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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grace Episcopal Church’s Masking Policy based on Covid-19 Community Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>Low</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mask Optional</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
Christmas Carols

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
4 Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,
5 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

1 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
2 While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
3 So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
4 Where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild;
5 Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

1 Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
2 O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
3 No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
4 Where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,
5 We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

1 The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.
2 And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
3 Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
4 The dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.
5 O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

The Hymnal 1982 #79
1 It came upon the midnight clear, that
glorious song of old, from angels bending
peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly
world has suffered long; beneath the heavenly
near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
music floats o’er all the weary world;
hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong:

2 Still through the cloven skies they come with
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
above its sad and lowly plains they
and warring human kind hears not the
heaven’s all-gracious King.” The world in solemn
bend on hovering wing, and ever o’er its
tidings which they bring: O hush the noise and
stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
Come un fiore, L. Einaudi

Instrumental

Please stand as the bell rings.
Opening Hymn  please stand as able and sing

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light eternal,
3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
4 See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
5 Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
2 lo! he abhors not the Virgin’s womb;
3 leaving all ye citizens of heaven above;
4 we would embrace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
2 only be gotten Son of the Father;
3 glory to God, glory in the highest;
4 we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
5 who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

The Hymnal 1982 #83
The Presider welcomes the congregation.

The Word of God

The congregation says all bold text aloud.

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

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 Hebrew Bible 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 prophet Isaiah.

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and celebrate with her all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy,
all who mourn deeply over her;
in order that you all may nurse and be satisfied from her comforting breast;
that you all may drink deeply and delight yourselves from the glory of her breast.
For so says the Holy One of Old:
Watch! I will extend to her flourishing like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you all shall nurse and be carried on her arm,
and you all shall be bounced on her knees.
As a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you all;
you all shall be comforted in Jerusalem.  Isaiah 66:10-13

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Thanks be to God.
Psalm Response

remain seated to sing response

1 Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

Gloria

in excelsis Deo. Gloria

in excelsis Deo.
The New Testament Lesson
A reading from the first letter of Peter.

22 Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have the love without pretense of children raised together; from a pure heart love one another persistently. 23 You have been born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible seed through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For:

“All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
but the word of the Living God abides forever.”

This is the word that was proclaimed to you as good news. 2 Lay aside, therefore, all malice, and all deceit, pretense, envy, and all slander. 3 Like newborn babies, long for the pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—4 if you have tasted that the Sovereign God is good.

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation  please stand as able and sing

1 Love came down at Christmas, love all love-ly, love di-vine;
2 Wor-ship we the God-head, love in-car-nate, love di-vine;
3 Love shall be our to-ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christmas: star and an-gels gave the sign.
wor-ship we our Je-sus, but where-with for sa-cred sign?
love to God and neigh-bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

The Hymnal 1982 #84
The Gospel

You are invited to cross yourself at the + below.

Tonight, Christ is born.

Alleluia!
Tonight, the Savior has come.

Alleluia!

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

Glory to you, O Christ.

Now it happened in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered (for taxation). This was the first registration and occurred while Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be registered; each to their own towns. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth in to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, for he was from the house and heritage of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was betrothed and who was pregnant. So it was, that, while they were there, the time came for her to birth her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and swaddled him, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Shepherds were in that region there staying in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Most High God came upon them, and the glory of the Living God shone around them, and they were greatly terrified. But the angel said to them, “Fear not. Look! For I proclaim to you good news of great joy for all the people: For there is born to you this day a Savior who is the Messiah, the Sovereign God, in the city of David. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby swaddled and lying in a manger.” And immediately there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly array, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among peoples whom God favors!”

And it happened when the angels had departed from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to be, which the Sovereign God has made known to us.” So they came hurrying and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Now seeing this, they made known what had been spoken to them about this child. And all who heard marveled at what was spoken by the shepherds to them. But Mary preserved all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was just as it had been told them.

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

The Sermon
An Affirmation of Faith
please stand as able

We believe in God almighty, Author of all things that be.
We believe that Jesus suffered, scourged and scorned and crucified;
We believe in God’s own Spirit, binding all the saints within.
Maker of the earth and heavens, Keeper of the sky and sea.

In this holy night, 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 night, 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 night, shepherds and outcasts heard your good news. Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation. God among us, glory to you.

In this holy night, we rejoice in this time of recreation. Be with those who travel, enrich our rejoicing, and strengthen the bonds between us. God among us, glory to you.

In this holy night, 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 night, 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.

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

In this holy night, 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 night, 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.

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In this holy night, 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 night, 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

In this holy night, the angels sing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among peoples whom God favors!” The peace of God be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another.

Announcements

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  
_Lo, how a rose_, L. Henke

_please stand as the offering is brought forward_

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

*Cantor sings, all echo each phrase.*

1 & 2. O Word made Flesh. you take away

3. Em - ma - nu - el

the sins of the world: Have mer - cy on us.

[3.

Grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.

*My Heart Sings Out #44*
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 Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
2 Isaiah ’twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
3 O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,

Of Jesse’s lineage coming as seers of old have sung,
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;

It came, a blossom bright,
To show God’s love a-right,
true man, yet very God,

amid the
she bore to
from sin and
cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
us a Savior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our every load.

The Hymnal 1982 #81
Sending Forth

Let us pray.

Infinite, intimate God, tonight, we have celebrated your presence with us. May we grow in the divine life of Christ who humbly shared our human life. Help us to know you, not only in the angels’ song, and in the breaking of the bread, but in the ordinary moments of our lives. Fill us with your joy, and send us out to share this good news with others. We ask through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

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

May Almighty God, who loved the Only Begotten One from the foundation of the world, shed the brilliance of divine light upon you. Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things heavenly and earthly, fill you with joy and peace. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. Amen.

Candle Lighting and Closing Hymn

We now light candles from the Advent wreath. Once your candle is lit, share the light with your neighbor. As our candles become a sea of light, lit from the one light of Christ, so may the church reflect Christ’s light and love in the world.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm,
Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake
Silent night, holy night, Son of God,

All is bright round yon virgin mother and child,
At the sight, glories stream from heaven afar,
Love’s pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,

Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy

Peace.  Sleep in heavenly peace.  From birth,
Christ, the Savior, is born!  Jesus, Lord, thy birth.

The Hymnal 1982 #111
Dismissal
Go in peace. Proclaim the Light of the world. Alleluia!
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

Postlude
To a Wild Rose, E. MacDowell

You are invited to a festive reception downstairs in the main hall.

TODAY'S MINISTERS
Presider & Preacher: Amity Carrubba
Deacon: Andrea Billhardt
Minister of Music: Logan Henke
Online Host: Janet Harper

Servers: Doreen Baker, Kim Callis, Jerry Hiller, Marilynn Rochon

Bread Baker: J Burger

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

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

First Sunday of Christmas, Tomorrow 10am
This service includes a "WORD of the YEAR" Community sermon, so consider what your word of 2023 will be. A word you intend to organize your heart, your head, and your hands around in the coming 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. Hope’s Table liaison Tom Healy can also pick up your donation from your home if you are unable to come to Grace.

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