



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide
Anglican Communion.

A LITURGY FOR HOME

When life's circumstances prevent us from attending Church

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020 — 8:30 am Service

*Before the Service — Speak quietly to God
During the Service — Let God speak to you
After the Service — Speak to one another*

TO JOIN THIS SERVICE LIVE VIA ZOOM

To join this service online, visit our website at gracechurchmtclemens.org and follow the link.

To join this service by phone, call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300

Password: 246040

Officiant: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik
Cell: 203-641-2068

Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan
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www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER

Today, we relight the Prophet's Candle of Hope and we light the Angel's Candle of Peace. As we light this candle, we acknowledge that only our long-awaited Messiah can provide a peace that passes human understanding and gives our hearts rest. Take time this week to seek out that peace the angels wished for us so long ago.

ALL: Almighty God, thank you for the blessing of the angels. May we hold Your peace in our hearts as a rock, upon which we can anchor our lives and find sure footing in the midst of life's storms. You came to bring peace to all people – Jew and Gentile alike. Help us work to find peace even with those who see different than us. Keep us mindful of others and make us brave to share your peace with a world that so desperately needs it. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: May God be with you.

People: And also with you.

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.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Benedixisti, Domine

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church .

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, from Mark 1:1-8

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Christ

The Homily: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

We observe a brief silence for reflection.

The Affirmation of our Faith

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.
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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *The People stand or kneel.*

Wherever we are, in the wilderness, the countryside, or the city, God, you are there. That our hearts may be stirred up in thanksgiving for the life you have given us, let us pray, saying:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and stars that shelter the night: May our eyes be open to the beauty around us, the subtle changes in the sky, the delicate coating of soil from which breaks forth our food and flowers and in which animals make their home. Help us to protect and nurture your creation around us and ever proclaim its wonders.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of the church, the persons next to us in the pew, those in neighborhood churches, the national, international and ecumenical church of every race, nation and economic circumstance.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those in authority in our community, state and nation: that you may guide their hearts and minds to make good decisions for the welfare of all people.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those at greatest risk among us: Let us pray for those who are lonely, rejected, homeless or oppressed, for the sick especially those with COVID-19 and those who struggle with addictions and for all those who do not have enough food to eat or clean safe water to drink.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who have died: Let us remember those who have gone before us, those who have sacrificed for us, our families, friends, neighbors.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all those who are sick or infirmed or who have asked for our prayers: **Ena, Cynthia, Michelle, Jeff, Samantha, Thor, Rosy, Cindy, Deborah, Jeanne, Michelle, Pam, Liz, Janice, PamZ, Sue, Frank, Carol, Candy, Jennifer, Nina, Susan, Ellen, Barbara, Dan, Donna, Herman, David, Keta, Brianna, Helen, Craig, Matthew, Jennie, Al, LaCara, Jerry, Earlene, Dan, Owen, Joe.**

For Mimi Lambert's grandson, Odin, who died over the Thanksgiving holiday. May God bless and comfort Odin's family and receive him into the joy of eternal life.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless, comfort and protect all those for whom we pray

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

O God, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place and as you prepare the way, making every valley filled and every mountain brought low in blessing and adoration, guide us to Jesus. **AMEN.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A brief silence may be observed.

**For all the ways in which we break,
And wound, and mock your love
By how we treat each other,
We are truly sorry,
And we ask your forgiveness and mercy.**

**Give us the grace to apologize
The courage to forgive,
And the will to reconcile –
With ourselves, each other, and you.
Amen.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friends in Christ, during this time of social distancing, we are not able to celebrate the Eucharist together. Many of us are feeling what St. Thomas Aquinas describes as an “ardent desire to receive Jesus in the most holy sacrament and lovingly embrace him.” We are aware of this absence and our yearning for the real presence of Christ in that same experience we share with followers of Christ throughout the ages. Until we meet again in community we can practice a different Christian tradition in the practice of spiritual communion. We will now pray the prayer for spiritual communion from the Prayer Book for the Armed Services.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray: In union, O God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; We proclaim your resurrection; We await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come.

People **Amen.**

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 forever and ever. Amen

BLESSING

Go now secure in the love of God from which nothing can separate you.

Delight in seeking the Lord - look always for the power and the presence of God, and let love permeate all you do. And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among and with you this day and always. Amen.

People: Amen.

The Dismissal

Priest: Our worship has ended, let our service begin. Go forth into the world to love and serve God and our neighbor.

People: Through worship, outreach, and love for all, Amen.

The Prayers of this Congregation

For all refugees, especially those at our southern border; for the farmers across our country who are struggling; for Bonnie Perry, our Bishop, for Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., our retired bishop; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod; Stewart Wood, our retired bishop; and our whole diocesan household, including St. Michael's in Grosse Pointe Woods, Holy Family in Santo Domingo DR, St. Clare of Assisi in Ann Arbor; for Gretchen, our Governor; Donald, our President, and all members of Congress.

For Ena Pederson, Cynthis Burdie, Michelle, Jeff, Samantha, Thor, Rosy, Cindy, Deborah Pinto, Jeanne Nowak, Michelle Wisneski, Pam Sherry, Liz Moorehouse, Janice Kibler, Pam Zawierucha, Sue Schlanbusch, Carol Bales, Candy Dixon, Jennifer Holland, Nina DiGaetano, Susan Fox, Ellen Laudicina, Frank & Barbara Davenport, Dan Davenport, Donna Hanes, Herman Houser, David Sonntag, Keta, Brianna, Helen Stein, Craig Anderson, Matthew, Jennie Berube, Al Hunt, LaCara Hunt, Dan, Jerry & Earlene Gardner, Owen F., Joe Fettue.

Please note: Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.

In order to add someone or keep someone on the prayer list, please fill out a new prayer card (from the back of the pews) and place it in the offering tray.

Do you know someone who is ill? Please contact the office and we will add them to the prayer list.

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 7 pm on Zoom (*Meeting info will remain as follows each week*)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89732417015?pwd=Z0NkeFQ4L2FFSEYelB3WXoyUmFvZz09>

Meeting ID: 897 3241 7015 Password: 683930 Or call: 312-626-6799

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

A blood drive will be held on Thursday, December 17 from 10 am until 4 pm here at Grace. Visit Redcross.org to schedule online or see Martha Houser for more information.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday, December 13 @ 4:00 pm

On Zoom— visit our website and follow the link.

We enter into this service bringing our sadness, grief, loss and pain to hold up those who are struggling financially, emotionally, spiritually or physically.

Please join us.

Grace's Income and Expenses

Oct.. total expenses: \$15,989.42

Oct. total income: \$24,264.98

Nov. pledge income: \$14,275.81

Nov. outreach income: \$2,269.00

Nov. rental income: \$1,590.00

Capital Campaign

Goal for 2020-22: \$150,000.00

Pledged to date: \$85,850.00

Received to date: \$31,275.00

