought to the church undercroft after Sunday services or during the week on Mondays from 9:30am-11:30am, and Wednesdays from 12pm-2pm in November. LAST DAY TO DROP OFF IS SUN NOV 29!

Baked goods will be gladly accepted the evening before the sale on Dec. 4th, from 4pm-7pm or early on the morning of the sale (Dec 5th) from 8am-9am in order to allow time for pricing.

We will also need lots of helping hands the night before the sale to bring items from the basement up to the parish hall. If you can help, please come on Friday Dec 4th at 5pm; there will be pizza!

For more information or questions, text or call Kneen (860-908-0725) or Michelle (860-304-6284) or see us after church. We look forward to another successful Fair and most importantly spreading the Word that Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

Men's Bible Study is now meeting in-person at the Parthenon Diner in Old Saybrook on Fridays at 12noon.

For more information you can email Charley Bates: **charley.bates@yahoo.com** or go to our website: **https://www.graceoldsaybrook.org/mens-bible-study.**

Currently the men are studying the book of Hebrews.

Women of Grace (WOG) will begin a new study on Friday, November 20th. The study is titled "Practicing The Way" by John Mark Comer. This 8-week video study is an introduction to following Jesus in the modern era. All Grace Church women are welcome. We meet at 10:00 a.m. on Friday mornings in the Hudson Room. No personal invitations are necessary.

Feeding the hungry one donation at a time…
SSKP Food Pantry Donation Basket at Grace Church
Grace Church is always accepting non-perishable food donations throughout the year. A basket is present outside the main side entrance to Grace Church 24/7 to place donations in, or you can bring donations into the church entryway by the patio and place them in the colored bins. If you are curious as to what kind of foods, they are in need of most you can go to their website **https://www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org**. In addition, you can always make a cash donation to SSKP. Thank you for your ongoing donations to feed those in need along the shoreline!

Grace Episcopal Church in Old Saybrook

We are a community of faith, rooted in Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, following God's call to feed the hungry in both body and spirit.

Our intention is to know Jesus and to make Him known.

You are welcome regardless of where you are on your spiritual journey.

Currently our in-person worship services are Sundays at 8am and 10am with Holy Communion (the 10am is also live-streamed onto Facebook and YouTube), and we offer a Healing Service with Holy Communion and Laying on of Hands and Anointing on the First Wednesday of each month at 10am in the sanctuary. Go to our website graceoldsaybrook.org for more info and for bulletins to download for the 10am live-stream service.

Whether you are just exploring a new spiritual direction, curious about the Episcopal Church, or are ready to find a new church home, feel free to fill out a welcome card and place it in the collection plate, sign our guest book, or contact the church by phone or email for more info.

Grace Church is a close-knit community called by God to share the healing love of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. We are also engaged in the greater local and regional community in various outreach ministries as well. If interested, ask us how you can get involved in what Christ is doing at Grace, in Old Saybrook and Connecticut!! Or better yet, tell us where you find God at work in your life, and tell us how we can help or get involved!

If you have any questions, feel free to call, email or Facebook us.

We hope your visit to Grace was Spirit-filled, welcoming and meaningful.

In Christ,

The Rev. Charlie Hamill, Rector, and the People of Grace Church

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