



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide
Anglican Communion.

The Third Sunday of Advent *December 14, 2025*

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

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.

TO JOIN SERVICES ONLINE OR BY PHONE

To join the 8:30 service online, visit our website at gracechurchmtclemens.org and follow the links.

To join the 8:30 service by phone, call 312-626-6799

8:30 AM Service: Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300 Password: 246040

Follow the link on our website to watch the 10:30 service on YouTube.

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

Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan
Mr. Josh Dulin, Minister of Music
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Visit us on the web at
www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

MUSICAL PRELUDE: Mary Did You Know (David Nagorsen)

OPENING HYMN: All My Hope On God Is Founded



1 All my hope on God is found - ed; he doth still my
2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
3 God's great good - ness e'er en - dur - eth, deep his wis - dom
* 4 Dai - ly doth the al - might - y Giv - er boun - teous gifts on
5 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of

1 trust re - new, me through change and chance he
2 tray our trust; though with care and toil we
3 pass - ing thought: splen - dor, light, and life at -
4 us be - stow; his de - sire our soul de -
5 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es

1 guid - eth, on - ly good and on - ly true. God un -
2 build them, tower and tem - ple fall to dust. But God's
3 tend him, beau - ty spring - eth out of nought. Ev - er -
4 light - eth, plea - sure leads us where we go. Love doth
5 prais - ing for the gift of Christ, his son. Christ doth

1 known, he a - lone calls my heart to be his own.
2 power, hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.
3 more from his store new-born worlds rise and a - dore.
4 stand at his hand; joy doth wait on his com - mand.
5 call one and all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.



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

5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And
6. O come, Thou Day - spring from on high And

5. o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
6. cheer us by thy draw - ing night; Dis - perse the gloom - y

5. leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
6. clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ow put to flight.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

KYRIE



*This Week's Reader: **Nora & Dash Heath***
*Next Sunday's Readers: **Ann & Dave Farrell***

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go
astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

RESPONSE Psalm 146:4-9 – *Lauda, anima mea*

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

⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

⁶Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,*
and food to those who hunger.

⁷The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;*
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

⁸The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger;*
**he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

⁹The Lord shall reign for ever,*
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

Reader A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL HYMN: I Will Seek The One I Love

1. I will seek the One I love in the
 2. Have you seen the One you love, him for
 3. I have found the One I love; I have

streets and cit - y square. I will
 whom you weep and wait? Will you
 heard him speak my name. He has

seek him in the gar - den till, at
 hear him when he calls you, ear - ly
 sent me forth re - joic - ing, love and

last, he finds me there.
 morn - ing, noon, or late?
 mer - cy to pro - claim.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

The Rev. Julie Winklepleck

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look,

those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

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

HOMILY

The Rev. Julie Winklepleck

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

*This is an ancient baptismal creed, but using the words “I give my heart,”
a truer translation of the Latin word “credo” than “I believe.”*

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The People stand or kneel

Leader Let our hearts and minds be stirred as we ask God for peace in our spirits and in our world, let us pray, saying:

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

Leader For our young people: Let us provide a space for them in our midst and time to reassure them in their insecurities, encourage them in their hopes and dreams, and strengthen them in their gifts and faith. Grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just, true, and good.

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

Leader 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.

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

Leader 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.

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

Leader For peace in the world: May the wars on every continent cease, may nations—especially Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, Haiti, and Sudan—be at rest; may refugees and survivors find a new home and the spirit to begin again. May wounds be healed, losses grieved, and honorable deeds remembered. May grace abound in all lands, and the lion and the lamb lie content.

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

Leader For the elderly and the infirmed: We give thanks for the health and long life that many enjoy, and we pray for those who are overcome with suffering in body and spirit. We pray too for all those on our prayer list. Are there others?

Bless, comfort and protect all those for whom we pray

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

Leader For those who have died: Let us remember those who have gone before us, our families, friends, and those whose names we do not know.

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

CONCLUDING COLLECT

O Lord, fill our minds and hearts with everything that is good and loving and worthy of thanksgiving and praise, everything that comes to us under the sign of your peace in the name of 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.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated



OFFERTORY HYMN: Soon And Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.



Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.



Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

DOXOLOGY: To God, Creator



To God, Cre - a - tor, to God, Re - deem - er, to God, Sanc - ti - fi - er



be all glo - ry and praise for - ev - er, be praise for - ev - er, be



praise for - ev - er, A - - - men.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Advent III – Year A

Please stand as you are able

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:

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.

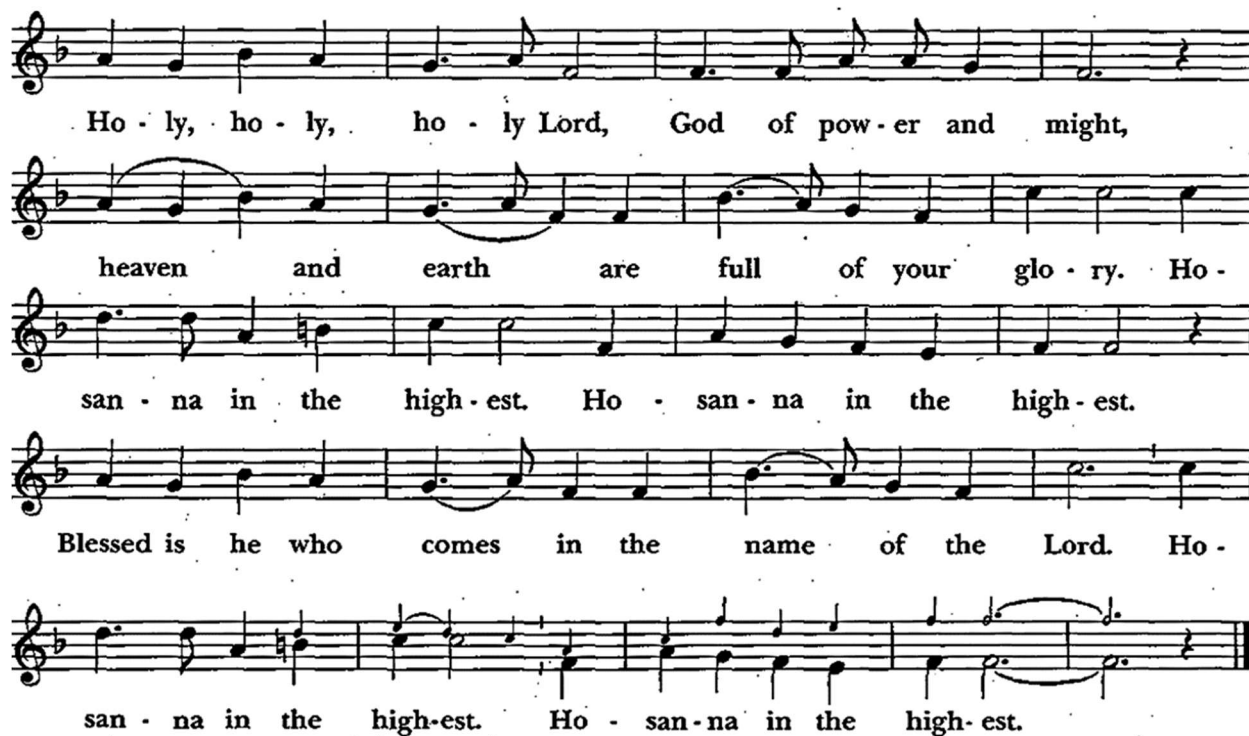
We are your people, and the work of your hand.

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.

We are your people, and the work of your hand.

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



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

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.

We are your people, and the work of your hand.

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.

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus, come!


THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant says:

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 in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. 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.

FRACTION: Where Two Or Three Are Gathered



Here in the bread that is bro - ken, here in the cup that is

poured, here in the word that is spo - ken: Je - sus Christ is

Lord! Here where the poor find their treas - ure,

here where the great - est are least, come find a love be - yond

meas - ure in this heav'n - ly 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.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN: Why Should I Feel Discouraged (His Eye Is On The Sparrow)

1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, Why should the shad-ows
2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," His ten-der word I
3. When ev-er I am tempt-ed, When ev-er clouds a-

come, Why should my heart be lone-ly, And
hear, And rest-ing on his good-ness, I
rise, When songs give place to sigh-ing When

long for heav'n and home; When Je-sus is my
lose my doubts and fears; Though by the path he
hope with-in me dies, I draw the clos-er

por-tion? My con-stant friend is he:
lead-eth, But one step I may see; His
to him, From care he sets me free;

eye is on the spar-row, And I know he watch-es

me; His eye is on the spar-row, and I

know he watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm

hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free; For his

eye is on the spar-row, And I know he watch-es me.

POST-COMMUNION CHOIR SELECTION: The Lord Is My Light



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People say together:

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 our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier be with you this day and forever. **AMEN.**

CLOSING HYMN: Comfort, Comfort



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



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 Gherisi; 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; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Randy.

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.

The MINISTRIES of GRACE CHURCH

Currently

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays, in person & online 8:30 & 10:30 AM. Visit our website for more information.

Bible Study: Sundays at 9:30 AM in the Guild Room

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Community Suppers:

Wednesdays at 4:00

Sunday Suppers: Sundays at 4:00, November-March

Food Pantry:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 AM -12 noon, curbside pickup

Serving from 250 - 350 people every month

Fueling Kids' Futures:

Tuesdays at 2:00 PM at Oakley Industries, Inc. Plant 4

35088 Automation Drive Clinton Township, MI 48035

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

Call the office to learn about helping or giving:

586-465-4573

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please send all bulletin submissions to
bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org*

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!

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.



For Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Uncertain Times

Lord Jesus, you were carried as a child into Egypt and know the fear and fragility of displacement. **We pray** for all who have been **resettled** in this land and now face **renewed uncertainty** about the permanence of their status, and for **all who seek asylum** whose cases are delayed or constrained. **Hold them**, and their children and families, in your peace. **Guard them** from injustice; **turn the hearts** of those in authority toward compassion and wisdom; and **stir your church** to stand with them in steadfast love, faithful advocacy, and generous support. **May all** who have fled danger **find safety**, stability, and the assurance that they are seen and cherished by you. As we await your coming, keep us hopeful and ready to welcome you in the stranger. **Come, Lord Jesus.** Amen.