



GRACE
ANGLICAN
CHURCH

November 30, 2025
1st Sunday of Advent

Welcome to the weekly worship that has been celebrated in Anglican churches for centuries. This leaflet includes everything you need to participate in today's service. Congregational responses are in italics.

1. As the congregation sings an opening hymn of praise, the cross leads the procession into the church. In this way, the cross draws us into worship, as Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32).
2. At the beginning of each service, a seasonal (appropriate to Lent, Epiphany, Easter, etc) greeting is exchanged, locating us in the flow of the church year.
3. During this prayer that "collects" the prayers of the gathered congregation, we acknowledge who God is and recognize our need for his grace to love and worship him (John 4:24).

Hymn ¹ – Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus
born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

WORDS: CHARLES WESLEY (C.1750), MUSIC: WILLIAM HENRY HAVERGAL (C.1820)

The Acclamation ²

Surely the Lord is coming soon.
Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

The Collect for Purity ³

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.

4. The summary of the law has shown us our sin. Now, we make the only proper response: to ask God to have mercy on us, which he will do on account of Christ (Titus 3:5).
5. Dating from the 4th century, the Gloria finds its first source in the joyful hymn of the heavenly host (Luke 2:14) and is a fitting way to rejoice in God's provision of a savior.
6. Another "collection" of the prayers of the church, this prayer sets forth a theme that unifies the worship that follows.

The Summary of the Law

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. MATTHEW 22:37-40

Lord, have mercy upon us. ⁴

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Gloria ⁵

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly 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 ⁶

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

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.*

9.

The Gospel is read in the midst of the people as a symbol of Jesus' incarnation, that Christ came into the world to live as one of us, to die in our place, and to be raised again for our justification (John 1:14).

Hymn – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, thou Lord of might
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe

O come, thou branch of Jesse's tree free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear

WORDS: 9TH CENTURY LATIN, MUSIC: THOMAS HELMORE

The Gospel ⁹ – Matthew 24:36-44

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

10. The sermon in a Christian church both helps the congregation understand the meaning of the biblical texts that have been read and proclaims the Good News about Jesus: that though we are great sinners, he is a greater savior (1 Tim. 1:15).
11. Composed around the time of the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, this early statement of belief sums up the essential core of the Christian faith, believed the world over and throughout time.
12. Used in this way, catholic means universal
13. After affirming their faith in the words of the Creed, the people petition the Lord in prayer (John 14:13).

The Sermon¹⁰ – The Rev. Nick Lannon

The Nicene Creed¹¹

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten 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 from the Holy Spirit and 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic¹² 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 People¹³

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Almighty and everliving God, we are taught by your holy Word to offer prayers and supplications and to give thanks for all people. We humbly ask you mercifully to receive our prayers. Inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all who confess your holy Name may agree in the truth of your holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

[Silence]

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

14.

Missions Partners

- Refuge International
- Samir and
Intervarsity
- Mission Hope
Appalachia
- Friends of Gahini

15.

Prayers

- Megan Regal
- Sarah Skinner
- BettyLee Payne
- Diane Shaeffer
- Piper Regal
- Ed Hickerson

We pray that you will lead the nations of the world in the way of righteousness; and so guide and direct their leaders, especially Donald, our President, that your people may enjoy the blessings of freedom and peace. Grant that our leaders may impartially administer justice, uphold integrity and truth, restrain wickedness and vice, and protect true religion and virtue.

[Silence]

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

Give grace, heavenly Father, to all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, and especially to your servants Steve, our Archbishop; Alan, Quigg, Paul, and Steve, our Bishops; Nick, Jacob, and David, our Priests; and Michael, our Deacon; that by their life and teaching, they may proclaim your true and life-giving Word, and rightly and duly administer your holy Sacraments. And to all your people give your heavenly grace, especially to this Congregation, that with reverent and obedient hearts we may hear and receive your holy Word, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives.

[Silence]

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

Prosper, we pray, all those who proclaim the Gospel of your kingdom throughout the world,¹⁴ and strengthen us to fulfill your great commission, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all that you have commanded.

[Silence]

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

We ask you in your goodness, O Lord, to comfort and sustain all who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.¹⁵

[Silence; you are invited to offer up your own prayers at this time, either silently or aloud.]

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

16.

The confession of sin and the assurance of pardon is the bedrock of the Christian faith. God promises to forgive all those who ask for it (1 John 1:9).

We remember before you all your servants who have departed this life in your faith and fear, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we ask you to give us grace to follow the good examples of all your saints, that we may share with them in your heavenly kingdom.

[Silence]

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Confession and Absolution of Sin ¹⁶

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker and judge of us all: We acknowledge and lament our many sins and offenses, which we have committed by thought, word, and deed against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your righteous anger against us. We are deeply sorry for these transgressions; the burden of them is more than we can bear. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may evermore serve and please you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

17.

Having confessed our sins, been absolved by Christ's finished word, and heard comforting biblical words assuring us it's all true, we can share the peace we have with God with one another (Col. 3:15).

The Comfortable Words

Hear these words of comfort from Christ and his apostles:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. MATTHEW 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 TIMOTHY 1:15

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 JOHN 2:1-2

The Peace¹⁷

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with your spirit.

18. As the music team makes its offering to the Lord, the congregation takes a moment to prepare their hearts for the communion service.
19. Representatives of the congregation bring the offering forward and it is set on the table with our offerings of bread and wine. Everything we have comes from God, and it is only from his generosity that we can give at all (James 1:17).

Offertory¹⁸ – Oh Righteous Branch

Oh righteous branch from Jesse's root
Please come and bring your kingdom
The lion dwelling with the lamb
Bring peace and life and freedom

Oh Son of David come to rule
And reign in us forever
Come write your law upon our hearts
And keep us like a shepherd

Chorus

Hallelujah, Jesus we wait for you
Hallelujah, Jesus come soon, come soon

Messiah come, your Spirit give
Turn stony hearts to flesh
Redeem us from captivity
The power of sin and death

At last, at last the morning comes
With healing in its wings
We'll leap like calves loosed from their stalls
For you have done great things
Yes, you have done great things!

CAROLINE COBB (2020)

The Presentation¹⁹

[The congregation stands]

Your perfect law exposes me, I feel my sin and desperate need
My best good works are powerless, to satisfy your righteousness
But there is one who lived for me, his life, my only victory
His death forever sealed in time, that I am his and he is mine
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

WORDS: TRADITIONAL; ZAC HICKS & JULIE ANNE VARGAS

MUSIC: LOUIS BOURGEOIS (1551) ARR. ZAC HICKS & JULIE ANNE VARGAS (2014)

20. The first section of this refrain, called the Sanctus, is the song of the seraphim in Isaiah's vision (Isaiah 6:3), while the second section includes the words from the crowds welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem (Matt. 21:9). It is a hymn of praise that joins the voices of the faithful with the angels in heaven.

21. Here is the core of the Gospel: Jesus died on the cross as the substitute for sinners. God's anger at sin is poured out, but not on those who deserve it. In Christ, he takes it back into himself, a perfectly satisfying atonement for anyone who puts their faith in Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21).

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. All things come from you, O Lord,
And of your own have we given you.

The Communion Service

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy, ²⁰ Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayer of Consecration

All praise and glory is yours, O God our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and he instituted, and in his Holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again. ²¹

Recitation of Jesus' words and acts has been central in all Eucharistic prayers since the third century. This form of the story is based chiefly on Paul's account in 1 Corinthians 11 and Luke's story of the Last Supper (Luke 22).

So now, O merciful Father, in your great goodness, we ask you to bless and sanctify, with your Word and Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, that we, receiving them according to your Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

For on the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."²²

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Therefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of your dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we your humble servants celebrate and make here before your divine Majesty, with these holy gifts, the memorial your Son commanded us to make; remembering his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and his promise to come again.

And we earnestly desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; asking you to grant that, by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his Blood, we and your whole Church may obtain forgiveness of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present to you, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice. We humbly pray that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, be filled with your grace and heavenly benediction, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, because of our many sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we ask you to accept this duty and service we owe, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

23. We pray as Jesus taught his disciples (Matt. 6:9-13).
24. Referencing Jesus' interaction with a Syrophoenician woman (Mark 7:24-30), this prayer ensures that we do not approach God's table because we deserve to, but because God is merciful in Christ.

The Lord's Prayer²³

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

Alleluia! Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed, once for all upon the Cross.
Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Prayer of Humble Access²⁴

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
Grant us your peace.

25. This prayer sums up what God has done with us in Holy Communion and reminds us that he is now sending us out as missionaries into the world (Eph. 2:10).
26. Based on Philippians 4:7, this blessing asks God to keep us ever mindful of what he's done for us, and reminds the congregation that no matter where we go from here, God has promised to be with us (Matthew 28:20).

The Ministration of Communion

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.

[The table is Christ's, not ours; all baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. To receive, come forward when your row joins the line in the center aisle and extend your hands in front of you with your palms up. Then, proceed to your side's chalice and either take a sip of wine or dip your wafer into the wine before consuming it. Then return to your seat. If you are not baptized, you are encouraged to come forward and receive a blessing; indicating your desire by crossing your arms over your chest. If you are interested in baptism, please see a member of the clergy. Gluten free elements are available on the table; if you would like to partake of those, please cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing from the celebrant and then serve yourself.]

The Post Communion Prayer²⁵

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us, through this Sacrament, of your favor and goodness towards us: that we are true members of the mystical body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of your everlasting kingdom. And we humbly ask you, heavenly Father, to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all the good works that you have prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Welcome

The Blessing²⁶

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Here, we are sent out into the world in mission, fueled by the worship service in which we have just participated. The Holy Spirit will empower us to go—as we pray in the Post-Communion Prayer—do all the good works that God has prepared for us to walk in. These good works are his gift to us, the fruit of the Gospel.

Hymn – 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 in equity.

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.

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 for ever, his changeless Name of Love.

WORDS: JAMES MONTGOMERY (1821), MUSIC: GERMAN FOLK SONG

The Dismissal ²⁷

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Upcoming Events



Visit the Events page on our website to view all of our upcoming events.

December 7

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals begin

Sign up your child (all ages welcome) to participate in our annual Christmas pageant, or sign yourself up to help out!

December 14

All-ages Ladies' Christmas Dinner and Welcome Baskets

Join the ladies of Grace Church for an evening of fellowship combined with mission! After Christmas dinner, we'll pack welcome baskets for refugee families.

December 21

Christmas Pageant

During this regularly scheduled service, we will celebrate the last Sunday of Advent, as we await the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. Our children will also tell the story of Jesus' arrival with their annual Christmas Pageant.

December 24

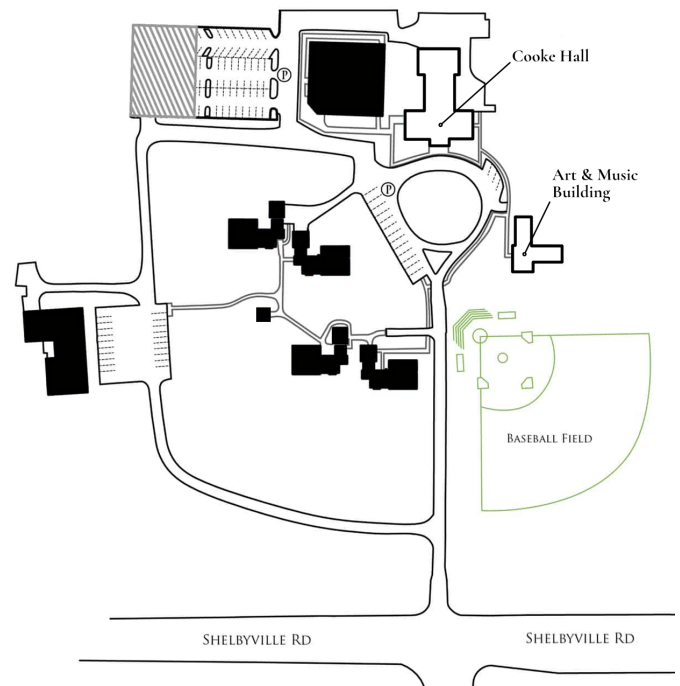
Christmas Eve Worship

Join us for one of the most beautiful services of the church year: the evening celebration of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. We'll sing, read from the Scriptures, hear the Good News that our savior is born proclaimed, celebrate communion, and end with a candle-lit rendition of Silent Night.

December 25

Christmas Day Worship

Join us on Christmas morning as we celebrate! This will be a quiet service of Morning Prayer (that is, no music or communion) which will involve confession and absolution, the reading of Scripture, the proclamation of the Good News, and prayers together.



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