

# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 7, 2025 – The Second Sunday of Advent  
8:30 Bulletin

## LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

Our word “Advent” comes from the Latin term *Adventus*, which means “coming” and originally referred just to Christmas. Today, however, it refers both to his birth at Christmas and to his second coming at the end of time. We first know of western Christians keeping the season of Advent in the sixth century. Advent was a season of penitence which included fasting, and the color purple symbolized this. In recent years, many congregations have begun using **blue**, the color associated with Mary, because of her significance as the mother of Jesus. In most Episcopal congregations today, Advent is kept more as a season of waiting—joyful anticipation of the coming birth of Jesus.

## OPENING HYMN: Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming



1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!
2. I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, This Rose I have in mind,
3. O Flow'r, whose fra-grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the air,



1. Of Jes-se's lin - eage com - ing, As those of old have sung.
2. With Ma - ry we be - hold it, The Vir - gin Moth - er kind.
3. Dis - pel in glo-rious splen-dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry-where;



1. It came, a flow - er bright, A - mid the
2. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
3. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and



1. cold of win - ter, When half spent was the night.
2. us a Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.
3. death now save us, And share our ev - 'ry load.

*Celebrant begins:*

For the desert places in which we walk, the streets we roam, the paths we cross: guide our feet, O God. Give us words that you would use, that in this Advent season of promise and preparation, we might point the way with John the Baptist to the Lamb of God, who came to show us the way of love.

**AMEN.**

## **CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER**

*Celebrant continues:*

Creator God, master of both the light and the darkness, as we light these Advent candles, send your Holy Spirit upon us during this season as we await the coming of Jesus at Christmas: we who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us; we who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"



## CANDLE-LIGHTING: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who  
2. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se's stem, From

1. or-d'rest all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
2. ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them That trust thy might - y

1. knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
2. pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u -

el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

## KYRIE

*Celebrant* Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,

***People* Have mercy upon us.**

*Celebrant* Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,

***People* Have mercy upon us.**

*Celebrant* Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,

***People* Have mercy upon us.**

*This Week's Reader: **Karen Davenport** † Next Sunday: Combined Service at 10 AM  
In Two Weeks: **Cheryle Kahl***

## FIRST READING Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat  
straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the  
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling  
shall be glorious.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

***People* Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19**

*Verses read alternately by the reader and the people, breaking at the \**

<sup>1</sup>Give the King your justice, O God,\*  
**and your righteousness to the King's Son;**

<sup>2</sup>That he may rule your people righteously\*  
**and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,\*  
**and the little hills bring righteousness.**

<sup>4</sup>He shall defend the needy among the people;\*  
**he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,\*  
**from one generation to another.**

<sup>6</sup>He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,\*  
**like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time shall the righteous flourish;\*  
**there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall  
be no more.**

<sup>18</sup>Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,\*  
**who alone does wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be his glorious Name for ever!\*  
**and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.**

## **SECOND READING** Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name”;

and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

***People* Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL** Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the

ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of our Lord.

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

## **SERMON**

### **NICENE CREED** *BCP p. 358*

**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.**

## **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

*The Leader and people pray responsively:*

Wherever we are, in the wilderness, the countryside, or the city, God, you are there. May our hearts be stirred up in thanksgiving for the life you have given us, and 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 the spirit of peace in the world: That all national violence and wars, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti, and Sudan may end, so that all people may live in peace and safety.

**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 and those who struggle with addictions; and for all those who do not have enough food to eat or clean safe water to drink. We pray, too, for all those on our prayer list. Are there others?

For all of them we say:

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

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

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

For the children in our lives and in our world: Grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just, true, and good.

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

Bless, comfort, and protect all those for whom we pray.

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

*Celebrant adds a 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.**



## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Celebrant says:*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

*Celebrant continues:*

My sisters and brothers: God loves us, God has mercy on us, God forgives us, and God sets us free. So go out and forgive others and forgive yourself so that we all may be free. **AMEN.**



## THE PEACE

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

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

*The Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Advent II – Year A*

*Celebrant* May God be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to our God.

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

*Celebrant continues:*

Holy are you, God of Jesse, for the branch of our salvation is rooted in you. To Abraham you promised to raise up a people bound to you in love, and through the household of David you brought life greater than our imagining in a child of grace, Jesus our Lord. Though we deny your love for ourselves and seek to limit the reach of your mercy to others, you beckon us to repentance, open our eyes to new life, and embrace us to join your family of faith. In your Son's death we see the depth of our sin; yet in his resurrection we see the extent of your grace. You bless us beyond reckoning, for you welcome us into the company of prophets and apostles and saints on earth and in heaven, with whom forever we give you praise:

## **SANCTUS**

**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.**

Anointing God, your Spirit rested upon your Son with wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and fear. In Christ you have anointed your future out of our past, your

kingdom out of our plans, and your salvation out of our poverty.

As your Holy Spirit rested upon him, send down that same anointing Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

*Celebrant* Great is the mystery of our faith.

*People* **Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Astonishing God, your prophet Isaiah envisioned a day when the wolf and lamb would lie down together, and the leopard with the kid, and a little child would lead them. Astonish us anew by your gentle ways of peace. Shape your church to live from faith, not fear. Make your future present through the lives of those who show us how to love our enemies. Fill every heart with this sure and certain hope, sanctify us by your love and help us know that you are all in all, ever one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER *BCP p. 364*

*Celebrant:*

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

**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 *BCP p. 364*

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*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.

## COMMUNION

### *Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone*

*Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Celebrant says:*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

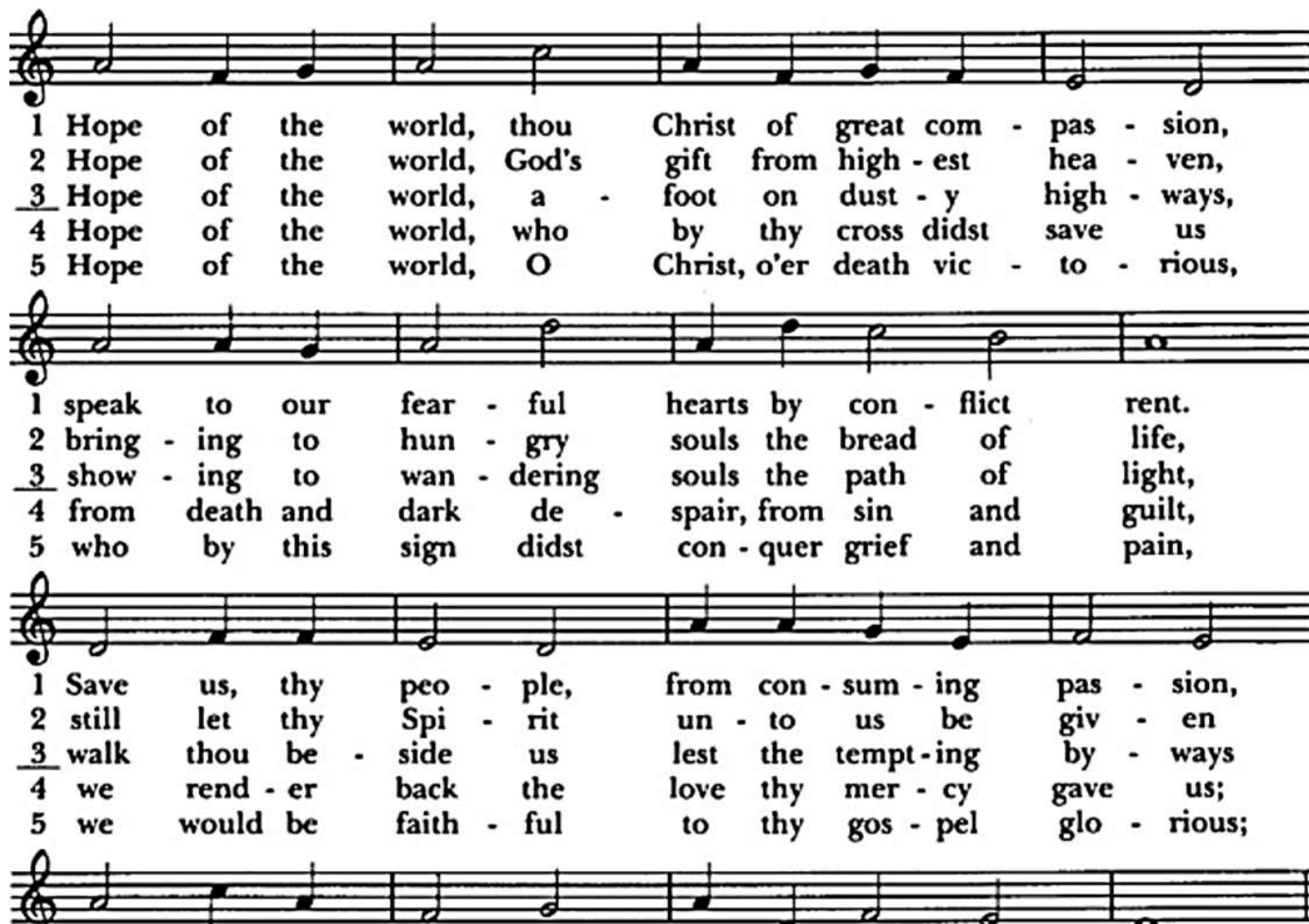
**We praise and thank you, God our Creator, for you have not left us alone. Each year you come to us as Emmanuel, God with us, in a manger; Each time you come to us, in the broken bread and cup we share. Give us courage to see your Christ in all who suffer; and to offer our hands to the helpless, food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



## BLESSING

May Christ, who is human and divine, who is of heaven and earth, give you strength to do God's will in this world; and may the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and forever. **AMEN.**

## CLOSING HYMN: Hope Of The World



1 Hope of the world, thou Christ of great com - pas - sion,  
2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est hea - ven,  
3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,  
4 Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us  
5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,

1 speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.  
2 bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,  
3 show - ing to wan - dering souls the path of light,  
4 from death and dark de - spair, from sin and guilt,  
5 who by this sign didst con - quer grief and pain,

1 Save us, thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,  
2 still let thy Spi - rit un - to us be giv - en  
3 walk thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways  
4 we rend - er back the love thy mer - cy gave us;  
5 we would be faith - ful to thy gos - pel glo - rious;

1 who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.  
2 to heal earth's wounds and end her bit - ter strife.  
3 lure us a - way from thee to end - less night.  
4 take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.  
5 thou art our Lord! Thou dost for ev - er reign!

## DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Our worship has now ended. Go forth in peace and with patience to love yourself and your neighbor as we await the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

*People* **We will, with God's help!**

## **The Prayers of this Congregation**

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; 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 A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger-Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For Donna Hanes; Katherine Domienik; Jasmine Gardner; Tom & Sandy Krell; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Tom Stotz; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Pat Greenwood; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Jason Zadorski; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary Anne Jackson; Beth Smith; Martha Wehba; Holly Quintero; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; John Kelvin; Rick Gheresi; Rory Heinz; Louise Lambert; Carole Schwertman; the St. Peter family; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Nicoletta Palazzolo; Lucy Smith & family; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Leo Bradley, Jr.; Betty Brogan; the Biehl family; the DiGaetano family; the family of Dolora Paull; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Sue Miller; Vickie Rose; Kristi Frangedakis; the family of Carolyn Siewert; Beverly Wolff; Ellen Laudicina; Beth Jarvis.

***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 call the office.*

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

## **CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please send all bulletin submissions to  
[bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org](mailto:bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org)*

### **COMBINED SERVICE**

Please join us and our friends from American Lutheran for a single combined service here at Grace next **Sunday, December 14** at **10 AM**. Bible study will be at **9 AM** in the Guild Room.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

### **COFFEE HOUR**

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

### **CHOIR**

Please join us for choir rehearsal on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. No experience required; just bring your spirited heart and a friend! Thank you!

## GIVING TREE

Grace is now collecting Christmas gifts for formerly homeless families in Macomb County. The tree is located in the parish hall, with ornaments for the requested items. Choose one or more ornaments, purchase the items, and return them to Grace unwrapped. Please place the items under the tree, in the office, or contact Christa Carpenter at Hearts for Homes directly: (586) 663-6246. Items collected daily; the deadline for drop-offs is **December 21**. The gifts collected this year will provide assistance to our families throughout the coming year. Thank you for your warm and giving hearts!

## COOKIE WALK

Grace's ever-popular cookie walk is right around the corner! If you're making cut-out cookies and want help decorating, bring them to the church hall on **Friday, December 12** beginning at **6:30 PM**. Non-bakers who just want to decorate are more than welcome to join. Icing and sprinkles provided.

Then, come help set up on **Saturday, December 13** from **4 to 7 PM**. We'll need help plating and organizing all the yummy cookies, setting up tables, and folding boxes. If you have cookie sheets we can borrow to display all the cookies, please bring them with your name on the bottom. Likewise, if you have any foldable rectangular tables we can borrow, please bring them too, again with your name on the bottom.

Finally, we need volunteers to help work the cookie walk itself on **Sunday, December 14** between **11:15 AM and 3 PM**, plus one or two volunteers for before the 10 AM service. Tasks include working the cash box, cookie restocking, providing general direction to customers, and folding boxes as needed. If you can only help part of the time, that's okay. All help is appreciated!

## CAROLING WITH THE CHOIR

Join us at Martha T. Berry Nursing Facility in Mt. Clemens on **Saturday, December 13th** at **10 AM**, where we'll pray and carol with the residents starting at **10:30**.

## BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet **January 8, 2026** at **6 PM** at Grace Church. The book we will discuss is *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie. This is a book focused on Patsy Jefferson and how she shaped the legacy of a new nation with her father, Thomas Jefferson. Please join us in January for a lively and interesting discussion. Call Ann Strevel if you need any further information.

