

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**January 28, 2024 10:00am**

**Online Service**

**Facebook/YouTube**



**Grace Episcopal Church**

**336 Main St, Old Saybrook, CT**

**PRELUDE :**

Arietta (Op. 12, No. 1)

*by: Edvard Grieg*

**THE ENTRANCE RITE** (pg. 355, BCP)

**OPENING HYMN**

O GIVE THE LORD WHOLEHEARTED PRAISE, vs. 1, 2, 3, 6

*by: Psalter, 1912, Germany*

**O give the Lord wholehearted praise.  
To him thanksgiving I will bring;  
With all his people I will raise my voice and of his glory sing.**

**His saints delight to search and trace  
His mighty works and wondrous ways.  
Majestic glory, boundless grace, and righteousness his work displays.**

**God's wondrous deeds of faithfulness  
His people ever keep in mind.  
His works of love and graciousness reveal that God the Lord is kind.**

**By God's own hand redemption came;  
His covenant sure no change can know.  
Let all revere his holy name in heaven above and earth below.**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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

*People*

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

*The Celebrant says:*

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.*

## Gloria to God

*by: John Rutter*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heav'nly King, almighty God and Father,  
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## THE COLLECT *of the DAY*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

***People*** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE WORD *of GOD*

### THE LESSONS

#### THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God anymore, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

*After the reading, the Lay Reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 111**

Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, \*  
**in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.**

Great are the deeds of the Lord! \*  
**they are studied by all who delight in them.**

His work is full of majesty and splendor, \*  
**and his righteousness endures for ever.**

He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; \*  
**the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

He gives food to those who fear him; \*  
**he is ever mindful of his covenant.**

He has shown his people the power of his works \*  
**in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; \*  
**all his commandments are sure.**

They stand fast for ever and ever, \*  
**because they are done in truth and equity.**

He sent redemption to his people;  
he commanded his covenant for ever; \*  
**holy and awesome is his Name.**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; \*  
**those who act accordingly have a good understanding;**

## **THE EPISTLE:**

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and

that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

*After the reading, the Lay Reader says*

The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## SEQUENCE HYMN

THE LORD IS GRACIOUS AND COMPASSIONATE

*By: Graham Ord*

*Verse:* **The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich in love.**

**The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich in love.**

*Pre-Chorus:* **And the Lord is good to all.  
And He has compassion on all that He has made.**

*Chorus:* **As far as the east is from the west,  
That’s how far He has removed our transgressions from us.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
That’s how far He has removed our transgressions from us.**

*(Verse, Pre-Chorus, Chorus)*

*Bridge:* **Praise the Lord, oh my soul. Praise the Lord.  
Praise the Lord, oh my soul. Praise the Lord. (Bridge 2x)**

*(Chorus 2x)*

CCLI #640689, License #338180

## THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

*Then, all still standing, the Minister reads the Gospel, first saying:*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Charles Hamill

## THE NICENE CREED *The congregation stands*

**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 II** (pg. 385, BCP)

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

*The celebrant says*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this city Old Saybrook, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially Graham Mason for whom the altar flowers were given, as well as Josephine Cianci, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** (pg. 360, BCP)

*The Deacon or Celebrant then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*



*Minister and People*

**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.**

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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.**

## **THE PEACE**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

## **OFFERTORY**

UBI CARITAS / UBI CARITAS

*by: Jacques Berthier, Taizé / James MacMillan, arr. Bethany Hamill*

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

Live in charity and steadfast love. Live in charity; God will dwell with you.

*CCLI #7141436, License #338180*

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **OFFERTORY PROCESSION**

### **DOXOLOGY**

*by: Jimmy Owens*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, you heavenly host, praise Faither, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B (BCP pg. 367)

*The people remain standing.*

*The Celebrant faces them and sings or says*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S 125

*by: Richard Proulx*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

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**

*The Celebrant continues*

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 forever.

**AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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**

*Celebrant*

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People*

**Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## COMMUNION SONGS

### SPIRIT SONG

*by: John Wimber*

**Oh, let the Son of God enfold you with His Spirit and His love;**

**Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.**

**Oh, let Him have those things that hold you, and His Spirit, like a dove,**

**Will descend upon your life and make you whole.**

*Chorus:* **Jesus, oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.**

**Jesus, oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.**

**Oh, come and sing this song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy;**

**Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.**

**Oh, give Him all your tears and sadness; Give Him all your years of pain,**

**And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. (*Chorus 2x*)**

*CCLI #27824, License #338180*

### THE HEART OF WORSHIP

*by: Matt Redman*

**When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come;**

**Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless Your heart.**

*Pre-Chorus:* **I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself**

**is not what You have required.**

**You search much deeper within through the way things appear;**

**You're looking into my heart.**

*Chorus:* **I'm coming back to the heart of worship,**

**and it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.**

**I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,**

**When it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.**

**King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve.  
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, every single breath.**

*(Pre-Chorus, Chorus 2x)*

*CCLI #2296522, License #338180*

## **PRAYER of SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*(For those unable to receive communion today)*

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

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (pg. 365, BCP)**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

**Let us pray.**

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**HYMN #616**

**HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED**

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;  
To take away transgression, and rule inequity.**

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth:  
Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;  
And righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall bow down before him, and gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;  
To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest;  
From age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest:  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
His Name shall stand forever, his changeless Name of Love.

## THE DISMISSAL

*After the Recessional the Priest or Deacon says*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*Celebrant and People*

**Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## POSTLUDE:

Bagatelle in D Major (Op. 119, No. 3)

*by: Ludwig van Beethoven*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

*Either during the service or during prayer time at home, please keep the prayers of Grace Church and the people going! Please keep us up to date on names to add and remove.*

**WE PRAY FOR:** Kate, Myra, Jennifer, Lisa, Andrea, Lucinda, Hilda, Bryan, Barbara and Jon Zakhar, Laura & Tommy Urban, Earlene Bell, Aurelia Knox, Sarah Craig, Joyce, Len Pass, James, Marguerite, Frank Roman, Penny, Margie, Bill Ross, Emily, Dalton & Susan, Valerie and Richard Beers, Mary, Doug Hamill, JJ Evola and family, Jane Hamill, Kathi Jones, Cheryl Dudek, Debra Sticht, Elsie, Donna, Alicia Winalski and family, Janet Viets, Marilyn, Amber, Barbara Bowie, Dick Watson, Carter, Judy Cowper, Emily, Robert Soudan, Charlie Brinley, Alan, Bill, Hannah, Jim Donahue, Donna, Ann, Carol Wilson, Wanda, Sheila and Mia.

**FOR THOSE IN SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY:** Travis Board, Nathaniel Burnham, Todd Buroff, Tami Morgan, Adam Randle, Daniel Kronz and Susan Eaccarino.

**FOR OUR MINISTERS AND MISSIONS:** Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our presiding Bishop; Jeff and Laura, our Bishops; Charlie, Ellen and Bill, our priests; and for: Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, Common Good Gardens, Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services, Early Head Start, the AA groups that meet at Grace Church, Boy Scout Troop 51, Patrick Dominguez and his church planting effort and Kateri Medical Services in Nigeria. In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Epiphany, Durham; St. Gabriel's, East Berlin; St. Stephen's, Haddam; All Saint's, East Hartford. And for ministries to, for and with the deaf.

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH: Jan 28<sup>th</sup>– Feb 4<sup>th</sup>**

Today	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Sanctuary)
	9:15 am	Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Sanctuary)
	4:00 pm	AA Meeting (Merrill Hall)
Monday		OFFICE CLOSED
	10:00 am	Old Saybrook Graden Club Meeting (Merrill Hall)
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Undercroft)
Wednesday	12:00-1pm	Shoreline Soup Kitchens Community Lunch (Merrill Hall)
	6:30 pm	Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
Thursday		
Friday	10:00 am	Women of Grace (Folsom House)
	2:00 pm	Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
Saturday		
Sunday	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Sanctuary)
	9:15 am	Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Sanctuary)
	11:30 am	Grace Church Annual Meeting (Merrill Hall)
	4:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Merrill Hall)

**UPCOMING SPECIAL DATES:**

**Annual Meeting, Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup>, following 10am service**

**Ash Wednesday Services, Wed. February 14<sup>th</sup>: 12 Noon & 7pm**



## **OUR PARTICIPANTS TODAY**

CELEBRANT/PREACHER:	The Rev. Charles Hamill	8 & 10 am
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:	John Klages	8 am
	Dale Schneider	10 am
LECTOR:	John Martin	10 am
USHERS:	Peter Knox, Bill Sheahan	8 am
	Cathy & Clyde Auger	10 am
TECH TEAM:	Sue Board	10 am
NURSERY:	Meredith Hall, Karen Mulvihill	10 am
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Skip Fiorelli, Linda Santangelo	10 am
ALTAR GUILD:	Elaine Seaforth, Karen Newton	
FLOWER DELIVERY:	The Holy Spirit	

## **GRACE CHURCH STAFF**

Rector, The Rev. Charlie Hamill  
Music Director, Bethany Hamill  
Digital Communications Director, Kate McKinney  
Sexton, Sherry Schiavone

## **GRACE CHURCH VESTRY**

Senior Warden, Matt Stosse  
Junior Warden, Ken Soudan  
Treasurer, David Condren  
Clerk, Julie Peace  
Vestry Members: Bob Mulvihill, Joan Trzcinski  
Dale Schneider, Heather Masse,  
Lisa DiStasio, Gretchen DiGiannantonio

## **GRACE CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Women of Grace (WOG) meets Fridays at 10am.**

Women of Grace (WOG) begins a new study, titled “More Women of the Bible.” In this 12-week video Bible Study, we will look at the spiritual lessons learned from 12 women in the Bible and what they mean for you today. You will look at these women’s successes and failures, see how they drew near to God in the midst of trials and learn how they overcame rejection and disappointment. Their stories will inspire you to persevere through difficult times and find joy in the hope that Jesus has provided. Each week is a stand-alone session. You can attend one or all. All Grace Church women are welcome. We meet at 10:00 a.m. on Friday mornings in the Folsom House Living Room. No personal invitations are necessary. For more information contact Kathy Bartus. Phone numbers and email addresses are in the church directory OR speak to Kathy after the 8:00 a.m. service. We are hoping to have some new members join us for lively conversation, prayer and most importantly sharing the importance of having Jesus as our guide in the modern world.

### **Grace Church Men’s Discipleship. Next Meeting Jan 27th!**

#### **Meeting in Merrill Hall at Grace Church 8am-10am**

On the 3rd Saturdays (sometimes the 4th!) of each month from 8am-10am, beginning in October, Pastor Charlie will gather with the men of Grace Church looking for fellowship and deeper discipleship in Jesus Christ. The first hour we gather for light breakfast and fellowship to get to know each other. During the second hour we delve into some Scripture and readings from various Christian spiritual classics. Through the readings and asking questions, we are hoping to strengthen our walk with Jesus, grow in the grace and knowledge of God, and learn to support one another as brothers in Christ. For more info contact Pastor Charlie at [gracechurchrector@gmail.com](mailto:gracechurchrector@gmail.com).

## **Winter Food Drive benefitting Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries**

### **Collecting from January 1 - February 5**

Hi, my name is Ben Stosse. I am a junior at Westbrook high school, and I am organizing a non-perishable food drive for Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries. The holidays often bring out generosity and good intentions, however, people still suffer financial hardships and find it difficult to afford food after the holiday, once the generosity is not as present. I believe that it is important that we support our community members who are enduring difficult times and that is why this cause is so important to me.

According to Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries, the following items are most needed: peanut butter, canned tuna, cereal and pasta.

The collection boxes (with snowy pine trees on them!) will be located inside both entrances to the church, and there will be one big blue box outside on the church patio. And they will remain there until February 3.

Thank you everyone for your generosity!

- Ben Stosse

## **Lent/Easter Potluck Dinner and Video Bible Teaching Series**

Join us for a 7-week video Bible series by Anglican Bishop NT Wright on “The Resurrection of the Son of God” during Lent and into Easter. To engage more fully with the series, you can consider purchasing Wright’s book “Surprised By Hope”, though it is not required for our gathering. The video series will use history and the Bible to look at ancient, pagan, Jewish and New Testament perspectives on what “Resurrection” meant, so we can better understand what it means today. We will gather for a **potluck dinner at 6pm**, followed by a couple video teachings and discussion, and finish up with a short service of evening prayer. We are looking for people to sign up for each evening to help setup/cleanup dinner as well as make tea and coffee; sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the entryway. The series will run 5 weeks in Lent and 2 weeks after Easter (which is March 31) Please refer to the schedule here below. Any questions, contact Pastor Charlie. Hope to see you there!

### **Dinner and Video Series Thursday evenings 6-8pm**

**Feb 22, Feb 29, March 7, March 14, March 21, April 4 and April 11**

(NO video March 28; it will be a Maundy Thursday Dinner Service instead)

### **Would you like to help start a new ministry in 2024?!**

This past year, Grace Church took a survey of parishioner's ministry interest, hobbies and skills. In addition to a multitude of skills and hobbies, there were several that kept keeping up: gardening, hiking/walking, and cooking. SO!! Perhaps you are interested in starting a new ministry in 2024 that seeks to gather people in these areas of interest?! Perhaps a walking club or cooking club or perhaps some new offshoot ministry of our teaching garden? If you are interested in working to gather people in any of these possible areas for a new ministry, please reach out to Pastor Charlie.

### **Altar Flower Memorials**

The Altar Guild is always accepting donations for Sunday altar flowers made out to "Grace Church Altar Guild" in memory or in celebration of loved ones. For more information please contact Barbara Bowie by email at [coljim95@gmail.com](mailto:coljim95@gmail.com) or Betty Salldin at [bettysalldin@gmail.com](mailto:bettysalldin@gmail.com).

### **Ministry Matters: Counters and Nursery Volunteers**

Each month we will profile a couple of the ministries at Grace Church to raise awareness of the ministries as well as offer the opportunity for people to join the teams!

#### **Counting Ministry:**

The Counting Ministry is responsible for the weekly counting of the giving and pledges received on Sundays. This is a very important ministry because if the Sunday giving isn't counted then it can't be deposited, and we can't pay the bills! A team of two meets each week at the Folsom House (usually on Monday but we are open to teams counting on Sunday). The giving received is counted, logged, and then deposited in the bank following the counting. The process usually takes about 1/1.5 hours. The time involved is also a great time for fellowship and getting to know your fellow counter! We are currently in need of a few new volunteers for this important ministry. If interested in joining this ministry, please contact Jan Basil by email [jannybee@att.net](mailto:jannybee@att.net) or talk to Pastor Charlie at church.

#### **Nursery Ministry:**

Can you guess?! This ministry meets during the Sunday 10am service (except on the 1st Sunday of each month) to spend time with our little ones in the nursery in the basement. Serving in the nursery requires a background check and completing a diocesan Safe Church program (a few hours of video and questions once every 5 years), as well as a general love of children and willingness to be in the presence of cuteness. We are currently in need of 1-2 new volunteers for this ministry. If interested, please contact Pastor Charlie at church or in the office.

## **Grace Episcopal Church Prayer Line**

Here's how it works...If you need prayer for something, call one of the Prayer Line Chairpersons (Joyce Brinley and Barbara Bowie). Either use your directory or call the church office for their contact info.

Please briefly tell them your request. The Prayer Line will take it from there. The Chairperson will pass the prayer on to a Prayer Team member, who will pass it to the next Prayer Team member, and so on. Once a member hangs up the phone, the intercession begins! The Prayer Line is available to receive requests **9:00am to 8:30pm**. Typically the Prayer Line requests for the day go out to members about 7:00pm. However, requests of an emergency nature will be passed on immediately. We are so grateful to have this ministry active again. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to have your brothers and sisters in Christ lift up your requests to God.

## **Grace Church Annual Meeting Sunday Feb 4<sup>th</sup>**

Please join us for our Annual Meeting on Sunday February 4 following the 10am service. There will be an expanded coffee hour with snacks for the meeting. The Annual Meeting is a time to review the budget for 2024 and ministry reports from 2023, as well as to hear updates and hopes for the parish from vestry officers and the rector. We will also vote on 2024 positions for new vestry officers and Diocesan delegates as presented by the Nomination Committee. The list of 2024 nominees for voting is found below. This is not only a great opportunity to have fellowship with other parishioners but also to get to know more about the details of how the parish finances and ministries function, as well as get to know the parish leadership.

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Charlie or any vestry member.

### **2024 Vestry and Diocesan Delegate Nominations:**

Vestry Officers: (elected for 1 year term)

Senior Warden: Jason Howey (new)

Junior Warden: Skip Fiorelli (new)

Clerk: Julie Peace

Treasurer: David Condren

Regular Vestry Members: (2 new members rotate on each year for 3 year term)

Peter Knox (new)

Mary Matthews (new)

Diocesan Delegates:

Carly Trask-Kuchta

David Kirpas

## **Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church in Old Saybrook**

**We are a community of faith, rooted in Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit,  
following God's call to feed the hungry in both body and spirit.**

**Our intention is to know Jesus and to make Him known.**

You are welcome regardless of where you are on your spiritual journey.

**Currently our in-person worship services are Sundays at 8am and 10am with Holy Communion (the 10am is also live-streamed onto Facebook and YouTube), and we offer a Healing Service with Holy Communion and Laying on of Hands and Anointing on the First Wednesday of each month at 10am in the sanctuary . Go to our website [graceoldsaybrook.org](http://graceoldsaybrook.org) for more info and for bulletins to download for the 10am live-stream service.**

Whether you are just exploring a new spiritual direction, curious about the Episcopal Church, or are ready to find a new church home, feel free to fill out a welcome card and place it in the collection plate, sign our guest book, or contact the church by phone or email for more info.

Grace Church is a close-knit community called by God to share the healing love of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. We are also engaged in the greater local and regional community in various outreach ministries as well. If interested, ask us how you can get involved in what Christ is doing at Grace, in Old Saybrook and Connecticut!! Or better yet, tell us where you find God at work in your life, and tell us how we can help or get involved!

If you have any questions feel free to call, email or Facebook us.

We hope your visit to Grace was Spirit-filled, welcoming and meaningful.

In Christ,

The Rev. Charlie Hamill, Rector, and the People of Grace Church

**RECTOR E-Mail: [gracechurchrector@gmail.com](mailto:gracechurchrector@gmail.com)**

**OFFICE E-Mail: [gracechurcholdsaybrook@gmail.com](mailto:gracechurcholdsaybrook@gmail.com)**

**336 Main St., Old Saybrook, CT 06475**

**860-388-0895/ [www.graceoldsaybrook.org](http://www.graceoldsaybrook.org)**

**Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church Old Saybrook**