

# Grace Episcopal Church



Christmas Eve

8 PM Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2024

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## Prelude

## Opening Hymn

Come All Ye Faithful v. 1-3, 6

1982 Hymnal #83

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.**

### *Refrain*

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,  
born of a virgin, to earth he comes!  
Only-begotten Son of God the Father: *Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: *Refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing; *Refrain***

Blessed are you, Holy and Living One.

**You come to your people and set them free.**

**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**

## Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High v. 1-3

1982 Hymnal #96

**Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.**

*Refrain:*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear? *Refrain***

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain***

## The Word of God

### The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### The Lessons

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness  
    have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
    on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
    have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 96**

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.

- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
    he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
    but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
    Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
    ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
    bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
    let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is King! \*  
    he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
    he will judge the peoples with equity.”
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
    let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
    let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
    before the Lord when he comes, \*  
    when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
    and the peoples with his truth.

## **Titus 2:11-14**

A Reading from the letter of Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*           **Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Song

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1982 Hymnal #87

**Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!**

*Refrain:*

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
glory to the newborn King!**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell;  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***

**Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Risen with healing in his wings,  
Light and life to all he brings,  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! *Refrain***

### The Gospel

**Luke 2:1-20**

*Gospeller*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
according to Luke.

*People*

**Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Gospeller*  
*People*

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe

## The Nicene Creed

*Sung to the tune of Ode to Joy*

**We believe in God almighty,  
author of all things that be,  
Maker of the earth and heavens,  
Keeper of the sky and sea.  
We believe in God's son, Jesus,  
now for us both Lord and Christ,  
of the Spirit and of Mary  
born to bring abundant life.**

**We believe that Jesus suffered,  
scourged and scorned and crucified;  
taken from the cross, was buried—  
True Life there had truly died.  
We believe that on the third day  
Christ was raised up from the grave,  
then ascended to God's right hand.  
He will come to judge and save.**

**We believe in God's own Spirit,  
bonding all the saints within  
One church, catholic and holy,  
where forgiveness frees from sin;  
in the body's resurrection,  
for the breaking of death's chain  
gives the life that's everlasting.  
This the faith that we have claimed.**

### Litany Of The Incarnation

O God, the ruler of ages eternal, You are without beginning or end:  
**Yet you choose to be born an infant in time. Praise to you, O Lord.**

O God, the invisible, You are the One whom nobody has seen or can see: **Yet you assume the face of the son of Mary. Praise to you, O Lord.**



O God the all-powerful, You hold the mountains in the palm of your hand: **Yet you let yourself be wrapped in swaddling clothes. Praise to you, O Lord.**

O God, the eternal glory, Innumerable angels acclaim you endlessly: **Yet you choose to be rocked to sleep by the songs of the daughter of David. Praise to you, O Lord.**

O God, the universal provider, you feed every creature: **Yet you choose to hunger for the milk of your mother. Praise to you, O Lord.**

O God, the infinite, Heaven and earth cannot contain you: **Yet you rest in the arms of Mary. Praise to you, O Lord.**

O God, the perfect joy, You are the source of happiness of heaven and earth; **Yet you cry like a little child. Praise to you, O Lord.**

O God, the eternal Word, You are the light of all created intelligence: **Yet you are laid in a manger and cannot even speak. Praise to you, O Lord.**

You are the God of a thousand faces, **Yet nothing can reveal you completely except the face of the child of Bethlehem. We pray to you, Oh Lord: Continue in our lives the mystery of Christmas. Let your Son become flesh in us So that we may be for all our brothers and sisters The revelation of your ever-present love. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

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

## **Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

## **Offertory**

*Students of St. Helena High School Chamber Choir*

# The Holy Communion

## *Eucharistic Prayer D*

*Celebrant*      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.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say;

## **Sanctus**

Angels, From the Realms of Glory v. 1, 4

1982 Hymnal #93

**Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye, who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

*Refrain:*

**come and worship, come and worship  
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Saints before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear: *Refrain***

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming

in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Remember Sean, Amy, Wendy, Sarah and Alan, Megan and all who minister in your Church. Remember the leaders of the nations of the world, particularly in areas of violence, conflict, and disaster. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember particularly those who have asked for our prayers....Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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

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

### Fraction Anthem

What Child is This?

1982 Hymnal #115

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

*Refrain:*

**This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain***

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.

*Jesus is our host; all are welcome at God's table. To receive communion, come forward at the usher's instructions and kneel or stand at the altar rail. You may either hold on to the bread and "intinct" (dip) it into the bowl of wine when it comes to you, or consume the bread and drink from the cup. Communion in one kind (bread only) is a full communion; gluten free wafers are*

*available if needed. If you are unable to come forward and would like to receive communion in your pew, please let an usher know. Children and infants are welcome to receive communion, either the bread or wine or both, as long as their parents are comfortable. If you or your child prefers to come forward to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.*

## Music At Communion

A Christmas Prelude and A Prelude on Greensleeves

*arranged by Charles Callahan. Grant Showley, flute*

## Post-Communion Hymn

Silent Night

1982 Hymnal #111

*Light your candles from the person next to you.*

**Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

## Post-Communion

**Father 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. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us so we and all your children shall be free and the whole earth live to praise your name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Blessing

### Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World

1982 Hymnal #100

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;  
let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

### Dismissal

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

### Postlude

## Grace Church Staff

Rector:	The Rev. Amy Denney Zuniga
Bishop-in-Residence:	The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe
Retired Associate:	The Rev. Wendy Watson
Associate Pastor:	Sarah Christopher
Minister of Music:	Ted von Pohle
Facilities Manager:	Sandra Sheffield
Administrative Manager:	Belli Skinner
Controller:	Marshall Cox
Communications:	Ryan Cagle
Livestream Production:	Brian Capener

## Grace Church Vestry

Senior Warden:	Genevieve Schlangen
Junior Warden:	Michael Roché
Treasurer:	Phil Baxter
Clerk:	Alexandra Haslip
Mark Linder	John Sales
Braulio Munoz-Matheny	Sue Cottrell
Craig Bond	Edie Kausch

*If you would like our intercessors to pray for you or someone else, please call Helen Christianson at 707-963-4157, or email us at [Helen@grace-episcopal.org](mailto:Helen@grace-episcopal.org). All requests are kept confidential.*