

Grace Episcopal Church

A Parish Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
established 1828



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026

Our Mission

Grace Episcopal Church is a congregation in communion with all that is in God, seen and unseen.
We are led by the example of Jesus Christ and are empowered by the Holy Spirit
to support each other through prayer, formation, worship, and service.

Our Vision

We will welcome all with kindness, acceptance, and love, with God's help.
We are Grace, grounded in faith and relentless in compassion.

Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:15AM

Helpful notes: The 8:15 early service is a simple, contemplative service that offers you a time and space for prayer. It uses the more traditional language that can be found within the Anglican Tradition and primarily comes from the earlier 1928 Book of Common Prayer. Please feel free to take advantage of the quiet space before the service begins for your personal devotions.

Community Minute

Opening Acclamation

BCP 323

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

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

Collect for Purity

BCP 323

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.

Gloria

BCP 324

The Collect of the Day

Holy God, your mercy is over all your works, and in the web of life each creature has its role and place. We praise you for ocelot and owl, cactus and kelp, lichen and whale; we honor you for whirlwind and lava, tide and topsoil, cliff and marsh. Give us hearts and minds eager to care for your planet, humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones, justice to share the resources of the earth with all its inhabitants, and love not limited by our ignorance. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who unifies what is far off and what is near, and in whom, by grace and the working of your Holy Spirit, all things hold together. *Amen.*

The First Reading: Jonah 3:4–10

Leaflet, page 3

Psalms 145:8–10, 16–18

Leaflet, page 4

The Second Reading: Ephesians 1:8b–10

Leaflet, page 4

The Gospel Reading: Luke 10:25–37

Leaflet, page 4

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed

Leaflet, page 5

The Prayers of the People

Leaflet, page 5

The Confession and Absolution

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The Peace

The Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I

BCP 333

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

BCP 339

The Blessing

The Dismissal

BCP 339

Prelude *Thou Shalt Bring Them In*

George F. Handel

Community Minute

At the Procession: Hymn 334

Alles ist an Gottes Segen

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Collect for Purity

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: Hymn 376 verses 1 & 2

Hymn of Joy

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Holy God, your mercy is over all your works, and in the web of life each creature has its role and place. We praise you for ocelot and owl, cactus and kelp, lichen and whale; we honor you for whirlwind and lava, tide and topsoil, cliff and marsh. Give us hearts and minds eager to care for your planet, humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones, justice to share the resources of the earth with all its inhabitants, and love not limited by our ignorance. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who unifies what is far off and what is near, and in whom, by grace and the working of your Holy Spirit, all things hold together. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Children and Dismissal to Children's Chapel

Children ages three through second grade are invited to come forward.

People *God of all, we thank you for the joy and wonder these children bring into our lives. May they learn about you and your Word, may they grow in loving-kindness, and may they know your presence is always with them. Amen.*

The First Reading: Jonah 3:4-10

Reader: 8:15/Linden Gaspar, 10:45/Bob Willis

Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: 'By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.'

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
9 The LORD is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.
10 All your works praise you, O LORD, *
and your faithful servants bless you.
16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, *
and you give them their food in due season.
17 You open wide your hand *
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.
18 The LORD is righteous in all his ways *
and loving in all his works.

The Second Reading: Ephesians 1:8b-10

Reader: 8:15/Chip Branch, 10:45/Jo Brewer

With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

At the Sequence: Hymn 304 *verses 1, 3, 5*

Land of Rest

The Gospel Reading: Luke 10:25-37

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.” Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed *Please 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

Prayers of the People

Leader: 8:15/Linden Gaspar, 10:45/Donna Yaughn

This is Christ's commandment to love one another as he loved us. With contrite hearts and respect for all humanity, let us pray to God that we may grow to care for not only our siblings, but for all God's creation shown forth in the wonder of nature that maintains our common life.

Have compassion on all who suffer from trials and pain, especially Diego and Stella Arenas, parents of parishioner Nina Wright, and all victims of natural disasters. Grant them their needed relief and the help of your children in their daily struggles.

Inspire us to love the whole creation.

Kindle the hearts of the leaders in your Church; especially Rob, our bishop, and all other ministers. Reveal in them the example of your Christ, who revered and cared for the fullness of your creation.

Inspire us to love the whole creation.

Guide all civil authorities to dedicate their resources and efforts to the building of a better world for all your people. May they govern with respect and balance toward nature through policies that seek to relieve the environmental calamity that surrounds us.

Inspire us to love the whole creation.

Remembering those we love, especially Johnny Vaughn, parishioner, Jackson Bastow, great-nephew of Yvonne Hinton, and Barbara Fontenot, grandmother of Megan Fontenot, have mercy on your children suffering from illness, granting them healing and comfort from their afflictions. Equip us to serve all who are ill as we would serve Christ.

Inspire us to love the whole creation.

Bring to your glorious presence all those faithful who have departed this world with faith in Jesus Christ. Grant them eternal rest in the company of the Virgin Mary, apostles, martyrs, and all your saints.

Inspire us to love the whole creation.

Receive the prayers we now offer you as a sign of our immense gratitude for the many blessings you have given us, and above all for the life in nature that continues to flourish despite our carelessness. Grant that we may return your love in acts of charity and compassion toward the world that you created and all of its creatures.

Inspire us to love the whole creation.

Celebrant Creator of all, whose Son came to reconcile all creation to you: inspire in us a reverence for your creatures in this world and accept the prayers that we now offer; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Confession and Absolution

Enriching Our Worship, p 56

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

*God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.*

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or suitable Collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Hither to thy love has blest me;
Thou hast brought me to this place,
And I know Thy hand will bring me home
by Thy good grace.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the throne of God.
He to rescue me from danger,
bought me with His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my yielded heart to Thee.
Let me know Thee in Thy fullness;
Guide me by Thy mighty hand,
Till, transformed, in Thine own image
In Thy presence I shall stand.

At the Presentation: Hymn 405 *verses 1 & 3*

Royal Oak

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer C *Please stand as you are able.*

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<i>And also with you.</i>
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<i>We lift them to the Lord.</i>
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	<i>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</i>

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,
and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us
the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness
of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus: Hymn S129 *Hymns beginning with an S are found in the service music section at the front of the hymnal.*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob, Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

The Fraction Anthem: Hymn S156

Celebrant Behold who you are: The Body of Christ.

People May we become what we receive.

Please be seated. Ushers will guide the congregation forward for Holy Communion. To receive, proceed up the center aisle and kneel or stand at the rail in front of the altar. If you do not wish to receive the consecrated bread and wine, simply cross your arms over your chest. We will offer a blessing for you as we share in Holy Communion. Return to your seat by the side aisles.

Communion Music

Hymn

I am weak but thou art strong

1. I am weak but thou art strong;
 2. Through this world of toil and snares;
 3. When my feeble life is o'er.

Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee;

1. Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
 2. If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
 3. Time for me will be no more; Guide me gent - ly. safe - ly

Refrain: Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, Dai - ly walk - ing close to

D.C. for Refrain

1. long As I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 2. shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
 3. o'er To Thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Refrain: thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Hymn 427

Laudes Domini

Prayer after Communion *Please kneel or stand as you are able.*

Enriching Our Worship, p 69

Let us pray.

*God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 379

Abbot's Leigh

The Dismissal

Postlude *Air in D*

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- There is a meeting following the 10:45 AM service this morning for those interested in attending the **pilgrimage and choir residency at Wells Cathedral**, July 18–26, 2027.
- The **opening reception** of the Redbud Project Nature Art Exhibit will be held in the parish hall from 4-6 PM today, Sunday, August 16.
- Our first **EYC** gathering of the new academic year is from 5 – 7 PM tonight!
- Grace will offer **prayer yoga** in the parish hall on Wednesday afternoons beginning September 9. Classes are free; chair yoga will be 4:15-5:00 and flow yoga 5:15-6:15. Learn more and register at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/yoga
- Sr. Genevieve Lynn will lead **prayers for peace** in the chapel at 9:30 AM on September 6. Join your voice with those of your brothers and sisters in this gentle, reflective gathering.
- We will celebrate our annual feast day, the **Feast of the Holy Cross**, on Sunday, September 20. There will be one combined service, a Choral Eucharist, at 10 AM, followed by a potluck picnic in the parish hall.
- Register now for **A Human Being Fully Alive**, our fall retreat with Samantha Krezinski, River Guerguerian, Bobbi Patterson, Michael Heffernan, Emily Leithauser, and more. www.gracechurchgainesville.org/alive

THINGS TO NOTE

- **Fall Foyers** groups are forming now! Sign up at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/foyers by September 13.
- The **food pantry** is in need of canned beans (black beans, red beans, pinto beans etc), canned diced tomatoes, box macaroni and cheese. We will be collecting until August 23.
- **Christian Education** (CE/Sunday School) classes meet most Sundays from 9:30 – 10:30 AM. Visit our website to learn more about offerings for children, youth, and adults.
- Explore the **Glimpses of Grace** podcast on your podcast app of choice or at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/podcast.
- **Altar flowers** may be given in memory or honor of loved ones at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/flowers.
- Prayer is at the heart of our life as a faith community. Grace Church invites members of the parish to **request prayer** at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/prayer.
- We invite **visitors and newcomers** to fill out a Welcome Card, online at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/welcome or in the pew (and dropped in the offering plate), so we can share information about Grace and answer any questions.
- The **nursery** is located in the children's education wing and is available to all children age 4 and under on Sunday mornings from 9 AM until noon.
- Services at Grace Church are **live-streamed/recorded** so that we may include those who cannot be with us physically. www.gracechurchgainesville.org/photo-video-policy.

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**THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF ATLANTA**

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The Rev. Betsy Jennings Powell, MD
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Term ends 2027 Sue Bowron
Kimberley Boyd, Junior Warden
Steve Carlson
Cheryl Kelley
Term ends 2028 Jim Bradley
Jo Brewer
Jeff Whalen
Jason Voyles, Senior Warden
Term ends 2029 Laura Rives
Tracy Troutman
Ben Wagner
Spencer Walker
Rachel Pearson, Treasurer
Doug McDuff, Assistant Treasurer
Rob Harris, Clerk of the Vestry

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