

Grace Episcopal Church

The First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025 The Holy Eucharist: Rite I - 10:30 a.m.



Sleeper's Wake - J.S. Bach

PRELUDE

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

INTROIT (vv. 1-2) (Choir only) O come, O come, Emmanuel PROCESSIONAL HYMN #53 (*In the Blue Hymnal*) Once he came in blessing 1 Once he came in bless - ing, all ills re dress ing; our 2 Still he comes with inus, still his voice would win us 3 Thus. if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him, 4 One who thus en dur - eth bright re - ward se cur eth. $\mathbf{\sigma}$ of came in like-ness low ly, Son God most ho ly; sins that would to Truth con - vert the hurt from us, us: wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him but cold ly, Come, then, O Lord Ιe from our sins re - lease sus, us;

0 bore the cross hope and free - dom gave to save us, us. not in tor - ment hold but in love en - fold us, us. will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee. us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

323 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

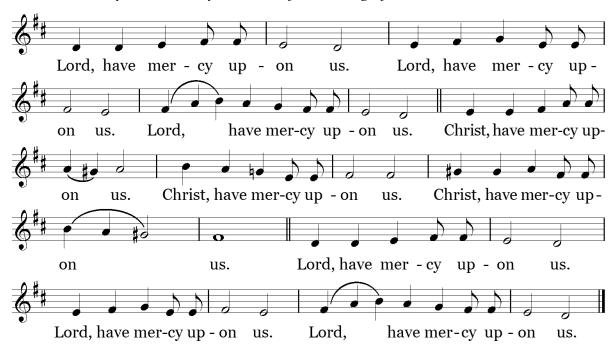
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE #S91 (*In the front s*

(In the front section of the Blue Hymnal, sung by all)



159 THE COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

Lector A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 122 (responsively by whole verse)

- ¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
- ² Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;
- ⁴ To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.

- ⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:"May they prosper who love you.
- ⁷ Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.
- ⁸ For my brethren and companions' sake, I pray for your prosperity.
- ⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good."

THE EPISTLE Romans 13:11-14

Lector A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

- The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

-- The Gospel of the Lord **People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #61 (v. 3) (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

Sleepers wake!

THE ADVENT WREATH - The First Candle: The Candle of Hope

The congregation remains standing

The Reader:

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. The prophets of Israel spoke of the coming of Christ, of a Savior to be born, a King in the line of David. They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless all nations. At Christmas, the hope of the world was born, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. On Good Friday He died. On Easter day He rose from the dead. He then ascended into heaven. On the last day, Jesus Christ, our hope, will come again to fulfill his Kingdom on the Earth and to bring to completion his mission among us.

We light this candle in HOPE to remember that, just as he came to us at Christmas, he will come again in power to deliver his faithful people. The light of this candle also reminds us to be alert and to watch in anticipation for his glorious return.

We now light the Hope Candle.

Here the candle is lighted.

The Reader: Psalm 33:20-22

Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield. Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Let us pray.

The People:

Loving God, we thank you for the hope you have given us in your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Help us to be ready and alert as we prepare our hearts for his glorious coming. Amen.

THE HOMILY

326 THE NICENE CREED

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

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.

328 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other Ministers, especially **Sean**, our Presiding Bishop, **Samuel and Jennifer** our bishops, **Ed** our priest, and **Stephen** our guest priest, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. Lord in Your mercy **Hear our prayer**

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Lord in Your mercy Hear our prayer

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially **Donald**, our President, **Josh** our Governor, **Jason** our mayor, and **John and Tommy** our Councilmen, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. Lord in Your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. Lord in Your mercy **Hear our prayer**

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. *Silence*

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Cameron** Klass, **Julia** Klass, **Josey** Parker, and **Brianna** Cantrall,

and those with special needs:

Ed Kelaher, Lou Adkins, Mark Adkins, Ella Asebes, Jeannie Belk, Louise Billings, Jean Binnicker, Tom Blalock, Sissy Bolstad, Judy Boyd, Mike Bralkowski, Alice Brandon, Lynne Broch, Jack Buckheit, Gayle Burke, Seraphina Byers, Lynne Cleckley, Jim Clodfelter, Joan Clodfelter, Bob Cook, Susan Dixon, Renee Ewbank, Cathy Farley, Jenny Gallen, Shana Garland, Angie Gowen, Lilly Griffin, Jane Grimes, Jimmy Hall, George Hanna, Nancy Hinkle, Jennifer & Michael Hinton, Chris Hodges, Bob Holcomb, Andrew Jones, Marlene Jones, Ray Kent, Lisa Lightfoot, Lloyd Lohr, Warren MacKinstry, Debbie Mason, Kate McKenzie, Charles McNeair, Arnold Miller, Angela Mott, Debbie Painter, Walker Peoples, Gabby Plott, Ellen Rickert, Jacklyn Rojas, Lucas Sanabria, Lynn Santolla, Suzy Sheets, Lisa Shepherd, Carol Sills, Talmadge Silversides, Morgan Simmons, Robin Sink, Clyde Smith, Martha Ellen Smith, Jenny Hedrick Stilwell, Sean Sullivan, Jackie Touchton, Brenda Tyndall, Perry Grimes Van Dyke, Sandy Wallace, Flynn Williams, Paul Wylie, Charlotte Young, and Edward.

"Are there others?" Lord, in your mercy; *Hear our prayer*.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

331 CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Minister may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2

332 THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

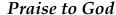
OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

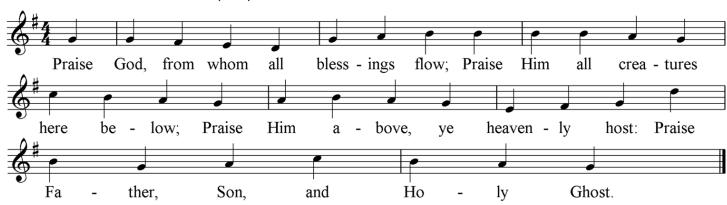
The Old Year Hath Now Passed Away - J. S. Bach

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

The offering is brought forward as the hymn is sung.

PRESENTATION HYMN #380 (v. 3)





340 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer II)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And with thy spirit.Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

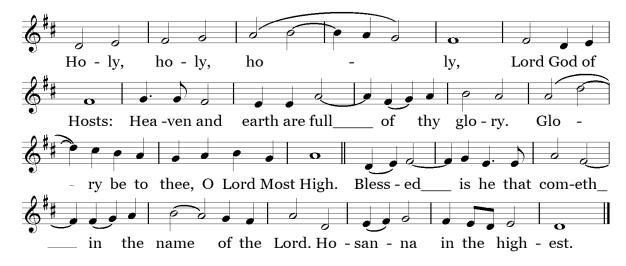
Celebrant

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

SANCTUS #S114



The people may stand or kneel

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

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

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.

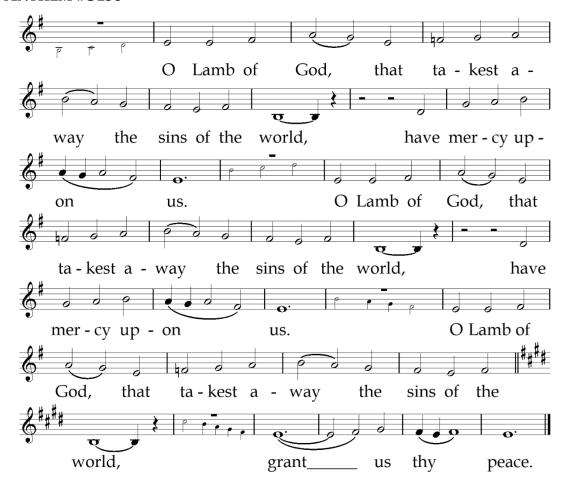
337 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

336

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore, let us keep the feast.

FRACTION ANTHEM #S158



337 PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant and People

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

338 INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant 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.

All baptized Christians are invited to come forward for Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. You may receive both the bread and wine, or only the bread or only the wine. Receiving Communion in one or both forms is sufficient sacramentally. If you prefer neither bread nor wine, you also are invited to come forward and to simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the minister to provide you with a holy blessing of the Lord.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

339 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you in holy light as you remain steadfast in faith, filled with joy, nurtured in peace, encouraged in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**



339 THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Organ Work - H. Walker

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by Sandra & Bob Husted in honor of John Taylor, with gratitude for all he does, both known and unknown, for our Grace Church family.

WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex and join us immediately following the service in the Parish Hall (in the building next door) for refreshments and conversation. Today our hosts are Renee Ewbank, Renee Kaley, and Sandra Husted.

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary. The restrooms are located in the rear hallway, and diaper-changing stations are provided in both rooms.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Mary Matthews Intercessor: Staley Nance

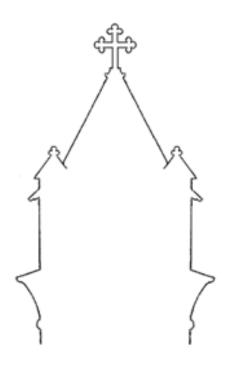
Lay Eucharistic
Ministers: Pam Harvey, Tommy Black
Greeter: Donna Wiederhold

Ushers: Joe Wallace, Sims Riggan. **Acolytes:** Hadley Briggs

Tanner Sheets
Tucker Sheets

Today we welcome as our guest priest The Reverend Stephen Becker

The Rev. Stephen Becker has served as a priest in the Episcopal Church since 1992. He recently retired as the Vicar of Saint Mary Magdalene in Seven Lakes, where he served for over six years. He resides in High Point, North Carolina, with his wife, Ellen. They have three grown children and eight grandchildren. His 33 years of ministry in the Episcopal Church have provided him with a wide range of experiences, including serving as the Canon Educator on the Cathedral staff in St. Petersburg, Florida. In Northern Virginia, he served as a Hospice chaplain for over 10 years. He has been blessed by his participation in Cursillo in this and other dioceses. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, gardening, home improvement projects, and biking on the Greensboro Greenway.





GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director Summer Blackburn, Youth Leader Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator John Taylor, Facilities Manager Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita



THE VESTRY

2026	2027	2028
Karl Bolstad	Dan Briggs	Kristi Allred
Bright Carter	Elizabeth Purdy	Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Sally Dodd	Mary Matthews Clerk of Vestry	Neil Shepherd
Henry Duquette Junior Warden	Leslie Sheets Senior Warden	Chuck Taylor

Vestry Person of the Month for November is Elizabeth Purdy.