



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

January 4, 2026

Morning Prayer: Rite I

10:30 a.m.



PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN #105

God rest you merry, gentlemen



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

Refrain



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

OPENING SENTENCES

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SIN

The Leader says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People together, all kneeling

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

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Leader Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise!**

**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.**

Leader Alleluia! To us a child is born:

People **Come, let us adore him. Alleluia!**

GLORIA



Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King,
al - migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
slower Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:
have mer-cy up-on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand
a tempo of the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer. For you a - lone
are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi - rit,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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COLLECT OF THE DAY

Leader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Leader Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Congregation is seated

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Jeremiah 31:7-14

A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord,
your people, the remnant of Israel."
See, I am going to bring them from the land of
the north, and gather them from the farthest
parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those
with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not
stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

- The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 84 (*responsively by whole verse*)

¹ How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of
hosts! My soul has a desire and longing for the
courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh
rejoice in the living God.

² **The sparrow has found her a house and the
swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.**

³ Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.

⁴ **Happy are the people whose strength is in
you! whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

⁵ Those who go through the desolate valley will
find it a place of springs, for the early rains
have covered it with pools of water.

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too
strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height
of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the
goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over
the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the
dance, and the young men and the old shall
be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness
for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my
bounty,
says the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

⁶ **They will climb from height to height, and
the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

⁷ Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.

⁸ **Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

⁹ For one day in your courts is better than a
thousand in my own room, and to stand at the
threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹⁰ **For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory;**

¹¹ No good thing will the Lord withhold
from those who walk with integrity.

¹² **O Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

A Reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

The Congregation stands

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 2:41-52

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

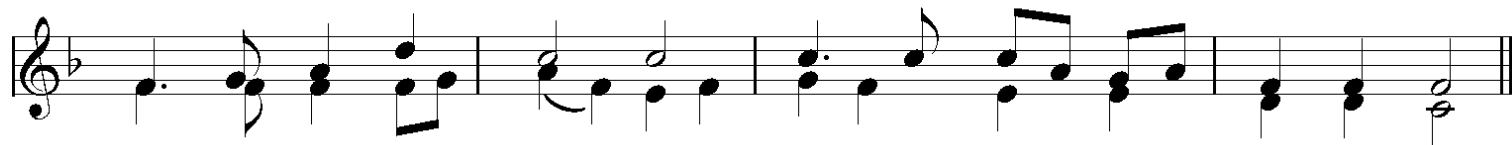
THE SERMON

A prepared sermon will be presented which is from the [episcopalchurch.org](https://www.episcopalchurch.org) website, written by The Rev. Charles Hoffacker:

Do What Young Jesus Did: Listen and Ask Questions, Christmas 2 – January 4, 2026 – The Episcopal Church <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sermon/do-what-young-jesus-did-listen-and-ask-questions-christmas-2-january-4-2026/>



1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
 2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
 3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,



love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
 wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
 love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Officiant: Let us proclaim our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS *(standing or kneeling as you are able)*

Leader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Leader Let us pray.

Leader and People

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM III)

The Leader and People pray responsively

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 all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

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.

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, **Louise** Billings, **Jean** Binnicker, **Tom** Blalock, **Sissy** Bolstad, **Cindy** Bowman, **Judy** Boyd, **Mike** Bralkowski, **Alice** Brandon, **Lynne** Broch, **Jack** Buckheit, **Gayle** Burke, **Seraphina** Byers, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Jim** Clodfelter, **Joan** Clodfelter, **Bob** Cook, **Linda** Cox, **Dylan** Daw, **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, **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, **Betty Jo** Sadler, **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, **Patricia** Wardle, **Flynn** Williams, **Paul** Wylie, **Charlotte** Young, and **Edward**.

“Are there others?”

Lord in Your mercy **Hear our prayer**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY:

Greensleeves – arr. W. Saunderson

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS HYMN #112 (v. 4)

What can I give Him?

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give Him— give my heart.*

Please sit or kneel as able

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Leader and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.***

A COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR GRACE

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR MISSION

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Leader Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



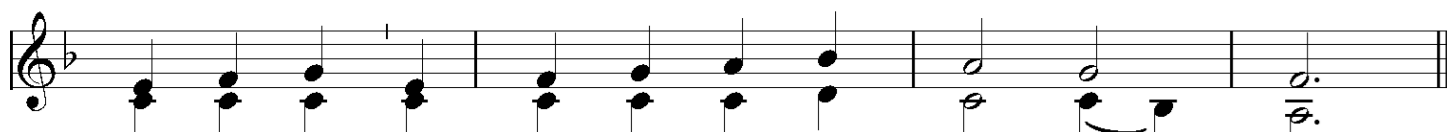
1 Our Fa - ther, by whose Name all fa - ther-hood is known,
 2 O Christ, thy - self a child with - in an earth - ly home,
 3 O Spi - rit, who dost bind our hearts in u - ni - ty,



who dost in love pro - claim each fam - i - ly thine own,
 with heart still un - de - filed, thou didst to man-hood come;
 who teach - est us to find the love from self set free,



bless thou all par - ents, guard-ing well, with con - stant love as
 our chil - dren bless, in ev - ery place, that they may all be -
 in all our hearts such love in - crease, that ev - ery home, by



sen - ti - nel, the homes in which thy peo - ple dwell.
 hold thy face, and know - ing thee may grow in grace.
 this re - lease, may be the dwell - ing place of peace.

Leader Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

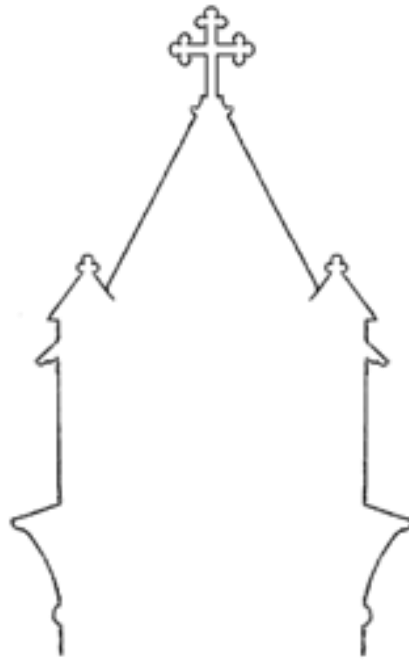
*The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God
by Kathie Goodman
in loving memory of Bill Goodman.*

Officiant
Staley Nance

Lector
Tere Wagner

Intercessor
Elizabeth Purdy

Ushers
Bill Gilleland
Louie Cox



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 Tinchler, Parish Administrator
John Taylor, Facilities Manager
Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita

THE VESTRY

2026

Karl Bolstad
Bright Carter
Sally Dodd
Henry Duquette Junior Warden

2027

Dan Briggs
Elizabeth Purdy
Mary Matthews Clerk of Vestry
Leslie Sheets Senior Warden

2028

Kristi Allred
Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Neil Shepherd
Chuck Taylor

Vestry Person of the Month for January is Bright Carter.