

Historic Grace Episcopal Church

A Parish Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

Est. 1828



First Sunday in Advent Year C

November 28, 2021

Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:15AM

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.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leaflet, page 2

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

BCP 323

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People *You come to your people and set them free. 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 you, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Summary of The Law and Trisagion

BCP 324

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Leaflet, page 3

Psalm: 25:1-9

Leaflet, page 3

The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Leaflet, page 4

The Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Leaflet, page 4

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed

BCP 326

The Prayers of the People Form VI

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The Confession and Absolution

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The Peace

BCP 332

The Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I

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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

Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:45AM

Prelude

Est ist ein Ros' entsprungen

J. Brahms

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader: Come now, O God of Hope. *All: We are your people.*

Reader: We ask that you pour out your Spirit on all who long for your gift of Hope, naming silently or aloud those in our lives who especially need your Hope at this time. (*Silence*) We give you thanks God for the gift of Hope. *All: Amen!*

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Introit

Savior of the Nations Come *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*
Parish Choir

Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, both heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Come, O Father's saving Son, who o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be; grant that we its glories see.

The Word of God

The word "liturgy" means "the public work of the people that has a personal cost." We invest our energy and resources into our common prayer. The opening portion of the liturgy invites us to gather in this space at this time, bringing all of ourselves into this shared worship as we focus our attention on God's love for us. We are made more aware of our union with God and with one another as we remember that our worship of God is the core element of our lives as Christians.

At the Procession: Hymnal 59

Merton

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People You come to your people and set them free. Amen.

Collect for Purity

BCP 355

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.

Trisagion: Hymnal S102 *sung three times*

Alexander Archangelsky

The image shows a musical score for the Trisagion hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The first system contains the lyrics: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,". The second system contains the lyrics: "Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and a steady bass line.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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

Children ages three to kindergarten are invited to come forward.

Our attention now turns to the assigned texts for the day, as we listen for the Spirit's guidance through ancient texts that connect with our present circumstances. We remember that it is not so much that "we read the texts," as it is that "the Spirit reads us through the texts." Following the readings and hymn, the preacher will offer a sermon that seeks to help nurture our personal and communal reflection.

The First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

BCP 614

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

At the Sequence: Hymn 66

Stuttgart

The Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36 *Please stand as you are able.*

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

Following the readings and sermon, we continue our worship by reciting the Nicene Creed, first adopted after Emperor Constantine called the Council of Nicaea in the year 325. It was further developed in the year 381 at the Council of Constantinople. The Creed is the collective Church's way of capturing a glimpse of the foundational elements of the Christian faith. Following the Creed, the community shares the Prayers of the People and the Confession of Sin and Absolution, with the pause just prior to the Confession being a crucial moment to remember our own growing edges.

The Nicene Creed *said by all*

BCP 358

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 Form VI *Please continue standing or kneel as you are able.*

BCP 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Rob, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For Sheila Johnson, parishioner; Carol Johnson, parishioner; and for the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Celebrant Behold who you are: The Body of Christ.
 People May we become what we receive.

Please be seated.

Communion Hymn 314

Adoro devote

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

BCP 365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
 you have graciously accepted us as living members
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
 and you have fed us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
 Send us now into the world in peace,
 and grant us strength and courage
 to love and serve you
 with gladness and singleness of heart;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We remember now that we have not left the world; rather, we have brought our entire selves into this time and space to be transformed by the Spirit's presence in our hearts. Now, we give thanks for this time of shared prayer, and we look toward the ways we can embody the Light of Christ in the world.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 57 *Please stand.*

Helmsley

The Dismissal

Postlude

Toccata in F Major

D. Buxtehude

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

This week's Community Ministry Partner

One Hall: United Against Poverty

The purpose of the One Hall initiative is to break the cycle of poverty in Hall County by seeking to understand poverty from the perspective of our most vulnerable citizens. We know this will take a long-term commitment and we must work side-by-side with local churches and public, private and non-profit sectors to tackle the root causes of poverty in a holistic and sustainable manner. We seek to create a community-level goal that is measurable and attainable. We will study existing statistics and work directly with those experiencing poverty to develop strategies that must be understood and addressed at a high level by the community-at-large.

The entire One Hall campaign is organized into key focus groups, with leadership helping guide each one's conversation and development.

Sarah Bell - One Hall Chair
Dr. Merrienne Dyer - Education
Karen Borders - Education
Liz Coates - Health
Jamie Reynolds - Health

Beth Brown - Financial Stability
Duane Schlereth - Financial Stability
Dr. Monica Newton - Mental and Behavioral Health
Reese Daniel - Mental and Behavioral Health

To learn more about the campaign, here is a link. <https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/one-hall/>

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THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

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Gail Sargent—Compassion, Participation
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