



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ELKRIDGE

Rev. Travis K. Smith, Rector
Feast: The First Sunday of Advent

Rev. Mimi Mathews, Deacon
December 2, 2018 - 10am

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Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church

We're glad you are here! The center of all that we do at Grace is the worship of God as revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is our principle call as Christians and is the means by which we are nourished so that we might be the hands and feet of our Risen Lord in our community and the world.

- We invite everyone in worship to **come to our Lord's Table** during worship to receive communion or a blessing. The bread is received with an open hand; the wine by guiding the chalice to your lips or by dipping the wafer into the cup. If you do not wish to receive communion, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing instead.
- An opportunity for **healing prayer** is offered during worship at the kneeler located under the heart banner in Grace's Wellness Corner. Prayers can be offered for any part of your life that needs it —physical, mental, spiritual. You can come seeking healing for yourself or for someone else in any part of their life.
- **Angels of Grace Nursery** is located upstairs. We love to have children at the services and welcome their energy with open hearts and arms. While not staffed, the nursery is a place parents can take a child if quiet time is desired. Go through the double doors, up the stairs, and follow the signs. A changing table is available in the nursery and in the women's restroom.
- **Children's Chapel** is offered during worship. After the Gospel, children process upstairs and celebrate God's love of them and their neighbor. Children rejoin the service during the Peace.

Join us for further refreshment after worship concludes. If you're looking for a spiritual home, exploring your faith, searching for ways to serve your community, or seeking to make a difference in God's world, you are welcome at Grace Episcopal Church.

Mission Statement of Grace Church

- We are called by God to be a community of faith committed to knowing Jesus and making Him known to the world.
- We believe we are called to seek Christ in all persons and to love our neighbors as God loves us.
- We believe as the body of Christ we are called to reach out to our local community and the world, to invite all people to know the joy of God, and to welcome all persons into fellowship.
- We believe we are called to nurture each other in the faith and to be a fellowship of grace and renewal.

Looking for a church that loves people? Come as our guest and leave as one of the family! Church services are held at 7:30a.m. at the **Historic Stone Church** in downtown ElkrIDGE off of Main Street and at 10 a.m. at the **Holy Family Chapel** at 6725 Montgomery Road. For more information about Grace Episcopal Church, check the website at www.graceelkrIDGE.org or call the office at 410-796-3270.

Entrance Rites

The people stand as they are able.

Prepare ye the Way of the Lord - Godspell

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Lighting the First Candle of Advent

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: *Thanks be to God*

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth.

(A person lights the First Candle here)

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: *God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

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.*

The Children are invited to Children's Chapel

A Song of Praise - O Come O come Emmanuel - WR154

(Adapted to WR 154)

Chorus 1

Rejoice Rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

Verse 1

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Verse 2

O come thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thy justice here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

Verse 3

O come thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go

Verse 4

O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy stife and quarles cease
Fill the whole world with heavens Peace.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

A period of silence is kept.

The Word of God

First Reading

A reading from The First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (3:9-13).

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Celebrant

The Word of the Lord

The People

Thanks be to God

A period of silence is kept.

Psalm 25 Chanted

Congregational Refrain: *To you O Lord I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.*

To you O Lord I lift my soul to you I lift my soul

Refrain:

Lord make me know your ways

Teach me your paths and keep me in the way of your truth,
For you are God my Savior.

Refrain:

For the Lord is good and righteous,
Revealing the way to those who wander,
Gently leading the poor and the humble.

Refrain:

To the ones who seek the Lord
Who look to God's Word, who live God's love,
God will always be near and will show them mercy.

Refrain:

Hymn - The King of Glory Comes - WR159

Refrain

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Verse 1

Who is the King of glory: what shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. (Refrain)

Verse 2

In all of Galilee, in city or village,
He goes among his people, curing their illness. (Refrain)

Verse 3

He gave his life for us, the pledge of salvation,
He took upon himself the sins of the nation. (Refrain)

Verse 4

He conquered sin and death: he truly has risen,
And he will share with us his heavenly vision. (Refrain)

Worship & Rejoice #159 // Words Willard Jabusch // Music Israeli folk song arr. John Ferguson

Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (21:25-36).

Jesus said, ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Celebrant

The Gospel of the Lord

The People

Praise to thee Lord Christ

A period of silence is kept.

Sermon Rev. Travis K. Smith

The people stand as they are able.

The Nicene Creed

All say together

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Deacon

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Eugene and Chilton our Bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For Donald our President, Larry our Governor, Allan our County Executive, Calvin our County Executive, Chris and Benjamin our Senators, Gail, Guy, and Edward our State Senators, Katie and Clarence, our State Senators elect, Eljiah and John our Representatives, Jon and Calvin our Council Members, Elizabeth and Opel our Council Members elect. For the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For this city of Elkridge, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace. *Lord, have mercy.*

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. *To thee, O Lord our God.*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All say together

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.

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.

A period of silence is kept.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Priest says

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:15, 16*

Offertory Hymn - Prepare the Way of Zion - WR152

Verse 1

Prepare the way O Zion
Your Christ is drawing near
Let every hill and valley
A level way appear
Greet One who comes in glory
Foretold in sacred story

Chorus

Oh blest is Christ that came
In God's most holy name

Verse 2

He brings God's rule O Zion
He comes from heav'n above
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice truth and love

Lift high your praise resounding
For grace and joy abounding

Chorus

Verse 3

Fling wide your gates O Zion
Your Saviour's rule embrace
His tidings of salvation
Proclaim in every place
All lands will bow before Him
Their voices will adore Him

Chorus

CCLI Song # 1958603 (adapted WR152)

Charles P. Price | Frans Mikael Franzen | Jeffrey Rickard

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Presentation Song

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him, all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia

Praise him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.*

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father

Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People
Christ has died.

Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
AMEN

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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.

A period of silence is kept.

The Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Priest invites the people to Communion

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.

Communion Hymns - We Remember You - WR690 // Come Thou Long Expected Jesus - WR153 // Wait for the Lord - WR166

We Remember You (WR690)

Verse 1

We remember You
We remember You
By Your sacrifice of love
All glory now is due
At this table here
Mercy hovers near
Thanks is offered up
In this bread and cup
We remember You

Verse 2

Precious risen Lamb
Jesus who was slain
Now enthroned in glory
Forever You will reign
Gladly we embrace
Both these signs of grace
Thanks is offered up
In this bread and cup
We remember You

CCLI Song # 2186931 // Walt Harrah // © 2000 Hope Publishing Company

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (WR153)

Verse 1

Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us

Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Verse 2

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a Child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

CCLI Song # 2529464 (adapted to WR153)

Charles Wesley | Ken Bible | Rowland Hugh Prichard

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Wait for the Lord (WR 166)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Worship & Rejoice #166 // Word & Music Taize Community

The people stand as they are able.

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The Bishop or Priest says

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Hymn - O come, O come Emmanuel - WR154

We Light the Advent Candles (WR 175)

Verse 1

We light the Advent candles against the winter night,
to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light,
to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light.

Verse 2

The first one will remind us that Christ will soon return.
We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn,
We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn.

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Announcements and Calendar

Tuesday Suppers - Supper is this week

Thank you to Jean Schutt who has volunteered to coordinate the dinners for 2018 - 2019 year. If you would like help by doing a supper on a Vestry night, please contact Jean.

Thank you Buxton and Fox's for a fabulous dinner. It was great to see everyone.

Next Supper is Dec 18 – hosted by Troop 432.

Vestry & Supper Dates are: Dec 18, Jan 22, Feb 26, Mar 5 (Shrove Tues), Apr 23, May 28.
Soup Supper Days for Lent: Mar 12,19,26, Apr 2,9, 16 (Seder – Fr. Travis)

Angel Tree

Please Participate in the "Angel Gift Card Tree" For this Holiday Season of Giving, Grace Church will be participating in providing "Gift Cards" for needy families in Elkridge.

Angel Shoppers can choose an "Angel" tag, with a gift card name and amount, from an area store. This year's stores are Target, Walmart, Green Valley & Giant. You are not required to pick up a tag but please consider donating gift card in denominations of 10, 25 or 50.

There will be envelopes in the back of the church for the gift cards. You may place the envelope in the collection plate or turn them into the church office. All donations will need to be returned by December 9th 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Jody Nation - jnation@comcast.net.

Christmas Wreaths

Once again this year Cathy Hudson will be collecting orders for 22" Double Balsam Wreaths for \$17.00 each. Please give your order to Cathy or the church office by December 5th. Make checks payable to: Grace Episcopal Church.

You may also purchase one for donation to help decorate the HSC for Christmas.

Greening of the Church

Greening of the church will take place on 12/23 after the 10 am service. We will all meet at the Stone Church around 11:30am. A light fare lunch will be served at the church for those who are volunteering. If you are not sure ask Jody Nation or any of our parishioners many have participated in the past. This is a family event so bring everyone, many hands make light work.

Please RSVP the church office at graceelkrigde@gmail.com or call the Peddicords at 410 796 0070 and talk to Judy or leave a message by December 16th. We need to know how much food to supply.

Spring Tea 2019 - May 4 - Save the Date

Fun, Families, Fellowship – Save the Date

Save the following dates for this year's activities for the children of Grace Church and their families. We'd love kids of all ages and their families to come for fun and conversation with other Grace Church families. If you'd like to plan one of these activities or have any other questions, please contact Michelle Matto at mgamatto@hotmail.com or 410-579-8021.

January 20, 2019, 2 PM: Bowling

April 28, 2019, 5 PM: Dance Party/Game Night

June 2, 2019, 2 PM: Nature Hike/Picnic

Children's Sunday School

Adult Sunday School Invitation to Sunday School: (from 11/25)

And so it begins ... As promised our year-long theme is "Out of the believers' heart shall flow rivers of living water." In Sunday school this year we want to begin to cultivate the type of life that will bring water to a thirsty world. With that in mind we will be studying through Christmastide (Advent, Christmas, and the Season after Epiphany) Richard Foster's book Celebration of Discipline. Starting Sunday December 2nd we will begin with chapter one: The Spiritual Disciplines: The Door to Liberation. I should have copies of the book for you Sunday 11/25 at our ingathering service for Christ the King, if you want to pick them up they are supposed to arrive by Friday (Black Friday). I hope to see you on Sunday. If for whatever reason you would rather read Scripture than a book, please know that we will have Scripture alongside every class session to help illuminate or challenge what Foster is teaching us. This book is also on Audible for download if that is something you prefer. Blessings on all of you, I look forward to seeing you at 9 am for Sunday School on the first Sunday of Advent December 2nd.

Adult Sunday School 12/2

Freedom is hard work! As we begin this new year of Sunday school we have endeavored to accept the hard work of freedom. When most of us think of freedom we usually think in terms of immobility to mobility. Like getting out of a hospital bed for the first time after a long illness, getting a cast removed, or learning to ride a bicycle, drive a car, or (like our Senior Warden) fly a plane. It is the learning part that we are struggling with this Christmastide. We are studying the book Celebration of Discipline and allowing Richard Foster to challenge us to greater discipline in our Christian lives; keeping in mind the hope that these disciplines will grant a greater freedom in our lives. With that in mind I hope you

will continue to read with me this week read the chapter on the Christian discipline of Meditation. Meditation has been forgotten in the mainstream of Protestant Christianity. We hear much about reading Scripture and prayer but the discipline of meditation: the silent, centering time where we stop and sit with the omnipresent God who loves us isn't talked about much. We at Grace are going to jump into this next week, and embrace the freedom that emerges when we rest in the God who loves us.

Gluten Allergy??

Grace now has Gluten Free Host. If you are in need of the Gluten Free Host please let Fr. Travis or Rev. Mimi know and they will be happy to serve you.

Tithing via your Credit Card

We have an agreement with Vanco, our online stewardship/giving company, to accept Credit Card (MC, Visa, Amex & Discover) contributions. You can register your credit card via online or via text message option. You can choose to make your contribution one time, weekly or monthly.

- Online option – graceelkridge.org – go to top right corner click on “Stewardship/Giving” and follow prompts.
- GIVE + Text – text 410-618-1877 and a link will be sent to you for donating. Follow prompts after the link is open.
- We also purchased a “Mobile Card Reader” so we can use credit cards at events. See flyer in back of the church to log in or just to check it out.

AmazonSmile

If you use Amazon - log into smile.amazon.com and choose Grace Episcopal Church, Elkridge and a portion of eligible purchases will be donated back to Grace.

Pastoral Care Team

Thank you for those who were able to make it on Oct 8th our next meeting is Dec 10th. The Celebration of Life Team is working hard to finalize the process for services. Rev. Mimi spoke about Eucharistic Visitation and our continued mission at Grace.

If you are interested in joining the Pastoral Care, there are opportunities for someone to serve so if you feel called to serve at Grace please drop a line to the office, Fr. Travis or Rev. Mimi

Caring Card - Ministry

~Have you ever wanted to let someone know that you are thinking of them? ~

- Now you can by using the new Grace “Caring Card”.
- These cards are available for you to take, write a message, and mail to someone.
- Grace provides the card, and you provide the “caring” and the postage.

There will be cards available at the Historic Stone Church & the Family Life Center.

*Please make sure you get permission of the person you are lifting up in prayer, before you add them to the prayer list.

Prayer / Visitation (Look for the Yellow Card)

Do you know someone in need of Prayers or Visit?

Fill out a yellow Prayer & Visitation cards located in the back of the FLC and the HSC, (4.5 x 5.5 yellow card). Please pass it only to the church via the offering plate, and the Pastoral Team will visit and or pray. Please make sure if requesting a visit or prayers the person is aware you are giving their name. Thank you for your support on this addition to communication to the office.

This yellow card is not in place of the weekly “Prayers of the People” to be read during services. We want to share with you, your concerns, joys & thanksgivings on the “Prayers of the People” sheet in the back of the HSC & Holy Family Chapel @ FLC.

Pastoral Care Team Reaches Out to Service Members

Grace's Pastoral Care Team has started a ministry of sending prayer books and commemorative medals to people serving in the military. If you have a loved one who might appreciate receiving this gift from Grace, please contact the church office.

Just a Spoonful of Love – Casserole Ministry

Grace’s Pastoral Care team invites parishioners to join them in working to resume our Casserole Ministry to serve members during times of need, e.g., illness, hospitalization, arrival of new child, etc. To participate in this ministry, all you have to do is pick up a casserole pan (recipe included) from the back of the church, buy the ingredients, prepare the casserole, wrap it in plastic and aluminum foil, date it and attached the second copy of recipe card provided (so recipients can view ingredients for possible allergies), and return the casserole to the freezer in the FLC kitchen. Members of the Pastoral Care team will handle deliveries. Receipts may be presented to the church office for notation on individual’s giving statement as donation in kind. If this experiment is successful, new recipes will be available monthly or seasonal. For information, see Rev. Mimi after services or contact her at 443-277-0068

Sonshine Card Ministry

Thank you for your support, we have received many cards to help with our mission. Please continue to drop extra cards to the office when you have them. This is very special mission to many people in our parish.

Please Use Store Cards-Help The Local Poor

In the fall 2017, The Vestry decided that on behalf of Grace Church, Fr. Travis Smith can and should continue helping indigent families approaching the church for assistance. While this is often overlooked, The Vestry is proud of this outreach and the judicious use of resources by Fr. Travis Smith. Put in simplest terms possible, the “profit” from the store card program will be used to continue this outreach; deficits will be covered by the Rector’s Discretionary

Fund, (supported by loose plate offering 1st & 5th Sundays) surpluses mean more aid available to the community.

Please consider using store cards as a way to brighten the world, just a little bit for those who need it most.

Roving Radish - See you Next Spring

The Roving Radish is back, pick up will be available on Wednesday 3:30 to 5pm in the Grace parking lot.

- Go on to www.ROVINGRADISH.com to check our weekly recipes.
- Cost per pick up will be \$32 per meal kit (2 dinners for a family of four).
- We are fortunate to be able to offer these subsidized kits, please see web site.
- Now offering Vegetarian Meals \$32.00 (2 meals for a family of four)
- Order weekly or in advance.

Pay at the time of your order online (credit card only) or at pick-up (cash or EBT only)

The Roving Radish is a Howard County Government program dedicated to promoting healthy farm to table eating habits to our community, while creating sustainable markets for our local and regional farms. We achieve this by selling healthy meal kits, sourced from local and regional farms, to our community.

YOGA and KARATE

Classes to resume in the Fall – watch for dates in January 2019

Karate: All ages (minimum age 8)

6:00pm to 6:45pm 9-week session: Fitness & self-awareness (self-defense) class (\$donation or included if you sign up for karate)

Focus on flexibility, cardio, core strength, body mechanics, mindfulness, and self-defense,

Karate: All ages (minimum age 10)

7:00pm to 7:45pm 9-week session Ryukyu Kempo Karate Class (\$60/student or \$100/family)

Focus on body mechanics, 3 awareness's (self, environmental, and situational), and martial elements (flow, energy, theory, and practical application)

Karate students are encouraged to participate in the 6:00pm class

Yoga: All ages

8:00pm to 9:00pm 9-week session: Diurnal Yoga Class (\$donation)

Practice makes Practice

Focus on mindfulness, individual practice, vinyasa (movement through breath), core and mechanics

Mustard Seed Thrift Shop

Is NOW open 1st Sunday of each month from 11am to 12:30.

Volunteers needed to help in The Mustard Seed on Tues, Thurs or Saturdays from 10am to 1pm. If interested in volunteering or have any questions, please call Isobel Schum: 410 747 9695.

As part of the mission of Grace the Mustard Seed donates the overflow of clothing for men, women & children's to Greendrop.com and Grassroots DAY Resource Center

The thrift shop is in dire (dire-an extremely serious or urgent situation or event) need of techie help to get its FACE on THE BOOK and other social media. If technology is your ministry and you are willing to help, please call Isobel Schum at 410-747-9695.

Grassroot Day Resource Center

Thank you to all who have made donations to the Grassroot Day Resource Center. They are always appreciated very much. If you would like to make additional donations, bring them with you to Sunday worship. These are the items they are in need of currently: Canned Soup-Condensed, Chunky, Progresso, Canned Meats-Chicken, Vienna Sausage, Spam, Salmon, Tuna, Canned Vegetables-All types EXCEPT green beans, Canned Fruit-All kinds, Canned Beans-Pinto, Garbanzo, Black, Northern, Canned Meals-Chef Boyardee, Beef Stew, Corned Beef Hash, etc.,

Please check out their new website: Daycenter.org

Howard County Prescription Drop off

Rid your home of any medication you no longer need, and in the process, help us continue to fight the opioid crisis in our area.

You can dispose of unneeded or expired medication safely and anonymously in any of our four permanent disposal boxes.

Open 24/7

Northern District Station (3410 Courthouse Drive in Ellicott City)

Southern District Station (11226 Scaggsville Road in Laurel)

Drop Off During Business Hours

Community Outreach (10741 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia)

Gary Arthur Community Center (2400 Route 97 in Cooksville)

10:00 am Servers @ Holy Family Chapel

Please check the schedule for details or call Ginny Stickles @ 410 382 2184

December: 2- Betty McMullen, Bob Puppa, Karen Stewart

9- Jody Nation, Michelle Matto, Isobel Schum, Ginny Stickles

16- Ginny Stickles, Judy Fox, Rita Chelton,

23- Chris Fox, Elaine Puppa, Bob Puppa, Karen Stewart

30- Rita Chelton, Ginny Stickles, Isobel Schum

"Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." John 7:38
NRSV

Parish Calendar Week of December 2, 2018

Monday, December 3rd

Office – CLOSED

7:00 pm – Choir practice @ FLC Conf Rm 2

8:30 pm AA meeting @ FLC

Tuesday, December 4th

Office Hours 10- 2

9:00 Discernment Study

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Mustard Seed Thrift Store OPEN

6:00 pm – GECC Advisory Meeting @ Conf Rm 1

8:30 pm AA meeting @ FLC

Wednesday, December 5th

Office Hours 10 – 2

6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 432 Meeting @ FLC

Thursday, December 6th

Office Hours 7:30 – 2

7:30am - Eucharist Service @ FLC

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Mustard Seed Thrift Store

6:00 pm – GECC Staff Meeting

6:00 pm - Karate @ FLC (OFF for Summer/Fall)

8:00 pm – Yoga @ FLC (OFF for Summer/Fall)

Friday, December 7th

Office Hours CLOSED

10:30am GECC – Jump Bunch

7:00 pm – Pack 432 Meeting @ FLC

7:00 pm – Private Rental @ FLC – Yale Presbyterian Church (1st & 4th Friday in December)

Saturday, December 8th

10:00 am – 1:00 pm - Mustard Seed Thrift Store

Sunday, December 9th

7:30 am - Holy Eucharist @ HSC

9:00 am – Adult Sunday School @ FLC conf Rm 1

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist @ FLC

11:00 am – Grace Family Fellowship @ FLC

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Mustard Seed Thrift Store OPEN (1st Sunday of Month ONLY)

12:00 pm – Private Rental @ FLC – Yale Presbyterian Church

Parish Prayers of Intercession

Dec 2 – Dec 8

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Slate Project, Baltimore; St Bartholomew's, Baltimore; St David's, Roland Park

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain

In our community: We pray that we may be devoted to your worship and directed and sustained in our ministries; that the Holy Spirit will guide and uphold this Parish in all its missions and in our individual spiritual journeys. We pray for the resident of Colonial Landing Apartments, give thanks and prayer for our visitors for whom have yet to walk in our doors. We bid prayers for all member of the Regular and Reserve Forces of the United States, especially *Brian Hesson (friend Rev. Mimi Mathews)*, *Rachel Werts (Karen Stewarts daughter)*, *Jason Werts (Karen Stewarts son in law)*, *David Kinnamont (Karen Stewart son)*, *John Lord (Betty McMullen grandson -in law)*, *Matt Merritt (Amy Szekely son)*, *David Shrewbury (Puppa's son in law)*, *Marc Benson (Stickles nephew)*, *Christen Kratz Woolford (Dennis Kratz daughter) and Tom Woolford (Dennis Kratz son in law)*. We also pray for all the men and women who risk their lives daily serving in law enforcement, fire and public safety. Prayers for the Military who have died and their families. We continue to keep all our military and public service casualties in your prayers for their continued recovery.

Rest of the Soul: Kathleen Schmidt

Prayers of Special Intentions: Mel Baumer, Taylor Burry, George Chaney, Geri Ellen, Rosemary Klochko, Henry, Candice Harvey, Langdon Jones, Vanessa Jones, Liang Family, Harry Magee, Petkus-Humbert Families, Patricia Parker, John Roycroft, Eric Scott, Joyce Shields, Bruce & Teresa Schutt, Ray Smith, Bruce Trent, Kailyn Thompson, Nancy Williams, Family of Stephanie Williams, Doug Williams, Cory Woodall

For the hospitalized, sick and home bound: Peggy Blackburn, Robin Blackburn, Doris Clay, Eleanor Gyr, Judy Peddicord, George Perry, Bruce Schutt, Pam Stevens, Rebecca Ubert, Jean Williams, Irene Wilson

Birthdays: WEEK of 11/25: Irene Wilson, Norm Peddicord, Dave Shrewsberry WEEK of 12/2: Don Cohne, Joshua Guerke, Keith Cameron, Matthew Davy, Doug Williams, Alex Gerus Jr

Anniversaries:

* Names will remain on the prayer list for 8 weeks unless requested longer

Are you one of our guests today?

Please take a moment to tell us something about you. Share whatever you like. Please tear this off and put in the offering plate or give it to the rector.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

At which location and service were you our guest?

Date: _____

_____ Historic Stone Church _____ Holy Family Chapel @ the Family Life Center

How did you find us?

_____ Friend

_____ Graceelkridge.org

_____ Signs

Other: _____

Please check all that apply: _____ First time guest _____ Returning guest _____ New to the area

_____ Would like information on Christian Education

_____ Adult

_____ Children

_____ Youth Ministries

_____ Would like to know more about Grace

_____ Would like to know more about the Episcopal Church

_____ Other: _____ (Seniors, Fellowship, ...)

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