The Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2023

Online Bulletin
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 God’s 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, please mute yourself once the prelude begins.

Can I receive Communion?
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 following the Great Thanksgiving. You can always request communion hosts to be delivered to your home by the Grace clergy.

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

Cover Artwork: “O Holy Night” by Cass Moore
Prelude  
*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*, arr. S. Nielson

Opening Hymn

1 Once in royal David’s city stood a
2 He came down to earth from heaven, who is
3 We, like Mary, rest confounded that a

1 lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her
2 God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a
3 stable should display heaven’s Word, the world’s cre-

1 baby in a manger for his bed; Mary
2 stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the
3 aotor, cradled there on Christmas Day, yet this

1 was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child,
2 poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
3 child, our Lord and brother, brought us love for one another.

*The Hymnal 1982 #102*

*The presider welcomes the congregation.*
The Word of God

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

Christ is born.

**Alleluia!**
The Savior has come.

**Alleluia!**
The angels sing on earth.

**Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Hebrew Bible Lesson  please be seated

*from the New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV), one of 14 Bible translations authorized by the Episcopal Church for use in worship and by most major Christian churches*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the **LORD**, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, so the **Lord God** will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

62:1 For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

2 The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the **LORD** will give.

3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the **LORD**, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  *Isaiah 61:10–62:3*

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

**Thanks be to God.**
Psalm Response

sing verses 1, 2 and 6

The New Testament Lesson

A reading from Paul’s letter to the Galatians.

23 Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6 And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7

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

Thanks be to God.
The Gospel

You are invited to cross yourself at the + below.

+ 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 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 4 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome 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.

9 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 10 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 11 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 12 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of
the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

**John 1:1-18**

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

The Community Sermon

Choose a ‘WORD of the YEAR’ for 2024. 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 2024.

What is your ‘WORD of the YEAR’ for 2024?

*Online worshippers are invited to unmute and offer their WORD of the YEAR first.*
*Those in the sanctuary are invited to come to the microphone with their WORD of the YEAR.*

Affirmation of Faith

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.
Taken from the cross, was buried, True Life there had truly died.
One church catholic, one church holy, where forgiveness frees from sin;

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 right hand. He will come to judge and save.
gives the life that’s everlasting. This the faith that we have claimed.
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 are celebrating Christ’s birth. Unite us in one family 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, especially:

| The people of the Holy Land & all those in conflict zones | Michael Curry (Presiding Bishop) |
| Larry (Kim Callis’ uncle) | Arthur (Craig Bivins’ uncle) |
| Adrienne (Gail Purkey’s friend) | Brody (grandson of Mary Lou Wade) |
| Bernard & Brenda (Monique Patterson’s family) | Nathaniel (Anderson) |
| Cynthia (wife of Marvin Foltz) |

God among us, 
glory to you.

In this holy season, heaven and earth embrace through your holy child. 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.

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, especially:

| Doreen (Baker - 4) | Maureen (Jenkins - 4) |
| Grace’s Straut Legacy Fund grant recipients |
| Grace’s faith partners (Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Onnuri Church, & Hope’s Table Chicago) |

God among us, 
glory to you.

We pray for the needs and concerns of this congregation.

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!
Offertory Hymn

1 Sing, O sing, this blessed morn, unto us a child is born,
2 God from God, and Light from Light, comes with mercies infinite,
3 God with us, Emmanuel, deigns for ever now to dwell;
4 God comes down that we may rise, lifted by him to the skies;
5 O renew us, Lord, we pray, with thy Spirit day by day,

1 unto us a son is given, God himself comes down from heaven.
2 from high heaven he comes to earth, one with us in human birth.
3 he on Adam’s fallen race sheds the fullness of his grace.
4 Christ is born for us that we born again in him may be.
5 that we ever one may be with the Father and with thee.

Refrain

Sing, O sing, this blessed morn, Jesus Christ today is born.
The Table of God

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.

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 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
4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
5 Then en - tered in those wise__ men three

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;
4 o’er__ Beth - le - hem it took__ its rest,
5 full__ rever - ent - ly__ up - on their knee,

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,
4 and there it__ did both stop__ and stay
5 and of - fered__ there in his__ pres - ence

Hymn continues on next page
Sending Forth

Let us pray.

Infinite, intimate God,
today, 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.

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 watch over silent flocks by night,
2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang
man-ger the humble Christ was born, and

hold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.
God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Repeat Refrain

The Hymnal 1982 #99
Dismissal
Go in peace. Proclaim the Light of the world. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude  He is Born. arr J. Carter

Please make your way to the main hall for fellowship.

TODAY’S MINISTERS
Presider Deacon Minister of Music Bread Baker
Amity Carrubba Andrea Billhardt Marilyn Haverly J Burger

Servers
Sara Davis, Tom Haverly, Kevin Malone, Chris Wenderoth

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Announcements

Healing Ministry Returns to Grace
Praying for healing is an ancient prayer practice, whether praying for yourself (prayer of petition) or for someone else (prayer of intercession). This ancient practice returns to Grace on the first Sunday of each month immediately following worship. A Grace clergy member will be available to pray with you and offer anointing with oil in the intimate space of the chapel located on the west side of the sanctuary. Bring your cares and concerns and receive individual prayer.

Pastor Amity is out next Sunday attending a friend’s ordination in Sacramento, CA. The Rev. Gloria Hopewell will preside and preach at Grace.

Save-the-Date:
Grace Episcopal Church’s Annual Meeting
January 28, 2024
Grace’s Annual Meeting is where the parish elects new Vestry members and delegates to the Diocesan Convention, reviews the 2024 budget, and hears from the Rector and the Vestry about the past year of parish life and plans for the future. Please plan to attend!

Thank You to Our Christmas Flower Donors
Doreen Baker
In memory of Pearl Kondla
Amity Carrubba & J Burger
In thanksgiving for family and the Grace Community
Sara Davis
In memory of my beautiful sister, Christine
Wynette & Jim Edwards
In thanksgiving
Tom Haverly & Chris Wenderoth
In memory of Norm & Ruth Haverly, Fred & Ruth Wenderoth and Ellen Wenderoth
Gail Purkey & Dave Konkol
In memory of R.L. & Sharon Purkey, Robert & Ursula Konkol and John Purkey
Dan Petrisko
In thanksgiving
Mary Lou Wade
In memory of the Wade and Coudal families
Dan Wilson & Kit Mahlman
In thanksgiving for our family