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SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ELKRIDGE

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

Rev. Mimi Mathews, Deacon  
December 9, 2018 - 10am

# 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](http://www.graceelkrIDGE.org) or call the office at 410-796-3270.

# Entrance Rites

## Lighting the Advent Candles

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Peace. Last Sunday we lit the First Candle in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs, this First Candle reminded us of our hope in Christ. We light it again as we remember our Saviour, born a king in the line of King David. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and we believe that he will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us, to rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

(A person lights the First Candle, the Candle of Hope)

Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

(A person lights Second Candle, the Candle of Peace)

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

*All: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.*

*The people stand as they are able.*

## Opening Hymn - Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Prpare ye the way of the Lord  
Perpare ye the way of the Lord

Long live God, long live God  
Long live God, long live God

From "Godspell", Words & Music by Stephen Schwartz

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*to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. 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**

Verse 1

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

Chorus 1

Rejoice Rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

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

*Chorus*

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

*Chorus*

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.

*Chorus*

## **Collect of the Day**

**Celebrant**           The Lord be with you.

**People**             *And also with you.*

**Celebrant**           Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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 Letter of Paul to the Philippians (1:3-11).

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and

blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ  
for the glory and praise of God.

Celebrant

The Word of the Lord

The People

Thanks be to God

The Song of Zechariah

**Canticle 4**

*BCP p. 50*

Luke 1:68-79

Canticle 4

The Song of Zechariah

*Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \*

for he hath visited and redeemed his people;

And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \*

in the house of his servant David,

As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*

which have been since the world began:

That we should be saved from our enemies, \*

and from the hand of all that hate us;

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*

and to remember his holy covenant;

To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, \*

that he would give us,

That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*

might serve him without fear,

In holiness and righteousness before him, \*

all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*

for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord

to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*

for the remission of their sins,

Through the tender mercy of our God, \*

whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*A period of silence is kept.*

## **Hymn - Wait for the Lord - WR166**

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

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

## **Gospel**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (3:1-6).

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

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**

### **Leader**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Eugene and Chilton our bishops, we pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We remember today Donald our President, Larry our Governor, Calvin our County Executive, Chris and Benjamin our Senators, Gail, Guy, and Edward our State Senators, Katie, and Clarence our State Senators elect, Elijah and John our Representatives, Terri, Eric, Jessica, Jen, Shane, and Vanessa our State Delegates, Elizabeth, and Opel our Council Members.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest;

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

## **Collect**

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

## ***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.*

## Welcome and Announcements

*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.*

## 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 - Take My Life And Let It Be - (Hymnal 1982 #707)

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated Lord to Thee  
Take my moments and my days  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise  
Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love  
take my heart it is thine own  
It shall be thy royal throne.

Verse 2

Take my voice and let me sing  
Always only for my King  
Take my intellect and use every power  
as thou shalt choose  
Take my will and make it Thine  
It shall be no longer mine  
Take my self and I will be ever  
only all for thee

## 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 Hymn - Be Not Afraid (WR 430) & Jesus Name Above All Names - WR177

Be Not Afraid (WR 430)

Verse 1

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.  
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way.  
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand.  
You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain  
Be not afraid.  
I go before you always.  
Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

Verse 2

If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.  
If you walk a-mid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.  
If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side,  
Know that I am with you through it all.

Refrain

Verse 3

Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.  
Blest are you that weep and morn, for one day you shall laugh.  
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of me,  
blessed, blessed are you!

Refrain

WORDS & MUSIC: Bob Dufford, SJ (1943- )

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Jesus Name Above All Names - WR177

Jesus, Name above All Names  
Jesus, name above all names,  
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us,  
blessed Redeemer, Living Word

Worship & Rejoice # 177 // Words & Music Naida Hern

*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 - Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing - WR 748**

Verse 1

Lord dismiss us with thy blessing  
Fill our hearts with joy and peace  
Let us each thy love possessing  
Triumph in redeeming grace  
O direct us and protect us  
Travelling through this wilderness

Verse 2

Thanks we give and adoration  
For thy gospel's joyful sound  
May the fruits of thy salvation  
In our hearts and lives abound  
Ever faithful ever faithful  
To the truth may we be found

## **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.

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** – Collection Due Today

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

### 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](http://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: 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 9, 2018

### **Monday, December 10th**

Office – CLOSED

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

7:30 pm – Pastoral Care Meeting @ Conf Rm 1

8:30 pm AA meeting @ FLC

### **Tuesday, December 11th**

Office Hours 10- 2

9:00 Discernment Study

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



8:30 pm AA meeting @ FLC

**Wednesday, December 12th**

Office Hours 10 – 2

6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 432 Meeting @ FLC

**Thursday, December 13th**

Office Hours 7:30 – 2

7:30am - Eucharist Service @ FLC

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

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

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

**Friday, December 14th**

Office Hours CLOSED

10:30am GECC – Jump Bunch

3:30 pm – GECC – Santa Workshop @ FLC

7:00 pm – Pack 432 Meeting @ FLC

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

**Saturday, December 15th**

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

10:00 am – Private Wedding @ HSC

10:00 am to 5pm - Private Rental @ FLC

**Sunday, December 16th**

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 9 – Dec 15**

**The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** St George's & St Matthew's, Dundalk; St James', Lafayette Square; St John's in-the-Village, Baltimore

**The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury)

**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.

**Repose of the Soul:** Bruce Schutt

**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, Teresa Schutt & Family, 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, Pam Stevens, Rebecca Ubert, Jean Williams, Irene Wilson

**Birthdays:** Sara Maschino, Hani Andrews, Randolph Stewart, Karen Stewart, Sunny Bick

**Anniversaries:** Lance Cook & Nicole Giannini-Cook

\* 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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