YOU ARE WELCOME!

Grace Episcopal Church is a place for all – the curious, the hurting, the imperfect, the joyful. We gather as a lively and visible group of Christians dedicated to social justice and positive change in Chicago’s South Loop neighborhood and beyond.

Whoever you are, whatever you bring to the table, you are in the right place this morning. Welcome!

How can I be respectful while at church?
In the interest of creating a peaceful and prayerful space for worship, refrain from conversation within the circle of the sanctuary 10 minutes before the service. Please silence and put away your cell phone during the service as a sign of respect toward God and the rest of our worshiping community.

Do I have to wear a mask?
Masks are optional during worship. Church leadership is paying close attention to CDC guidelines and COVID case levels in the Chicago area, using the CDC’s ‘COVID-19 Community Levels’ framework to adjust our protocols as necessary. Contact Pastor Amity if you have any questions or concerns.

Grace Episcopal Church’s
Masking Policy based on Covid-19 Community Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Mask Required</th>
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<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Mask Optional</td>
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<td>Medium</td>
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<td>High</td>
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When am I supposed to stand?
At any point in the service, it’s perfectly fine for you to remain seated as you’re comfortable. We do have customary times to stand or sit, generally we stand when we sing and when we pray. Other times are indicated by the italicized instructions throughout the service. There are also times when it is customary to cross ourselves and if you wish to do so, the + indicates these.

Can I receive Communion?
Yes. Everyone, without exception, is invited to receive Communion. The communion bread is received in your hands and wine is received in individual cups. If you require a gluten-free host, please indicate to the priest as you approach. You are welcome to receive a blessing instead; keep your hands folded across your chest.

Where are the restrooms?
There is a gender-neutral restroom located to the left of the altar along the east windows.

Is there wheelchair accessibility?
Yes. The elevator is located on the first floor down the hallway to the right of the stairs.

Find Grace online at gracechicago.org and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter. Email prayer requests to prayers@gracechicago.org. Follow Grace @graceplacechi
Prelude

_Please stand as the bell rings._

Opening Hymn

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say
2. They look - ed up and saw a star
3. And by the light of that same star

1. was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2. shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
3. three wise men came from coun - try far;

1. in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
2. and to the earth it gave great light,
3. to seek for a king was their in - tent,

1. on a cold win - ter’s night that was so deep,
2. and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
3. and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

_Refrain_

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

_The Hymnal 1982 #109_

_The Presider welcomes the congregation._
The Word of God

The congregation says all **bolded** text aloud.

Today, Christ is born.
**Alleluia!**
Today the Savior has come.
**Alleluia!**
Today the angels sing on earth.
**Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Savior Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson  *please be seated*

Grace is reading from *A Woman’s Lectionary for the Whole Church* by the Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney. The lectionary is completely new, built from the ground up, and includes a gender-expansive translation of the biblical texts.

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

1. O God of my ancestors and Author of mercy, who have made all things by your word, 2. and by your wisdom have formed humankind to govern the creatures you have made, 3. and oversee the world in holiness and righteousness, and renders judgment as the soul of righteousness: 4. Give me the wisdom that sits by your throne, and do not reject me from among your children. 5. For I am your slave, the child of your slave girl, one who is weak and short-lived, with little understanding of judgment and laws; 6. for even one who is perfect among human beings will be regarded as nothing without the wisdom that comes from you. 7. With you is Wisdom, she who knows your works and was present when you made the world; she knows what is pleasing in your sight and what is right according to your commandments. 8. Send her forth from the holy heavens, and from your throne of glory send her, that she may labor with me, and that I may learn what is pleasing to you. 9. For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory.  

*Wisdom 9:1-6, 9-11*
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response  remain seated to sing verses 1, 2 & 4

The New Testament Lesson
A reading from Paul’s letter to the Colossians.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in the heavens and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. Jesus himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Jesus is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have preeminence in everything. For in Jesus all the fullness of God was well pleased to dwell, and through Jesus God was well pleased to reconcile to Godself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.  Colossians 1:15-20
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation**  please stand as able and sing

[Music notation]

1 Love came down at Christmas, love all loving, love divine;
2 Worship we the God-head, love incarnate, love divine;
3 Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign.
worship we our Jesus, but where-with for sacred sign?
love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

*The Hymnal 1982 #84*

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**The Gospel**

You are invited to cross yourself at the + below.

Today, Christ is born.

Alleluia!

Today, the Savior has come.

Alleluia!

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Christ.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The Word was with God in the beginning. 3 Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being that came into being. What has come into being in the Word was life, and that life was the light of all people. 4 The light shines in the bleakness, and the bleakness did not overtake it.

5 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 6 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 7 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 8 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
He was in the world, and the world was created through him; yet the world did not know him. To his own he came and his own did not receive him. But to all who did accept him, who believed in his name, he empowered to become children of God—those who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of a human person, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of a parent’s only child, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-14

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Community Sermon

Choose a ‘WORD of the YEAR’ for 2023. A word you hope to live into throughout the coming year. A word to be guided by over the next 12 months. A word you intend to organize your heart, your head, and your hands around in 2023.

What is your ‘WORD of the YEAR’ for 2023?

An Affirmation of Faith  
We believe in God almighty, Author of all things that be, Maker of the earth and heavens, Keeper of the sky and sea, taken from the cross, was buried, True Life there had truly died.

We believe in God’s Son, Jesus, now for us both Lord and Christ, in the body’s resurrection, for the breaking of death’s chain of the Spirit and of Mary born to bring abundant life; then ascended to God’s righthand. He will come to judge and save.

We believe that Jesus suffered, scourged and scorned and crucified; one church catholic, one church holy, where forgiveness frees from sin;
The Prayers

Adapted from prayers by the Rev. Rick Morley, St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Basking Ridge, NJ

In this holy season, angels proclaimed the peace of your Son of righteousness. Strengthen us to work for peace and justice. God among us, glory to you.

In this holy season, you came to us in a child cradled in a borrowed bed as there was no room at the inn. Open our hearts to the needs of those who have no home and those who live in poverty. God among us, glory to you.

In this holy season, Christians throughout the world celebrate Christ’s birth. Unite us that we may shine with the one light that scatters all our darkness. God among us, glory to you.

In this holy season, your living Word came down, shedding light on all who dwell in the shadow of death. Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. God among us, glory to you.

In this holy season, shepherds and outcasts heard your good news. Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation, and be with all those who celebrate, God among us, glory to you.

Deirdre (McCloskey - Grip of Grace January 8th before moving to Washington, DC)
Our Straut Legacy Fund grant recipients
Grace’s faith partners
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Onnuri Church, South Loop Campus Ministry, Masjid al-Rabia, Hope’s Table.

In this holy season, heaven and earth embrace and through your child you make us all your children. Hold in love all who have gone before us in the faith. May we, like them, remain faithful to the mystery of the Word made flesh and live in your eternal light. God among us, glory to you.

Let us share our joys and concerns.

People may add their own prayers.
Online worshippers are invited to unmute and offer their prayers first.
Those in the sanctuary are invited to come to the microphone.

Hear the prayers we bring to you and fulfill your purposes in us in the name of Jesus, your incarnate Word.
Amen.
The Peace
A child has been born for us, a son given to us; and he is named Prince of Peace.
The peace of God be always with you.
And also with you.

The people greet one another.

Announcements please be seated
Some announcements will be given; more information is at the end of this bulletin.

Giving to Grace
You can give online to Grace during worship (or anytime) using your phone; simply scan the QR code and the church’s online donation provider VANCO will appear in your browser. Thank you for supporting Grace’s ministries!
The Table of God

Offertory Hymn  please stand and sing

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say; Jesus Christ is born to-day;

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
He hath opened heaven’s door, and we are blest for ever-more.

Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.

Christ is born to-day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to-day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

The Hymnal 1982 #107
The Great Thanksgiving
*Enriching Our Worship, Eucharist Prayer 2, adapted*

God be with you.
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Almighty One.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, most holy God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

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

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table 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." Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and *make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. Amen.**
Rejoicing in the presence of God among us, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven,
    hallowed be 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.

The invitation to Communion comes from Jesus himself; everyone, without exception, is welcome to receive. The communion bread is received in your hands and wine is received in individual cups. If you require a gluten-free host, please indicate to the priest as you approach.

Those at home may unwrap their host and consume it. If you do not have communion at home, you are invited to pray the Prayer for Spiritual Communion below.
Prayer for Spiritual Communion
In union, dear Jesus, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, I offer you my praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament and that you are able, even when received by faith alone, to heal, enrich, and sanctify me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you and you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Hymn
1 Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heaven descending;
2 Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our mortal blindness;
4 Word that speaks your Father’s love, one with him be yond all telling, Word that sends us from above

faith and hope and love unending, Word almighty,
crucified for our salvation, saving Word, the loose our tongues to tell your kindness. Be our Word in God the Spirit, with us dwelling, Word of truth, to we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world restoring, speak to us, your love outpouring.
piety spoken; heal the world, by our sin broken.
all truth lead us, Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

The Hymnal 1982 #633
Sending Forth

Let us pray.

Radiant God,
with our eyes we have seen your salvation,
and in this meal we have feasted on your grace.

May your Word take flesh in us,
that we may be your holy people,
revealing your glory made known to us
in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

At the + below, you are invited to cross yourself.

Christ, who by his incarnation, gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.
And may God bless you now and forever in the name of the + holy Trinity, one God. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their
watching o'er silent flocks
by night, be-
trembled when lo! above the earth
manager the humble Christ was born, and
Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Light of the world. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Please remain online or make your way to the main hall for conversation and coffee hour.

TODAY'S MINISTERS
Presider
Amity Carrubba

Guest Musician
Marilyn Haverly

Online Host
Wendy Manning

Servers
Doreen Baker, Tom Haverly, Wendy Manning, Chris Wenderoth

Bread Baker
J Burger

Vestry
2023 Melissa Moore
2024 Paula Morrow (Co-Warden), Aled Roberts (Treasurer), Rosita Sands
2025 Wendy Manning (Co-Warden) and Nolan Cooper

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Announcements
Grace welcomes Marilyn Haverly as our guest musician today.

Grace’s Bible study and Centering Prayer are taking a break this week, returning after the new year.

Donate to Hope’s Table Chicago Clothing Drive through January 1
Grace’s homeless neighbors need warmer clothing—coats, gloves, boots and shoes. Men’s items are especially needed. All donations will benefit our partner Hope’s Table Chicago, also known as the Saturday Breakfast. Bring new or gently-used items to Grace on Sunday mornings before worship. There is a collection box in the narthex near the Welcome Table.

Second Sunday of Christmas, January 1 10am
Keep your Christmas cheer going and celebrate the entire season of Christmas at Grace... on Sunday, January 1, with Christmas Sweater Sunday!

All Christmas sweaters are welcome – ugly sweaters, beautiful sweaters, glowing sweaters, shiny sweaters, digital sweaters, even Christmas vest are welcome!

Thank You to Our Christmas Flower Donors
Andrea Billhardt  In memory of Tommy, Virginia, and Elizabeth
Anne Brinkopf  In memory of the Brinkopf and Campbell Families
Amity Carrubba & J Burger  In thanksgiving for family and the Grace Community
Tom Haverly & Chris Wenderoth  In memory of Fred & Ruth Wenderoth,
                                Ellen Wenderoth, Elder, and Ruth & Norm Haverly
Pearl Kondla  In memory of Daisy Archer Busey
Gail Purkey & Dave Konkol  In memory of Robert Konkol, John Purkey and
                                RL & Sharon Purkey
Aled Roberts  In memory of Sharon and Griff
Mary Lou Wade  In thanksgiving for the Wade and Coudal families
Dan Wilson & Kit Mahlman  In loving memory of William J. Wilson and
                                Patricia & Henry Mahlman