GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide
Anglican Communion.

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

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.

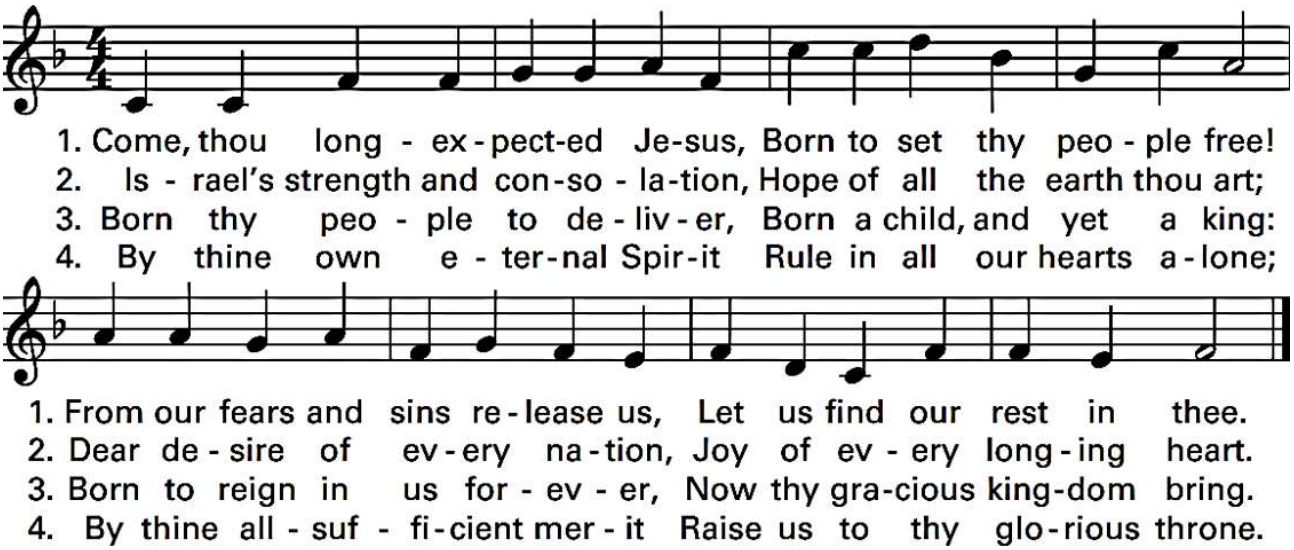
To join the 8:30 service by phone, call 312-626-6799
8:30 AM Service: Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300 Password: 246040

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

Rector: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik
Cell: 203-641-2068
Field Education Student: A.J. Hawks
Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan
Mr. Josh Dulin, Minister of Music
115 South Main Street, Mt Clemens, MI 48043
Office 586-465-4573
Email: gracemtclemens@yahoo.com
Visit us on the web at
www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

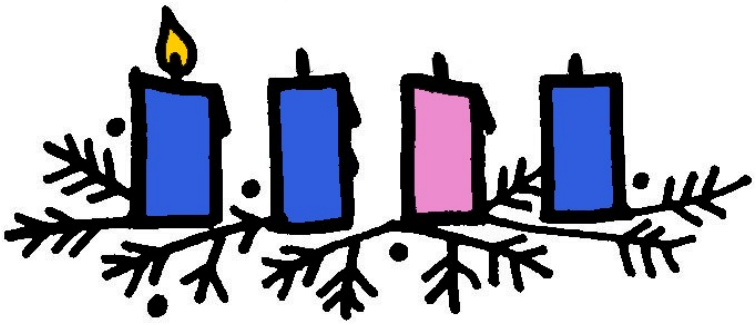
OPENING HYMN: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Please stand as you are able



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.**

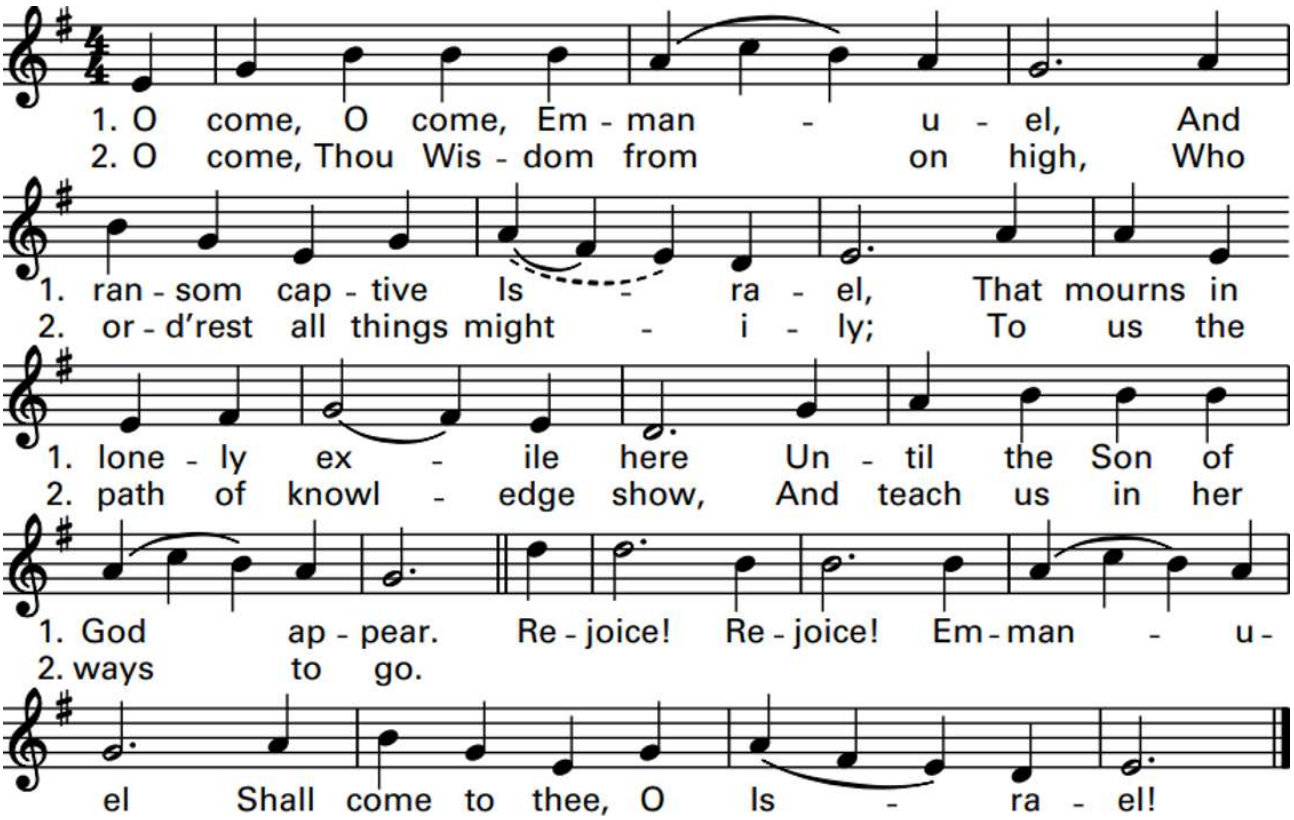


CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER

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

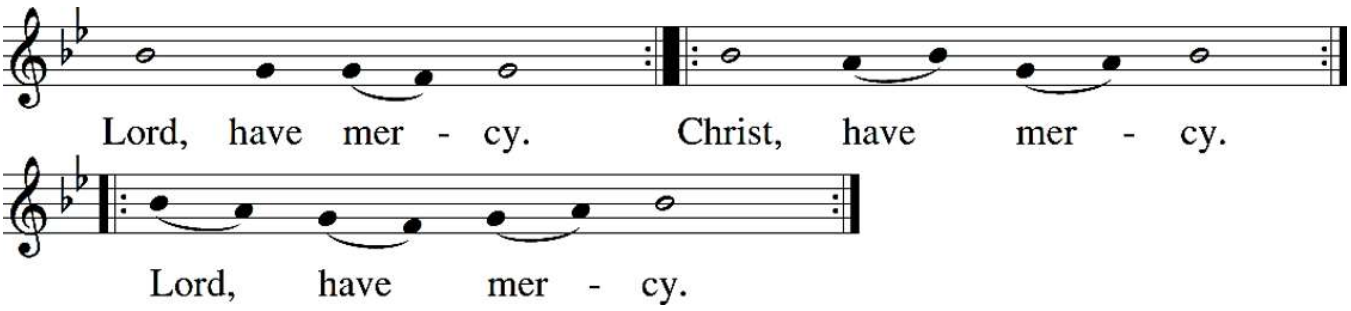


Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

KYRIE



This Week's Readers: ***Scot Lau & Lydia Reed***
Next Week's Readers: ***Ann & Dave Farrell***

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

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.

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

RESPONSE Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 - *Qui regis Israel*

[1]Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;*
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

[2]In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,*
stir up your strength and come to help us.

[3]Restore us, O God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

[4]O Lord God of hosts,*
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

[5]You have fed them with the bread of tears;*
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

[6]You have made us the derision of our neighbors,*
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

[7]Restore us, O God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

[16]Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,*
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

[17]And so will we never turn away from you;*
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

[18]Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.



SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Reader A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

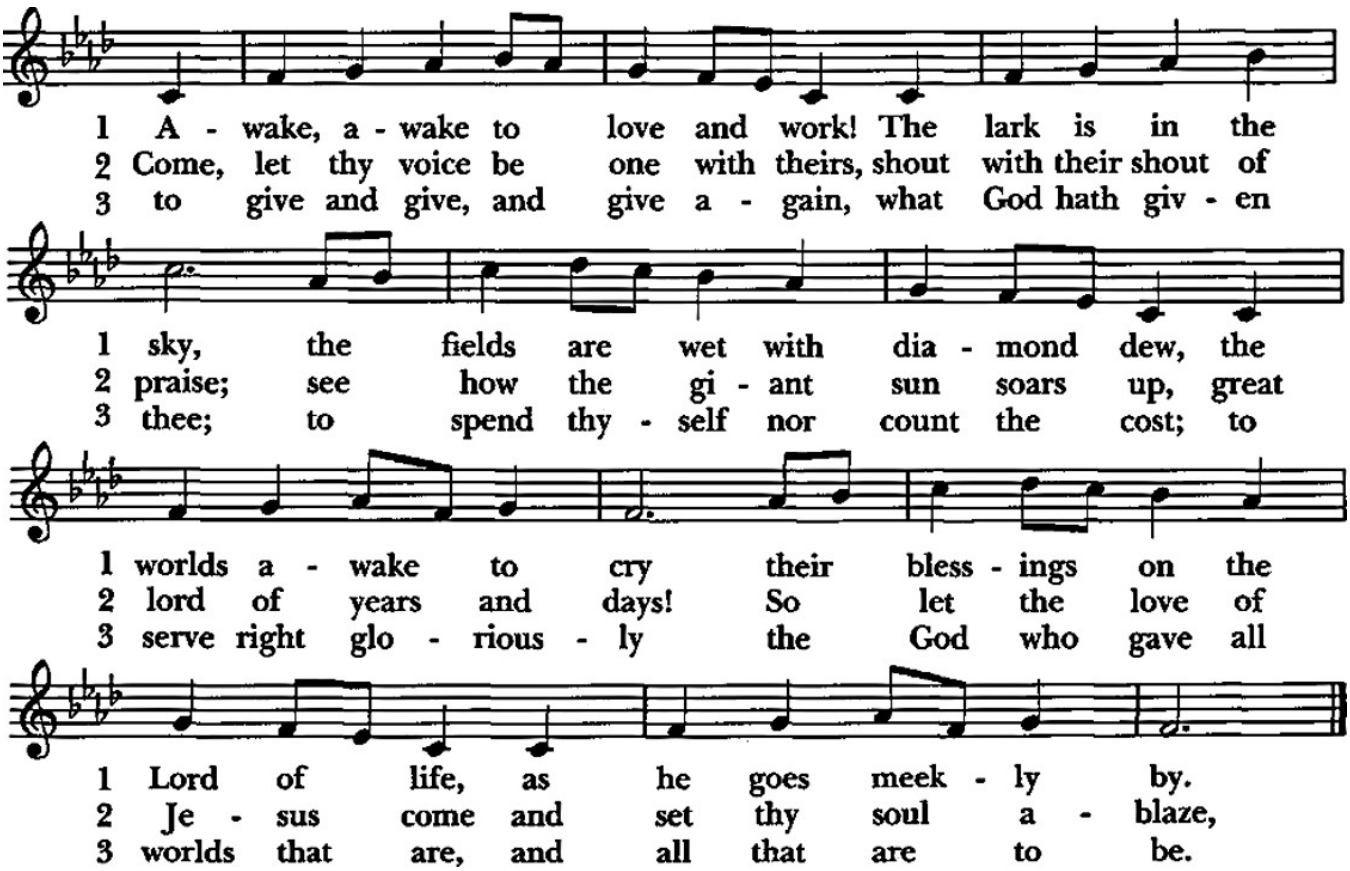
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

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

GOSPEL HYMN: Awake, Awake To Love and Work!

Please stand as you are able



GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37 The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

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

People **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."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HOMILY The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik *Please be seated*

THE APOSTLES' CREED *Please stand as you are able*

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

Leader During this season of Advent as we await the coming of Jesus, let us turn our minds and hearts to the larger community of which we are a part. Help us not to be anxious about anything, and in all things to make our hopes and concerns known to you. With Advent patience we say:

People **Hear our prayer, O God, and give us hope.**

Leader For all people of every race, nation, and disposition: May your love so embrace us all that its power overcomes our conflicts, our defenses, and our fears. Quicken us to our true nature as your children that we may love one another. With Advent patience we say:

People **Hear our prayer, O God, and give us hope.**

Leader For our young people: Let us provide a space for them in our midst and time to reassure them in their insecurities, encouraging them in their hopes and dreams, and strengthening them in their gifts and faith. With Advent patience we say:

People **Hear our prayer, O God, and give us hope.**

Leader For those who live in fear and confusion: Give to the vulnerable strength, and to the secure vulnerability, that our human compassion for one another may end injustice and give all people a human face. With Advent patience we say:

People **Hear our prayer, O God, and give us hope.**

Leader For those in authority in our community, state, nation and world: May you guide their hearts and minds to make good decisions for the welfare of all people. With Advent patience we say:

People **Hear our prayer, O God, and give us hope.**

Leader For our faith community here at Grace and our Mt. Clemens community; we pray also for those who suffer most, for the emotionally and physically ill, for people who are grieving, and for those who are dying. May we all give comfort and support. With Advent patience we say:

People **Hear our prayer, O God, and give us hope.**

Leader Gracious God, bless, comfort, protect, and heal all those who have asked for our prayers, especially those on our prayer list. Are there others?

With Advent patience we say:

People **Hear our prayer, O God, and give us hope.**

Leader For the larger community around us; our state and our nation: May we care for those who are homeless and imprisoned. May we create a world where shelter, food, and medical care are available for all and where the law protects all people. With Advent patience we say:

People **Hear our prayer, O God, and give us hope.**

Leader For an end to violence, oppression, war, and injustice in our world, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti, and Sudan. May we join with Mary's song that we may be among those who exalt the lowly and fill the hungry with good things, routing out the proud of heart and drawing courage from the power of your love. With Advent patience we say:

People **Hear our prayer, O God, and give us hope.**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Celebrant:

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:

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

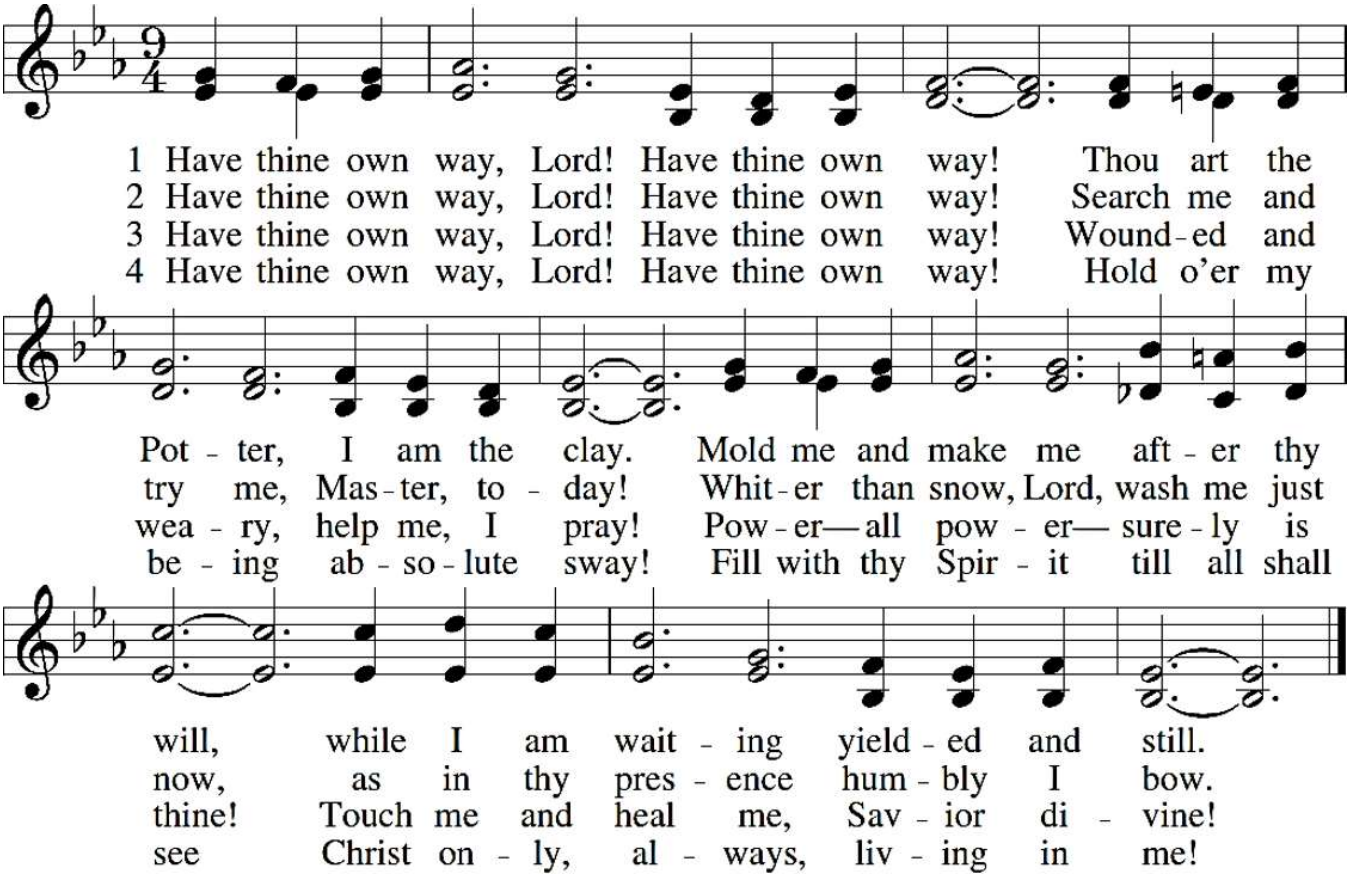
People **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated

OFFERTORY HYMN: Have Thine Own Way, Lord



DOXOLOGY

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant and People say together:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord is here.
People **God's Spirit is with us.**

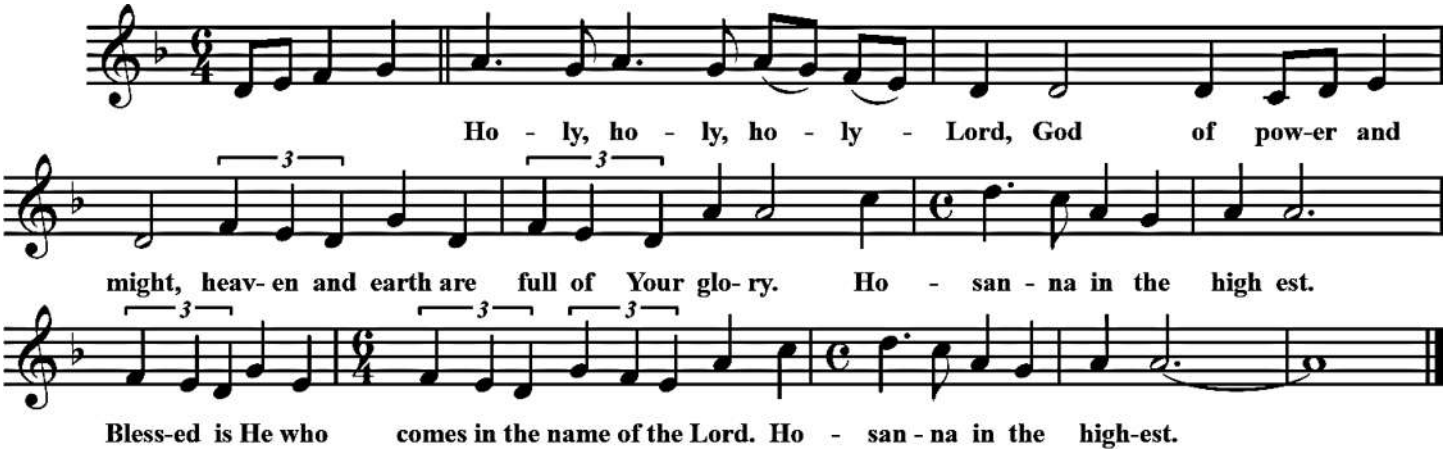
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues:

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your son. Therefore, with people of every nation, tribe, and language, with the whole Church on earth and in heaven, joyfully we give you thanks as we sing:

SANCTUS



Celebrant continues:

You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image. When we sinned and turned away, you called us back to yourself and gave us your Son to share our human nature. You raised him to life triumphant over death and exalted him in glory. In him you have made us a holy people by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit.

On the night before he died, he took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said: Take eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this all of you, for 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 to remember me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son, we now celebrate the wonder of your grace and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come in glory.

Redeemer God, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness, we were far off until you brought us near, and our hands were empty until you filled them. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ. As we eat this bread and drink this wine, through the power of your Holy Spirit feed us with your heavenly food, renew us in your service, unite us in Christ, and bring us to your everlasting kingdom.

Blessing, honor, and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. AMEN.

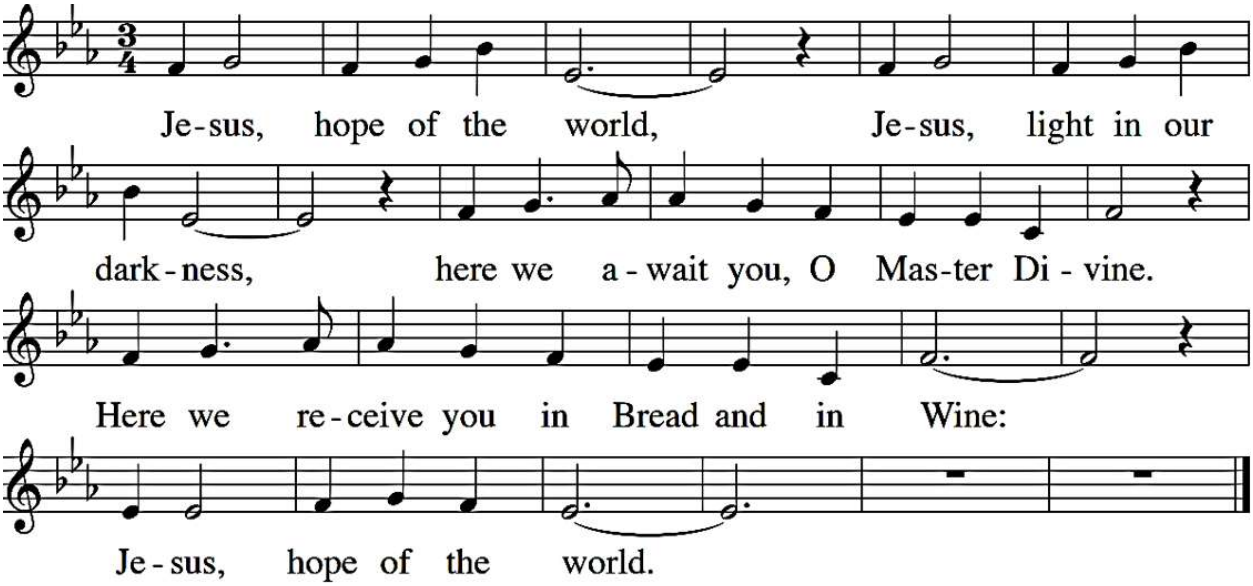
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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



Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.**

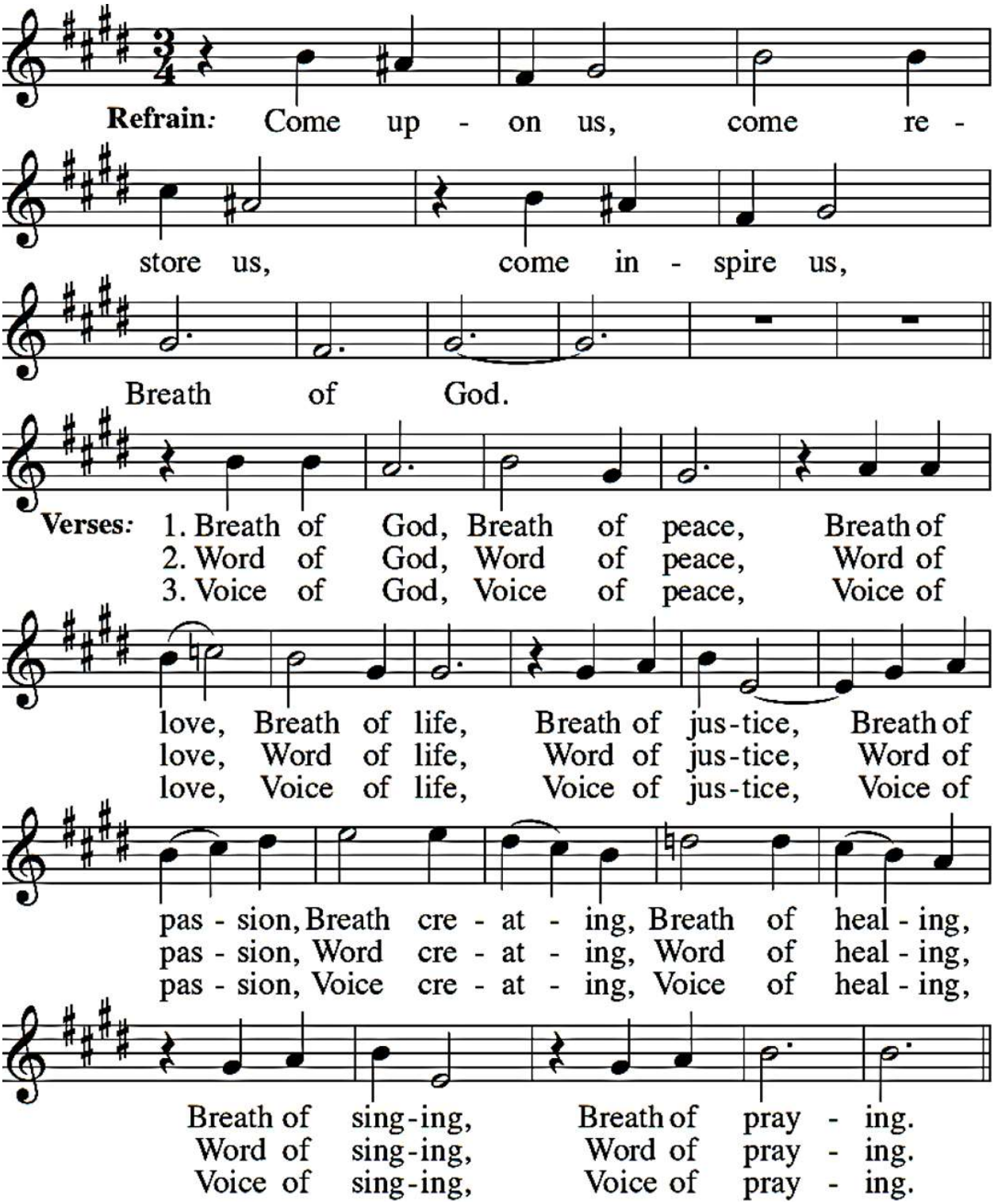
Celebrant Draw near and receive the body and blood of our Savior Jesus in remembrance that he died and rose for us. Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION *Please be seated*

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: Breath of God



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *Please stand as you are able*

Celebrant Let us pray together our post-Communion prayer.

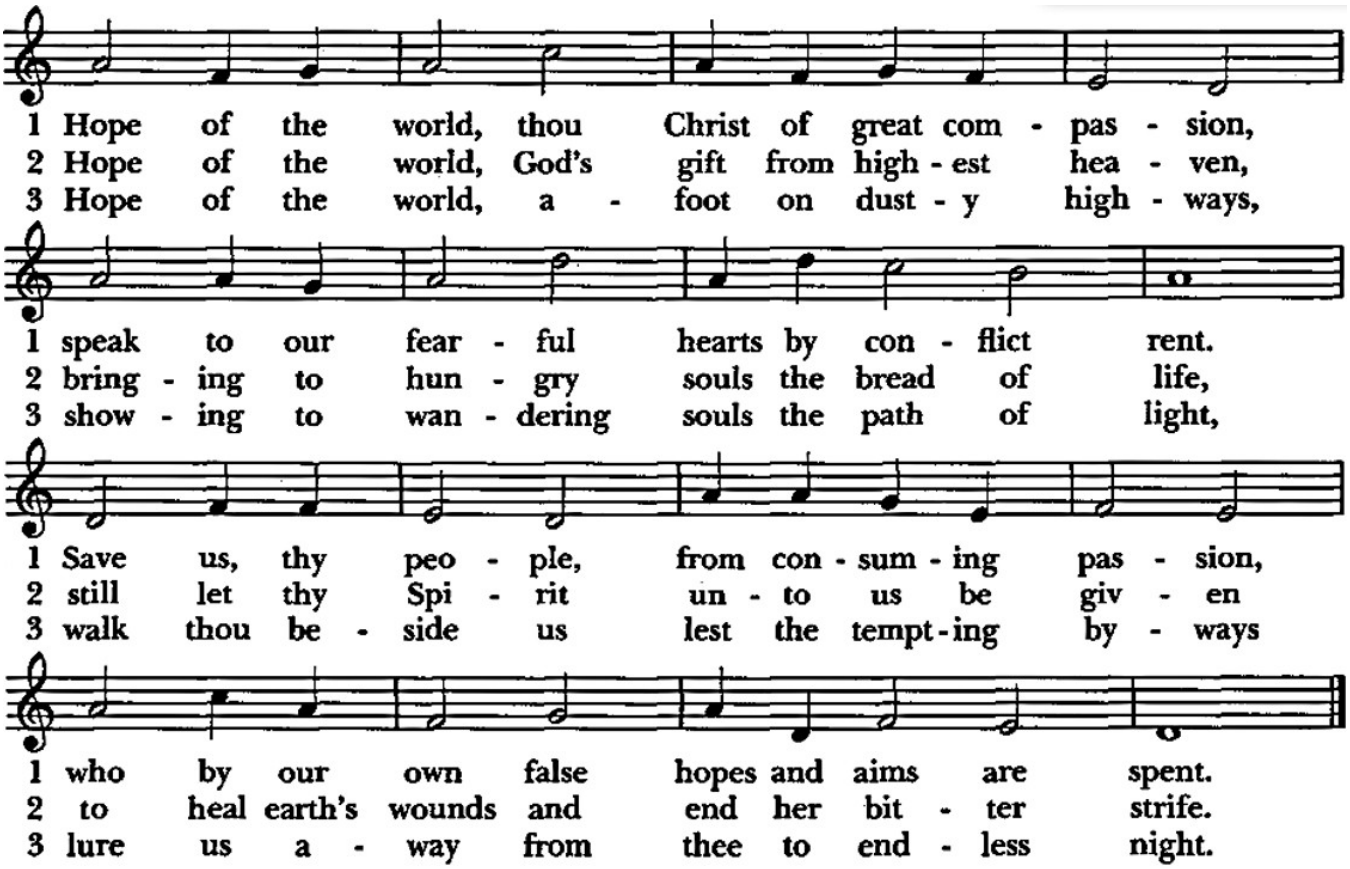
Celebrant and People say together:

God of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. AMEN.

BLESSING

Most glorious God, bestow upon us your steadfast love that we may be strengthened to serve you faithfully in this world, and may your almighty blessing—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be upon us all our days. **AMEN.**

CLOSING HYMN: Hope Of The World



DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve our God as we await the coming of Jesus at Christmas!

People **We go in the name of Christ!**

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; Julie E. Schneider-Thomas, 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 our Wednesday and Sunday supper guests; Donna Hanes; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Jennifer Holland; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Martha Wehba; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Nancy Johnson & family; Rick Ghersi; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Betty Brogan; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger & family; Steve Burns; Sandy Krell; Bobby Couts; Sharon Potter; Rita Vermeersch; Sallie Coffer; Frank Davis; Shelly Volpe; Bud Denham; John Schober; Tish Mastro-Burns; Gary Cynowa; Linda Hurley; Fran Merlo; Betty Gillis; Robert Tuten; Daniel Ranger; Gary Keranen; Leslie Sasges; Norris Satterly; Dan Kotesky; Judy Kuase; Brian Negran; Takashi Nawafune; Mary Lang; Sue Sargent; Jess Taylor; Scott Satterly; Sue Retherford; Carole Marshall; Kris Eckert; Margaret Morgan; Bill Atkinson; Kathy Martin; Pastor Jeff Forester; Laura Nelhiebel; Sal Porcaro; Dr. Amy Fletemier; Debbie Moray-Brach.

Do you know someone who can use our prayers?
Please contact the office to add them to or keep them on the prayer list.

The MINISTRIES of GRACE CHURCH

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 250-500 people every month

Fueling Kids' Futures:
Tuesdays at 11 AM 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!

COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN AND SING!

Join us at choir rehearsal **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. Faces and voices both new and familiar are most welcome as we lift up our praises in song and help guide our Grace community into the seasons of Advent and the birth of our Lord!

INQUIRER CLASSES

Interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church by our bishop? Join us for four one-hour sessions from **2 to 3 PM** on the following **Wednesdays**: **November 11** and **18** and **December 2** and **9**. Attend in person or via Zoom. If you're interested but cannot make this time, please speak to Pastor Steve and we'll come up with a time that works for you.

COOKIE WALK

Grace's annual cookie walk will be **Sunday, December 13** in the hall between services and after the 10:30 service, open to the public from **12 noon to 2 PM**. Pricing is **$10** per pound. Please consider baking at least three batches (nine dozen cookies) to be delivered during set-up that **Saturday, December 12** between **4:30 and 7 PM**. (You can also come help us set up!) You may also join us in the hall on **Friday, December 11** to decorate cut-out cookies, starting at **6 PM**.

WAVE PROJECT WINTER SHELTER UPDATES

Grace will partner with Christian Trinity Church during the week of January 3-9; we'll be responsible for **January 7-9**. Please consider volunteering! See Ann Farrell for more information.

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be at Grace on **Thursday, January 14, 2027** at **6 PM**, and we'll be discussing the book *The Leisure Seekers* by Michael Zadoorian. We would love having you join us, so mark your calendar, read the book, and join us for a fun evening. Call Ann Strevel if you have any questions.

For the Lives Behind Essential Infrastructure

Gracious **God**, you have **made us dependent on one another**. **We rely** each day on water infrastructure, transportation systems, banking systems, electricity, healthcare facilities, and many forms of **infrastructure** that **allow daily life in our communities to continue**. As these systems become more connected, a failure in one place can put lives at risk. **Remind us** that behind every power line, water pipe, and computer network are **people who depend upon them**, especially those least able to endure their disruption. **Guide** those in authority **to invest in the stability** of our essential infrastructure, **strengthen** safeguards against those who seek to do harm, and ensure that communities are prepared when systems fail. **Help us** take seriously our duty to protect one another, so that the gifts of human knowledge may **serve the good of all**. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE Episcopal CHURCH