A parish for all people in the heart of the city.

❖ THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD ❖ CHRISTMAS EVE



* DECEMBER 24, 2025 * 9:30PM *

WELCOME TO GRACE!

We are glad you are with us! Grace Memorial is part of the Jesus Movement in the Episcopal Way. We are a community of story, symbol, service, and song. We are a church of people with and without disabilities. Those who need to vocalize or move during the service are welcome to do so. Please let us know that you are here by filling out a newcomer card and giving it to an usher or clergy person — or by saying "hi" in the YouTube chat.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children are welcome and expected throughout the service. For those families who would prefer it, nursery care is available beginning at 9am in the Nursery downstairs. For older children, Church School gathers in the Mason Burnham room after the service's opening collect (i.e., opening prayer).

SERVICE TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Sundays in the Sanctuary

8:00am - **Holy Eucharist Rite I** Spoken Service

10:00am - Choral Eucharist Rite II*

Weekdays in the Chapel

Thursdays 9:30am
Holy Eucharist Rite II

* Hybrid Service

both in the Nave and on YouTube

* THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD * CHRISTMAS EVE

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER - YEAR A

Hymns can be found in the blue Hymnal in the pew rack.

❖ CAROL SERVICE ❖ 9:30PM

WELCOME ❖ Rev. Martin Elfert

HYMN 102 ❖ Once in royal David's city verse 1 − solo; vv. 2-6 - all

CHOIR * Torches. torches

John Joubert

Torches, torches, run with torches All the way to Bethlehem! Christ is born and now lies sleeping; Come and sing your song to Him!

Torches, torches, run with torches All the way to Bethlehem! Christ is born and now lies sleeping; Come and sing your song to Him! Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby, Ah, Roro, my love, Roro; Sleep you well, my heart's own darling, While we sing you our Rorro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry, Joy and mirth and joy again; Lo, He lives, the King of heaven, Now and evermore. Amen.

HYMN 79 ❖ O little town of Bethlehem – vv, 1,2, & 5

CHOIR ***** *Infant holy, infant lowly*

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, and still knowing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Swiftly winging, angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Polish carol, arr. David Willcocks

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.

Thus rejoicing,
Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing,
Greet the morrow:
Christ the Babe was born for you,
Christ the Babe was born for you!

HYMN 84 * Love came down at Christmas

CHOIR * Sussex Carol

arr. by David Willcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring, News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should folk on earth be so sad, Since our redeemer made us glad, When from our sin he set us free, All for to gain our liberty. When sin departs before his grace, Then life and health come in its place; Angels and all with joy may sing, All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night: 'Glory to God and peace to all, Now and for evermore. Amen.'

In Thy sweet humility!

Hail! Thou ever blessed morn! etc.



HOLY EUCHARIST ❖ RITE II

10:00 PM

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER - YEAR A

Today's readings can be found at www.Lectionarypage.net. The Service begins on page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer found in the pew racks. The Online Book of Common Prayer can be found here: https://www.bcponline.org/Hymns can be found in the blue Hymnal in the pew rack. The "S-numbers" are found in the front of the blue Hymnal.

Incense is used at this service.

PRELUDE *

OPENING HYMN 83 * O come, all ve faithful

All verses

OPENING ACCLAMATION *

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Told us of the Saviour's Birth."

Hail! Thou ever blessed morn! etc.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY *

Presider and People

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.



Presider The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People Amen.

❖ PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD ❖

FIRST READING * Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96 *

Psalter for the Christian People
Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new /song; * sing to the LORD, all the whole /earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless the LORD's /Name; * proclaim the good news of salvation from day to /day.
- 3 Declare the glory of the LORD among the /nations * and the wonders of the LORD among all /peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be /praised; * more to be feared than all /gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but /idols; * but it is the LORD who made the /heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of the presence of the /LORD! * Oh, the power and the splendor of the sanctuary of our /GOD!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the /peoples; * ascribe to the LORD honor and /power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the divine /Name; * come to the holy courts with your /offerings.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of /holiness; * let the whole earth tremble in /awe.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is /Sovereign! *
 the LORD has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved and will judge the peoples with /equity."



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; * let the field be joyful and all that is /therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD who is /coming, * who is coming to judge the /earth.
- 13 The LORD will judge the world with /righteousness * and the peoples with /truth.

SECOND READING * Titus 2:11-14

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 89 * It came upon a midnight clear

vv. 1, 2 before The Gospel; v. 3, 4 after

THE HOLY GOSPEL * Luke 2:1-20

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

SERMON *

The Reverend Martin Elfert

A time of silence for reflection follows the sermon.





THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE * Prayer response: Fill our hearts with love.

Remembering especially: Lisa, Bob Zimmer, Kathleen Chapman, Rami, Dawne Gerhart, John Pearson, Jim McClure, Chelsey Horchy, Mike, Sam Panerella, and Chantel Fleshman. For the victims of the Bondi shooting.

For Donald, our President; Tina, our Governor; and Keith, our Mayor.

For peace and protection for the people of Sudan, Ukraine, Russia, Palestine and Israel.

For Sarah, Archbishop-elect of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Diana, our Bishop; the clergy here at Grace Memorial and the clergy at our companion parish, Trinity Cathedral in Monrovia Liberia. For Matt Haines, our seminarian.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Burundi In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Retired Clergy & Chaplains

We remember the deceased: Jimmy Carter, Jay Borelli, Sue Ann Peterson, Jeanann Francis, Barbara Leighton, Bill Gallup, Gene Baker, Karen Ormsby, Nick and Priscilla Cowell, Rosco, Rusty, Ruth Higgenbotham, Jorge Bergoglio, Sybil Grissom, Dan, Phyllis Moquist, Alta Acosta, Larry Snyder, Chris Maas, Alvin Ditty, Darryl Holland, William Thomas Harvey, Mary Walker, Randy Shelby, Hal Phillips, Bengt Ageros, John Conway, Peter J. Kelly, Jane Goodall, Stacey Hicks, and Comfort Peabody.

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God.

Leader and People:

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.

ABSOLUTION ❖ BCP pg. 394

THE PEACE *

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The People greet one another in the name of Christ.

❖ CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST ❖

THE OFFERING *

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings to the Altar.

At the Offertory, we return thanks for God's many blessings in our lives, and we invite you to give generously. You may give an offering in the plate or by visiting our online link at www.grace-memorial.org.



OFFERTORY *What sweeter music*

What sweeter music can we bring Than a carol, for to sing The birth of this our Heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, And give the honor to this day That sees December turned to May, That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's mourn Smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn Thus, on the sudden? Come and see The 'cause, why things thus fragrant be:

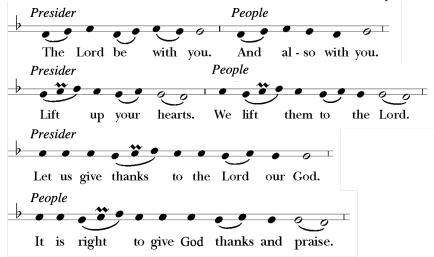
'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth Gives life and luster, public mirth, To heaven, and the under-Earth. words: Robert Herrick (1591-1674); music: John Rutter

We see him come, and know him ours, Who, with his sunshine and his showers, Turns all the patient ground to flowers, Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him, to welcome him.
The nobler part of all the house here is the heart,
Which we will give him, and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour; who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring Than a carol, for to sing The birth of this our Heavenly King, Of this our Heavenly King, our King.

PRESENTATION HYMN 96 * Angels We Have Heard On High



Presider

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth....

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 AND BENEDICTUS *

The St. James Christmas Service



Presider

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation...

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,

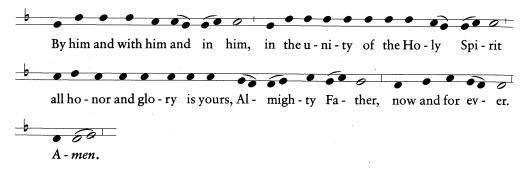
Presider & People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

Presider

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.



Presider

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

THE LORD'S PRAYER *

BCP pg. 364

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD ❖

FRACTION ANTHEM *

PresiderAlleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;PeopleTherefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.PresiderThe Gifts of God for the People of God.

MINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT *

Share the gifts

If you know the brokenness of life, then you have participated in the broken body of Christ, and you are invited to share in the breaking of bread. If you desire to know the love of God that overcomes apathy, alienation, and despair, then you are invited to share in the cup of the new covenant. The bread is received in the open palm. It is usual Anglican practice to drink the wine from the common cup. Intinction (i.e., the practice of dipping the bread into the chalice) is not permitted. Grape juice is available as an alternative to wine: please come to the left side of the communion rail (i.e., near the organ) and let a server know that you would prefer to receive juice.

Prayer and Laying On of Hands for Healing

If you wish a particular prayer for yourself or for someone else, you are invited to go to the prayer station located to the right of the altar. Give your first name and share your prayer need, and the prayer team will quietly offer prayers. Anything you share is confidential.

AGNUS DEI *

The St. James Christmas Service



COMMUNION MUSIC * Cantique de Noël (O Holy Night) text: Placide Cappeau; music: Adolphe Adam Tonántzin Naegele Ramírez, soprano

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night divine!

COMMUNION HYMN 111 * Silent Night, Holy Night

Candles will be lit during the singing of Silent Night.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *

BCP 365

Presider And People Almighty and everliving 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.

BLESSING *

Presider
People
Our help is in the Name of the Lord;
The maker of Heaven and earth.
Presider
People
Blessed be the Name of the Lord;
From this time forth for evermore.

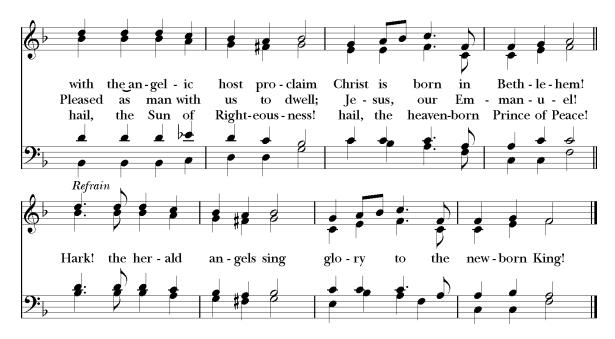
Presider May

May God, who sent the angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the Gospel; and the blessing, mercy and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

All Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 87 Hark! The herald angels sing





Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

DISMISSAL *

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE * Michau qui causoit ce grand bruit

Jean François Dandrieu (1682-1738)

Please join us after the service for some holiday merriment & cookies in the Parish Hall!



A special THANK YOU to all the members of Grace Choir & the Choral Scholar Program for their beautiful music this season! And a special thanks to all who support this wonderful program at Grace.

| Sopranos | Altos | Tenors | Basses/Baritones |
|---|---|--|---|
| Shannon Jones Phoebe MacRae Christy Guinan Tonántzin Naegele Ramírez | Cameron Denney Debbie McDuffee Kinnari Shah Louise Tippens Sherrie Vacarella Sam Cooper - Gross | Andy D'Antonio William Gao** Jack Ryan* Soren Cowell-Shah** Jake Vacarella | Elijah Brown* Kirin Cowell-Shah* Peter David Robert Hansler Pablo Riffel* Kevin Walsh |

^{*} current Choral Scholar ** Choral Scholar alumni



❖ THE GREENING OF GRACE ❖ IS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD THIS CHRISTMAS

IN MEMORY OF GIVEN BY

Sam Lehrle Alicia Lehrle

Geraldine Rice Campbell Gwen Harvey

Ray & Alice Burnette, Pat York, Pete Nelson Jo Bronson

Sybil Grissom Carolyn Hostetler

Christopher Gault Robin Gault

Grace and Tine Hardeman Amanda Hunter

Laura J., Donald A., and George R. Hull Sandi Johnson-Hull

in memory of family and friends Niki and Tod Moquist

IN HONOR & THANKSGIVING OF GIVEN BY

In thanksgiving for my family Deacon Liz Klein

and the Grace Memorial community

In thanksgiving for family Yetunde Laniran

In honor of Martin Elfert & Sue Jensen Carolyn Hostetler

Marissa Cheplick Stephen David

The greens at ST. FRANCIS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of EUGENE AND RUTH LAMB AND TIM LAMB by Nancy McCusker, Lou Ann Pickering, Michael Lamb and families.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Clergy & Staff at Grace

SERVING US TODAY

Presider • The Reverend Lara Halsey

Preacher • The Reverend Martin Elfert

Deacon • The Reverend Doctor Elizabeth Klein

Curate • The Reverend Lara Halsey Lectors • Michelle Power, Paul Parker

Intercessor • Kate Fuqua

Thurifer • Charles A. McGee II

Crucifer • Fred Gibson

Torchbearers • Chaz Guinan, Jerry Wallace Healing Ministry • The Rev. Dr. Corbet Clark,

Myra Clark

Sacristans • Altar Guild

Ushers • Peter West, Jennifer Traeger

Organist • Susan J. Jensen

Soprano solos • Phoebe MacRae,

Tonántzin Naegele Ramírez

Cantor • Pablo Riffel

Digital Verger • André Pruitt

CLERGY & STAFF AT GRACE

The Rt. Rev. Doctor Diana Akiyama • Bishop

The Rev. Martin Elfert • Rector

The Rev. Stephen V. Schneider • Rector Emeritus

The Rev. Lara Halsev • Curate

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Klein • Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Corbet Clark • Associate Priest

The Rev. Canon Dr. Richard Toll • Associate Priest

Nick Fox • Parish Manager

Susan J. Jensen • Organist/Choir Director

Lukas Sherman • Campus Steward

Evelyn Prater • Digital Verger

Jo Wiersma • Nursery Care Coordinator

Demetria Keck • Office Volunteer

VESTRY

Co-Senior Wardens:

Charles A. McGee II (2026), Vestry Chair Kevin Walsh (2026), Rector's Advisor

Junior Warden: Yetunde Laniran (2026)

Treasurer: Marissa Cheplick (2028)

Clerk: Alicia Lehrle

Xander Almeida (2028)

Roosevelt Carter (2026)

Martha Humphrey (2027)

Nora McLaughlin (2027) Jennifer Traeger (2028)

Stephen Weeks (2027)

Jennifer Yeast (2026)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tues, Wed, Thurs. 10am - 2pm

Note: Closed December 25, 26, & January 1, 2026.

(503) 287-0418 hello@grace-memorial.org

www.grace-memorial.org



CLERGY OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Martin Elfert

Wednesdays 9:30am - 11:30am Thursdays 2pm - 4pm

Rev. Lara Halsey

Mondays 1pm - 5pm

Rev. Dr. Liz Klein

Wednesdays 11am - 1pm

GRACE CALENDAR

https://grace-memorial.org/campus-calendar/

Thursday, December 25 & Friday, December 26

Grace office will be closed

Sunday, December 28 @ 8am & 10am

The First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 28 @ 11:30am

The State of Grace

Sunday, December 28 @ 5pm

Community dinner in the Parish Hall

Monday, December 29 through Wednesday, December 31

Grace Institute Winter Art Camp

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Grace office will be closed

Saturday, January 3, 2026 @ 10am

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, January 6 @ 6pm

Epiphany Evensong in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 6 @ 6:30pm

Potluck Supper & Kings' Cake in the Parish Hall