



FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Advent

Grace Episcopal Church

Historic Church: 5805 Main Street, Elkridge, MD 21075

Family Life Center & Offices: 6725 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD 21075

(410) 796-3270 ** Graceelkridge.org

Rev. Travis K Smith, Rector

Rev. Mimi Mathews, Deacon

The Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Sunday, December 22, 2019 – 10:00 am

Welcome to Grace 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.

The Word of God

Entrance Rite

ENTRANCE HYMN: We Light The Advent Candles - WR 175 (Advent)

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.

Verse 3

We light the second candle, and hear God's holy Word,
it tells us, cling to Jesus, prepare to meet your Lord,
it tells us, cling to Jesus, prepare to meet your Lord!

Verse 4

Three candles now are gleaming and show us the true way,
rejoice, the Baptist cries out, your Lord has come today,
rejoice, the Baptist cries out, your Lord has come today!

Verse 5

Four candles burning brightly announce that Christ has come,
prepare, my heart, believe it, and give the Christ child room,
prepare, my heart, believe it, and give the Christ child room.

WORDS: Gracia Grindal (1943-) MUSIC: German Folk Tune

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

	Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
<i>People</i>	<i>And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.</i>

COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant may say

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.

SONG OF PRAISE: Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord

Prepare ye the way of the Lord
Prepare 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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-9

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families

of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Remain seated.

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

¹⁶Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁷And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

¹⁸Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SEQUENCE HYMN: To A Maid Whose Name Was Mary – WR 171 (Advent)

Verse 1

To a maid whose name was Mary,
the angel Gabriel came.
“Fear not,” the angel told her,
“I come to bring good news;
good news I come to tell you,
good news, I say, good news.”

Verse 2

“For you are highly favored
by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you.
You are on earth most blest;
you are most blest, most blessed;
God chose you, you are blest!”

Verse 3

But Mary was most troubled
to hear the angel’s word.
What was the angel saying?
It troubled her to hear,
to hear the angel’s message,
it troubled her to hear.

Verse 4

“Fear not, for God is with you,
and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus,
God’s offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever,
forever reign on high.”

Verse 5

“How shall this be?” said Mary,
“I am not yet a wife.”
The angel answered quickly,
“The power of the Most High

will come upon you shortly,
your child shall be God's child."

Verse 6

As Mary heard the angel,
she wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid,"
she said unto her God.
"So be it; I am ready
according to your word."

WORDS: Gracia Grindal MUSIC: Rusty Edwards

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON: The Rev Travis K Smith

THE CREED

All stand.

*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.*

Outline of the Faith: The Ten Commandments

Q. What are the Ten Commandments?

A. *The Ten Commandments are the laws given to Moses and the people of Israel.*

Q. What do we learn from these commandments?

A. *We learn two things: our duty to God, and our duty to our neighbors.*

Q. What is our duty to God?

A. *Our duty is to believe and trust in God;*

I To love and obey God and to bring others to know him;

II To put nothing in the place of God;

III To show God respect in thought, word, and deed;

IV And to set aside regular times for worship, prayer, and the study of God's ways.

Q. What is our duty to our neighbors?

A. *Our duty to our neighbors is to love them as ourselves, and to do to other people as we wish them to do to us;*

V To love, honor, and help our parents and family; to honor those in authority, and to meet their just demands;

VI To show respect for the life God has given us; to work and pray for peace; to bear no malice, prejudice, or hatred in our hearts; and to be kind to all the creatures of God;

VII To use all our bodily desires as God intended;

VIII To be honest and fair in our dealings; to seek justice, freedom, and the necessities of life for all people; and to use our talents and possessions as ones who must answer for them to God;

IX To speak the truth, and not to mislead others by our silence;

X To resist temptations to envy, greed, and jealousy; to rejoice in other people's gifts and graces; and to do our duty for the love of God, who has called us into fellowship with him.

Q. What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments?

A. *The Ten Commandments were given to define our relationship with God and our neighbors.*

Q. Since we do not fully obey them, are they useful at all?

A. *Since we do not fully obey them, we see more clearly our sin and our need for redemption.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

We remember today Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Eugene our Bishop, Travis our Rector and Mimi our Deacon.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for Donald our President, Larry our Governor, Calvin our County Executive, Benjamin and Chris our Senators, Guy, Katie, and Clarence our State Senators, Dutch and John our Representatives, Jessica, Jennifer, Vanessa, Eric, Terri, and Shane our State Delegates, Opel and Elizabeth our Council Members.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of *thy* kingdom; and grant that we *thy* servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold *thy* Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

*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.*

The Priest stands and says

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.*

THE PEACE

All stand.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	<i>And also with you.</i>

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

The Holy Communion

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN*

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Celebrant says

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.
Psalm 96:8

OFFERTORY HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel WR 154

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 strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heavens Peace.

WORDS: Latin, 9th c.; tr John M Neale(1818-1866) vss 3&4 tr Henry S Coffin (1877-1954)

MUSIC: French melody, 15th c.; harm. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA

The People remain standing.

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.

PROPER PREFACE

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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:

SANCTUS

Celebrant and People

*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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The People stand or kneel.

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.

EPICLESIS

The Celebrant continues

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People and Celebrant

*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,
forever and ever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

INVITATION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [Amen.]

COMMUNION HYMN:

AVE MARIA - Sung By Annie Burke

Like A Child - WR 162 (Advent)

Verse 1

Like a child love would send
To reveal and to mend
Like a child and a friend
Jesus comes
Like a child we may find
Claiming heart soul and mind
Like a child strong and kind
Jesus comes

Verse 2

Like a child we will meet
Ragged clothes dirty feet
Like a child on the street
Jesus comes
Like a child we once knew
Coming back into view
Like a child born anew
Jesus comes

Verse 3

Like a child born to pray
And to show us the way
Like a child here to stay
Jesus comes
Like a child we receive
All that love can conceive
Like a child we believe
Jesus comes

CCLI Song # 1702313

Daniel Charles Damon

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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 Priest blesses the people, saying

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 forever. *Amen.*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: 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

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People *Thanks be to God.*

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Announcements

Christmas Schedule

12/24 Christmas Eve	4pm @ HSC Family Service 9 pm @ HSC Christmas Eve Service
12/25 Christmas Day	9 am @ HSC
1/1 New Years Day	9 am @ HSC

Envelopes will be available starting 12/15 in the back. If you do not see your family name and would like envelopes, please contact the office.

Greening of the Stone Church & plant sales

The Greening of the church is scheduled for December 22nd after the 10 am service. Everyone is welcome to come.

Pizza for lunch is provided. You can bring gloves, Hand clippers and wear old clothes. If you have any bushes or trees we can take clippings from, to make the greens look more festive, let us know. (holly, magnolia, pretty pine or other evergreens) Thanks!

Grace Early Learning Center

Grace Early Learning Center is now enrolling for are following rooms: Toddlers & PreK. We now offer ***Before & After Care*** (We provide transportation to Elkridge Elementary and Duckettes Elementary. The bus for Rockburn Elementary picks up and drops off at our center.)

We believe in hands on learning, teacher and child guided activities and helping children strengthen their social skills. We continue to serve breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack.

Please share with your friends & family. If you would like more information about our program, please email(geccdirector@gmail.com) or call 410-796-4561.

Just for You: *Care Note Booklets are available!*

The Care Notes cover a variety of topics to assist people when they are struggling with different aspects of their lives. They provide Hope, Help and Healing with the information about how you might deal with different topics like bullying, illness, hospice, death, marriage, just to name a few. and they cover all ages- Children, Youth, Adults and Seniors. They are near the front door of the FLC on the bookcase. Help yourself- they are for you and they are free compliments of the Pastoral Care Ministry committee.

Tuesday Suppers

Thank you to Jean Schutt who has volunteered to coordinate the dinners for 2019 - 2020 year. If you would like help by doing a supper on a Vestry night, please contact Jean.

Dinner will be December 17th at 6pm

Ladies Night (Day) Out

Ladies of Grace meet the last Sunday of each month for food & fellowship.

December 29th – *Enjoy December with Family. No Lunch out this month See you Jan 26th*
RSVP to Jody Nation (410)207-9870

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 – web or text

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.

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.

Mustard Seed Thrift Shop

<https://graceelkridge.org/thrift-shop>

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

The Mustard Seed is now on the Net! Our web site is presently in development. Please visit our site. The more visits we get, the more exposure we will be given on the Net. If you have ever shopped with us, please write reviews for us on Google and Yelp. Both traffic and sales are up in the past six months. We continue to work on improving our marketing and upgrading our inventory. Donations can be left off at any time in the brown shed next to the front door of the shop. Please pay us a visit and bring a friend.

Route One Resource Center - Grassroots

Thank you to all who have made donations to the Route One Day Resource Center. They are always appreciated very much. If you would like to make additional donations, bring them with you to Sunday worship. All donations must be ready to eat, no larger than 15oz cans. These are the items they are in need of currently: Bottled water-20oz size, Gatorade, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Tuna, Canned Chicken, Chef Boyardee-15oz can, Spaghettios-15 oz can, Chunky Soups, Dinty Moore Beef Stew, Baked Beans with meat, Underwood Deviled Ham, Libby's Canned Corned Beef, Vienna Sausages, Spam, Beef Jerky, Canned Fruit, Individually packaged snacks.

Please check out their new website: **Daycenter.org**

10:00 am Servers @ Holy Family Chapel

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

Dec: 22 – Jody Nation, Rose Gloth, Ginny Stickles, Rita Chelton
 29 – Ginny Stickles, Bob Puppa, Isobel Schum,
Jan: 05 – Chris Fox, Michelle Matto, Rita Chelton, Karen Stewart
 12 – Rita Chelton, Judy Fox, Bob Puppa, Ginny Stickles
 19 – Meg Magee, Elaine Puppa, Karen Stewart, Isobel Schum
 26 – Jack Applegarth, Rjita Chelton, Ginny Stickles, Rita Chelton

Collections:

	November 2019	December 2019
<i>Envelopes</i>	\$ 9,189	\$ 7,446
<i>Loose:</i>		
<i>RDF</i>	\$ 91	\$ 87
<i>General Fund</i>	\$ 80	\$ 137
<i>Sabbatical</i>	\$ 89	\$
<i>Online:</i>	\$ 1,346	\$
<i>Total Monthly</i>	\$ 10,795	\$ 7,670

Attendance: 12/15/19 7:30 am - 13
10:00 am - 77

Parish Calendar Week of December 22, 2019

Monday, Dec 23rd

Office – 9am – 2pm

7:00 pm – Choir Practice @ FLC conf rm 2 -

7:30 pm AA meeting @ FLC

Tuesday, Dec 24th - *See Christmas Eve Schedule*

Office 9am – 2pm

9:00am - Discernment Study (All Welcome) – off this week

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

4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Family Service @ HSC

8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ FLC – No Meeting

9:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service @ HSC

Wednesday, Dec 25th

Office 9 am – 2 pm

9 am – Christmas Day Service @ HSC

6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 432 Meeting @ FLC (No Meeting)

Thursday, Dec 26th

Office 9am – 2pm

7:30am - Eucharist Service @ FLC

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

7:00 pm – Loving Embraces @ conf room 1 (3rd Thursday)

Friday, Dec 27th

Office Hours CLOSED

10:00 am GELC – *Jump Bunch*

10:00 am – Loving Embraces @ conf room 1 (2nd Friday)

7:30 pm - Private use

Saturday, Dec 28th

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

11:00 am - Private Rental – Milligan Funeral

Sunday, Dec 29th

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 – 4:00 pm - *Private Rental* @ FLC – Yale Presbyterian Church

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Team –next meeting Feb 3, 2020

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

Loving Embraces – Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please join us in making prayer shawls for those in need. We are looking for people willing to create knit, crochet, or even quilt prayer shawls to be donated to Grace members, St. Agnes ICU, Ronald McDonald House or anyone in need of comfort.

- If you have supplies you'd like to donate, please bring them to Grace.
- If you want to learn, please come we will be available if you have questions about your knitting or crocheting.
- We will meet on the 2nd Friday from 10-11 am and on the 3rd Thursday from 7-8 pm at Grace (except March & April)
- Please drop in and join us whenever you can or questions please contact Annie Burke afb1776@gmail.com.

Celebration of Life – next meeting TBD @ FLC Conference room

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. Casseroles can be accepted during office hours M- F or bring them with you on Sunday to church.

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.

Grace Parish Prayers of Intercession

Dec 22 – Dec 28

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St Christopher's. Linthicum Heights; St John's, Ellicott City; St Mark's, Highland

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome; His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch; The Revd Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Bishop Ivan M Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council; The Reverend Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches

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: Fred Favor

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers of Special Intentions: Brenda, Marilyn Bresnahan - Dunn, Ann Burt, Alberta Calvin, Jesse Crouch, Edward Dabeck, Dianne Lynn Davis, Vinnie Burke, Janet Farnsworth, Norah & Scott Kinderman, Katie Lingg, Jerry & Mary Maschino, Mauer Family, Dennis Miller, Mana Seera Edie Springuel, Gail Trinite, Ray Wilkerson

For the hospitalized, sick and home bound: Rev. Lloyd Aiken, David Behrens, Peggy Blackburn, Robin Blackburn, Pat Chelton, Doris Clay, May Davis, Barb Durham, Joe Flanery, Eleanor Gyr, Harry Sappington, Pam Stevens, Rebecca Ubert, Jean Williams, Cory Woodall

Birthdays: Stephen Pospisil

Anniversaries: Doug & Elaine Williams,

Welcome to Grace - Are you our guest 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.

At which location and service were you our guest? Date: _____

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

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 Episcopal Church

_____ Would you like to be added to Constant Contact for Church announcements

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