



# Celtic Evensong and Communion

## The Second Sunday of Advent

### 8 December 2024 4:00 pm

*We come from many places to be together for a little while.  
Each of us brings our own experience and traditions to this gathering.  
So here in this place, let us take time together to encounter the holy.  
Please remember to silence all devices*

### The Opening Rite

#### Opening Musical Meditation

*St. Mark's, Berkeley*

#### Opening Meditation

**J. Philip Newell**

Out of the silence at the beginning of time  
you spoke the Word of life.  
Out of the world's primeval darkness  
you flooded the universe with light.  
In the quiet of this place  
in the dark of the night  
I wait and watch.  
In the stillness of my soul  
and from its fathomless depths  
the senses of my heart are awake to you.  
For fresh soundings of life  
for new showings of light  
I search in the silence of my spirit, O God.

*- from Celtic Benediction, Morning and Night Prayer*

#### A Prayer for An Anniversary

Blessed God, who makes all things new: Grant that on the tenth anniversary of this Celtic service, this community of Word and Sacrament may be leaven for the world's bread, and wine of delight for hearts in need; a gathering strong for service and glad in praise; and a people listening and responding to your presence in their midst; through Jesus our redeemer and steadfast companion. Amen.

#### The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* The glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
*People* **and all flesh shall see it together.**  
*Officiant* Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;  
*People* **that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**  
*All* **Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

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**Light of the World** *Phos hilaron* (during the singing of the hymn, the Advent wreath is lighted)



Light of the world, in grace and beauty,  
Mirror of God's eternal face,  
Transparent flame of love's free duty,  
You bring salvation to our race.  
Now, as we see the lights of evening,  
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;  
Worthy are you of endless blessing,  
Sun of our night, lamp of our days.

**Canticle 16**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \*

holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation \*

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \*

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Holy Trinity, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

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## The Lessons and Reflection

### The First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### Musical Response

*Huron Carol*

### The Second Lesson

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

*Lector* For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,  
and for the Word of God within us,

*People* Thanks be to God.

### Reflection

Greg Getschman

*A few moments of silence follows*

### Music after the Reflection

*Comfort, comfort ye, my people*

### Affirmation

As children of God, we affirm:

That God, who is Love, created all and called it good,

that God is present with all of creation,  
and that, in darkness and in light, God is faithful;  
therefore we, too, seek to be faithful.

That Jesus came to show us Love with a human face,

that he taught justice and reconciliation and suffered on our behalf,  
and that through his faithful example, he embodies hope;  
therefore we, too, seek to be people of justice, reconciliation, and hope.

That the Holy Spirit guides and accompanies us,

that this same Spirit offers wisdom and discernment,  
and that, when we are open, the Spirit can always find a way;

therefore, we seek to be people filled with God's Spirit:

discerning, loving and transforming our world. Amen.

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## The Prayers

### The Suffrages

V. Help us, O God our Savior;  
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.  
V. Look upon your congregation;  
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.  
V. Declare your glory among the nations;  
R. And your wonders among all peoples.  
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;  
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.  
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;  
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.  
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;  
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

*Leader:* I invite you to now offer the prayers of your heart, either silently or aloud.

### The Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever . **Amen.**

### A Prayer for Evening

Living God, in you there is no darkness; shed upon us through this night the light of your forgiveness, your healing and your peace, that when we wake from sleep we may know once more the brightness of your presence; through our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### Collect for a Celebration (paraphrase of John O'Donohue)

God of joy and wonder, grant us the grace to free our hearts, let all intentions and worries stop, free the joy inside the self, awaken to the wonder of your life. open our eyes and see friends, whose hearts recognize our face as kin, whose kindness watchful and near, encourages us to live everything here. See the gifts the years have given, things our efforts could never earn, the health to enjoy who we want to be and the mind to mirror mystery. **Amen.**

*Leader* Jesus says, "Come to me you who are troubled and I will give you rest." So come, you who are broken in body or in spirit, you who are torn by relationships and doubt, you who feel deeply within yourselves the divisions of the world. Come, for Jesus invites us to bring our brokenness. From now until the end of the service, you are invited to come to the Lady Altar and light a candle and kneel at the rail for prayers. Please move about as the Spirit leads you.

### Music during Prayers

*Lo! How a rose e'er blooming*

### Hymn #66 *The Hymnal 1982*

*Prepare the way, O Zion*

**The Grace** Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. **Amen.**

### The Peace

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## The Holy Communion

*Presider* God be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Creator.  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to our loving God.  
*People* It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*Presider* It is our joy and delight to give you thanks and praise, Emmanuel, God with us. We give you thanks and praise for your hallowing of human flesh. We rejoice at your light which shines out of darkness and enlightens all who seek you. We praise you that you brought forth new life in the family of Mary and Joseph as you do today from all who faithfully await the fulfillment of your word. We praise you that you were known first by poor shepherds and wise seekers as you are known today by the poor and outcast. We rejoice with the angels at your promise of peace for those who trust in you. We rejoice that the extraordinary is given birth in the ordinary places of life.

So with the angels who sing “Glory” and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we sing together:

### **Sanctus**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Presider* We bless you for Jesus, born of the Spirit’s love and a woman’s body and blood. We bless you for Jesus who shows us how to live the fullness of our humanity and thus become one with you. We remember Jesus who laughed and wept and felt tiredness and fear; who praised Mary when she anointed him for death and blessed a woman of the city who washed his feet with tears. We remember Jesus who touched lepers and the sick and feasted with tax collectors and sinners. We remember Christ who lives on in all who courageously and faithfully bring forth the light of your love in earth’s darkest places.

We remember Jesus who, on the night before he died, shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them saying:

***All* ““Take and eat. This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

*Presider* After supper he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them saying:

***All* “This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

*Presider* So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***All* Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Presider* O God who is known to us in human flesh, send your Holy Spirit on us and on these material things of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and we may be the body of Christ, food and life for the world. We ask these things through Christ, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit be glory now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

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## The Invitation

*Presider* This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.  
It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.  
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,  
You who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,  
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.  
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.  
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

## Communion

## Concluding Prayer

***All* Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.**

**Blessing** May this new night of rest repair the wear of time, restore your vision of a deeper light, heal the wounds of disappointments, and restore youth of heart for the adventure that awaits you tomorrow. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

*Presider* May the Lord grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Concluding Musical Meditation

*Galician Carol*

*We will gather in the back of the Lady Altar  
to share some sparkling cider for our anniversary*

## Worship Leaders

The Reverend Debbie Phillips  
Ryan Patten, Debbie Phillips, Eric Wagner  
Paul Massari  
Greg Getschman  
Marianne Cannon  
Joanna Troy

*Officiant and Presider*  
*Musicians*  
*Assisting*  
*Reflection*  
*Prayers*  
*Usher*

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## **Our Prayers are offered for**

For Nancy and Christine, Reny Sparapani, Gary Young, Amy, Paul, Chuck Brown, Heather and Prescott,, Ariana, Sheridan, Javy, Steve, Faith Aroko and Family, Jesse Hurst and Family, Angela Williams, Neal and Maureen Joyce, Arthur, Jane Thompson, Deb Young, Cindy Rhodes, Ron, Gerald Tucker, Allison Mascolo, Melissa Glassman, Max Joyce, Marc Britt, those battling cancer, especially Faith's friend and the Princess of Wales, for Mel, Corey MacNeil, Dianne, Michael Towey, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Priscilla Lemons and Family, Steve, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their ministries, for Ukraine and Haiti; the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem, the Salem Public Schools and for an end to racism, war, anti-Semitism, gun violence and oppression. In thanksgiving, we pray for the tenth anniversary of the Celtic Service, for this season of Advent, for this community of faith, for creation, for the diversity of people, and for all the blessings of this life. If you have prayer requests, please email [prayelistlist@gracechurchsalem.org](mailto:prayelistlist@gracechurchsalem.org) by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news.

## **Advent Outreach Project**

Dear Grace Folk!

As we contemplate the meaning of this season and begin to slow down, get quiet and still, and prepare our hearts for the most wonderful gift of our Lord, you are invited to offer your own gift to some of our most marginalized people in the city. During Advent, please bring a 'gift' for a Lifebridge Basket which will be at the entrance of the Church.

**The most needed, and heartbreakingly simple things needed are: Gloves, Hats, Socks, Pocket Hand-warmers, Toothpaste, Women's Sanitary Products, and Disposable Razors.**

Thank you for whatever you can provide materially, and if that is not possible for you, we thank you for directing your thoughts and prayers to this segment of our community. Look for the Lifebridge Basket as you enter the church.

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## Cookie Walk Returns December 21!!!!

Our sixth annual Cookie Walk is December 21, 2024 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, and we are recruiting volunteers. We need many bakers - - the more bakers we have, the greater the variety!! We also need volunteers to help with set up, sales and/or cleanup. And, of course, financial contributions towards costs or to support the event are always appreciated.

Here are some details:

- Cookies. For this event, we only sell homemade baked cookies - - no cakes, pies or other baked goods. Cookies should be dropped off in a sealed container - - e.g., a zip lock freezer bag - - and should include a card with your name, the kind of cookie, and an ingredient list. The cookies should be loose in the container, i.e., not pre-packaged in baggies. In addition to regular homemade cookies, we also sell gluten-free cookies and dog cookies. So, if the latter are a specialty of yours, you might consider baking them.
- Drop off. Drop off for the cookies at the church is anytime Friday, December 20 before 8:00 PM. There will be a green bin in the cloister area where you can leave the cookies. If this time slot doesn't work, you can email the Fundraising Committee to make special arrangements.
- Other volunteers. We need volunteers for set-up, sales, and clean-up on Saturday, December 21. Please let the Fundraising Committee know if you can bake or otherwise volunteer in some way. The Fundraising Committee hopes to put together a list of volunteers soon. You can also contact us with any questions. You may email us at [fundraising@gracechurchsalem.org](mailto:fundraising@gracechurchsalem.org) or you may contact Melissa Barnes, Joanne Moar, Peggy Carter, or Kourtnei Patten directly.

And, of course, we also hope that you will come and buy cookies on December 21, 2024.



Your choice of homemade holiday cookies  
including gluten free and pet treats

You choose your favorite variety of cookies

**Saturday December 21**

**9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Grace Episcopal Church  
385 Essex Street Salem**

[www.gracechurchsalem.org](http://www.gracechurchsalem.org)

[gcis1@verizon.net](mailto:gcis1@verizon.net)



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## Upcoming Events

- 12/1 10:00 am Blessing of Greens and Birthday Prayer  
4:00 pm Celtic Service for Advent I
- 12/7 10:30 am **Christmas in Salem House Tour**  
11:00 am Lunch begins until 1:00 pm  
1:00 pm Lecture  
2:00 pm Lecture  
4:00 pm Tour ends
- 12/8 9:00 am Young and the Restless  
10:00 am Visit from St. Nicholas  
11:30 am **Christmas in Salem House Tour**  
1:00 pm Lecture  
2:00 pm Lecture  
3:30 pm Tour ends  
4:00 pm **10th anniversary of Celtic Evensong and Communion!**
- 12/14 9:00 am **Craft Event with Social Committee**
- 12/15 10:00 am Gaudete Sunday  
4:00 pm Gaudete Sunday
- 12/21 9:00 am - **Christmas Cookie Walk**  
12:00 pm
- 12/22 10:00 am **Holy Eucharist**  
4:00 pm **Blue Christmas/Longest Night Celtic**
- 12/24 4:00 pm **Christmas Pageant**  
10:00 pm **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**
- 12/25 10:00 am **Christmas Day Service**
- 12/29 10:00 am **Holy Eucharist**  
4:00 pm **Celtic Christmas**



# the longest night celtic evensong

a safe and sacred place  
to bring your concerns and grief  
during this christmas season

prayers for recovery  
music  
healing  
communion

december 22  
4 o'clock in the afternoon

everyone is invited  
grace church in salem  
385 essex street

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celtic evensong  
and communion

a celtic christmas

poetry, music and prayers  
for the  
christmas season

december 28

4 o'clock in the evening

everyone is invited

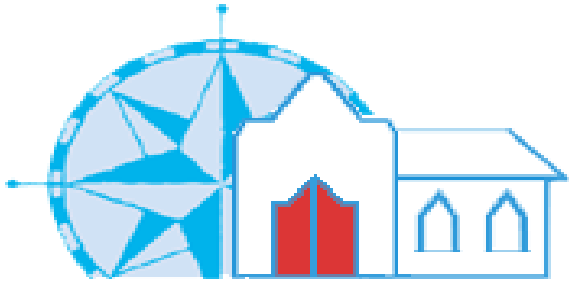
grace church

385 essex street

salem



# Grace Episcopal Church



385 Essex Street  
Salem, Massachusetts 01970  
(978) 744-2796

*E-mail: [office@gracechurchsalem.org](mailto:office@gracechurchsalem.org)  
Web: [www.gracechurchsalem.org](http://www.gracechurchsalem.org)*

*The Mission of Grace Church is to unconditionally invite all people to join us in building a faithful Episcopal congregation that goes out into the community and through prayer, presence, and partnering improves the quality of life by bringing everyone closer to God.*

## — Grace Episcopal Church —

*A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts*

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe  
The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth  
The Right Reverend Carol Gallagher  
The Reverend Deborah A. Phillips  
The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler  
The Reverend Manny Faria  
Mark N. Peterson  
Tom and Karen Tucker

*Presiding Bishop  
Bishop Diocesan  
Assistant Bishop  
Rector  
Assisting Clergy  
Assisting Clergy  
Music Director  
Property Stewards*

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten  
Barbara Layne  
Lisa Duffy  
Joanne Moar

*Senior Warden  
Junior Warden  
Clerk  
Treasurer*

Melissa Barnes, Marianne Cannon, Joanna Troy  
Susan Tweed, Matt VanHamersveld, Holly Willis

*Members of Vestry*