



Hope, Healing, and Recovery

Morning Prayer

Welcome to the Community of Grace Episcopal Church

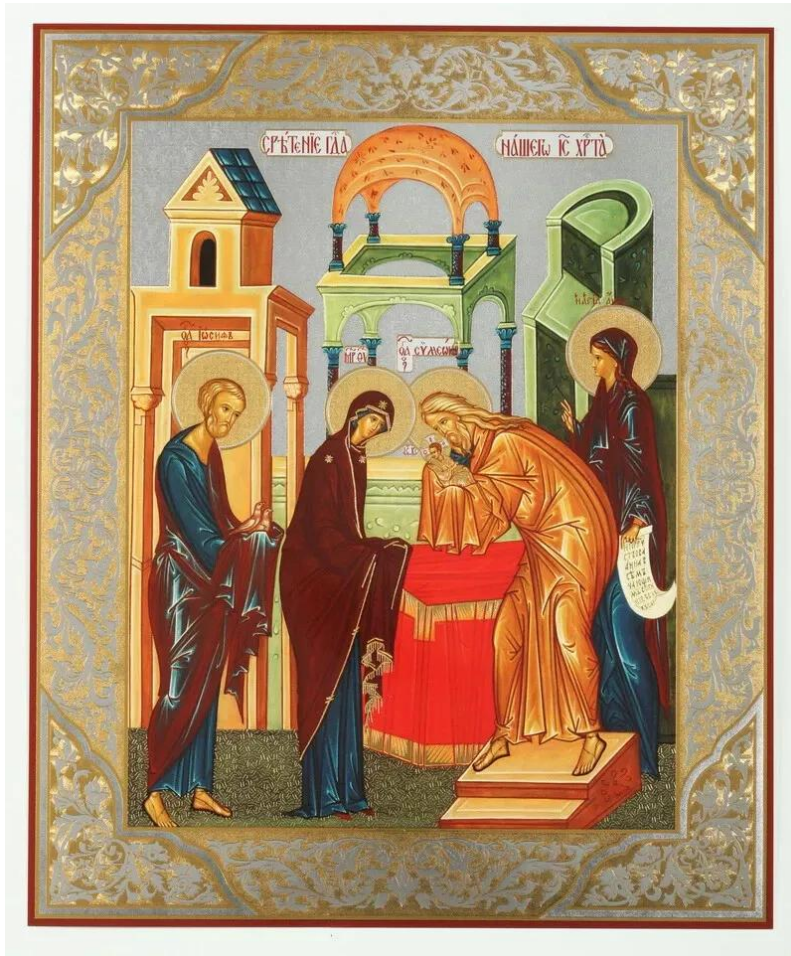
Every service at Grace offers healing, reconciliation, and joyful worship. The first Sunday of each month, our worship explicitly includes 12-Step recovery prayers and practices. We welcome everyone into Healing, Hope and Recovery, and especially those who are suffering or recovering from grief, addiction, abuse, mental illness, and the hurts and sorrows of daily life. This morning, we are in the 2nd month of the year, so we turn our attention to **Step 2**:

We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

We gather in Worship to listen to the word of God in song, prayer, 12-Step literature and Holy Scripture. We listen to each other and to a message of delight, comfort, healing, and promise. We experience the presence of God, our higher power.

Anonymity is a spiritual principle. What is shared here remains here.

Please silence your phones and other electronic devices. Thank you.



February 2, 2025 ~ Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
Worship Leader: David K. Moyer
Grace Episcopal Church
DIOCESE OF BETHLEHEM

WE ARE WELCOMED

Welcome & Announcements –David Lyons, Sr. Warden

Gathering Music – John Adamson

Opening Sentences *Please stand as you are able.*

Leader On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord
Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:2)

We Ask God to Remove Our Shortcomings

Leader Let us remember our character defects and God's loving desire to remove them.

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 our Savior 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

Leader God, who is rich in mercy, loves us as we are.
God's love comes to us through Jesus,
who died for us, rose again and brings us new life.

People In the Name of Jesus our wrongs are forgiven.

Leader Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Leader: Let us observe a moment of silence for those who are still sick and suffering,
followed by the Serenity Prayer.

All: God, grant us the serenity
To accept the things we cannot change,
The courage to change the things we can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.

We Hear God's Word *Please be seated for the readings.*

Reader: Let us now listen to the Word of God in song, prayer, 12-step literature and Holy
Scripture. We listen to each other and to a message of delight, comfort, healing and
promise. We listen for the very presence of God.

Recovery Reading and Psalm

Step 2: We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Psalm 34 *selected verses*

I sought the Lord, and He heard me,
And delivered me from all my fears.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good;

Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!
The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart,
And saves those who are crushed spirit.

"I Am a Miracle"

The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous. He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do by ourselves. [Alcoholics Anonymous, p 25]

This truly is a fact in my life today, and a real miracle. I always believed in God but could never put that belief meaningfully into my life. Today, because of the 12 Steps, I now trust and rely on God, as I understand Him; I am sober today because of that! Learning to trust and rely on God was something I could never have done alone. I now believe in miracles because I am one.

Let us pray together:

All **We pray for open minds**
 so we may come to believe
 in a Power greater than ourselves.
 We pray for humility
 and the continued opportunity
 to increase our faith.

Psalm 84 *Selected Verses*

Alternating sides of the Congregation read the verses, beginning with east side (5th Street).

East How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!
 My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

West The sparrow has found her a house
 and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
 by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my God.

East Happy are they who dwell in your house!
 they will always be praising you.

West Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
 whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

East Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
 for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

West For the LORD God is both sun and shield;
 he will give grace and glory;

East No good thing will the LORD withhold
 from those who walk with integrity.

West O LORD of hosts,
 happy are they who put their trust in you!

Hebrews 2:14-18

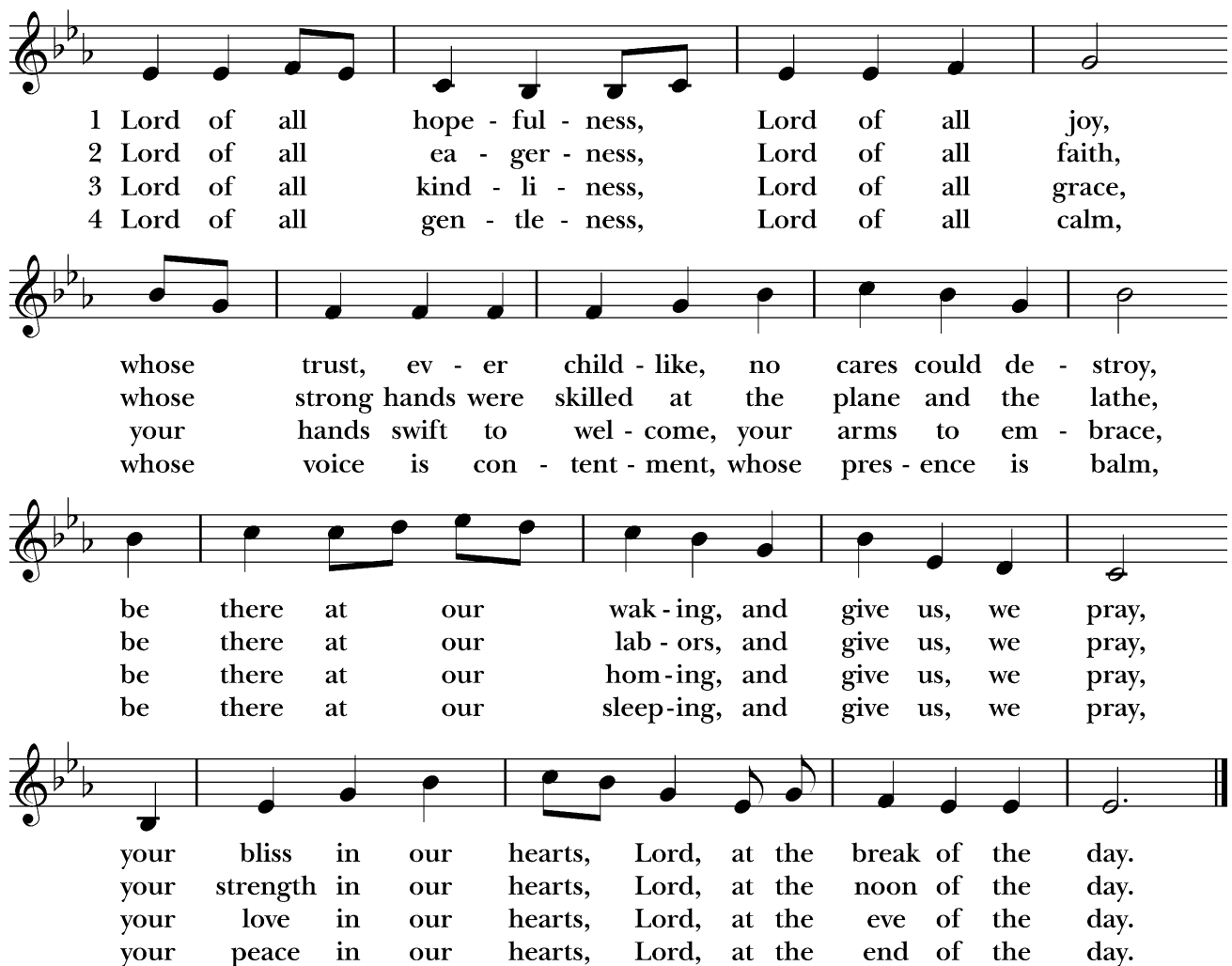
Reader A Reading from the Book of Hebrews

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our lab - ors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

The Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Leader The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to Luke.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. *The Word of the Lord.*

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Meditation ~ David Lyons

After the Meditation is read, Silence is kept for reflection.



Leader: We invite you to share your thoughts on the Meditation, the Readings, Step 2, or however the Spirit moves you. We also welcome the silences. A chime will mark the end of sharing.

We Lift our Hearts in Prayer

Leader God be with you.

All And also with you.

Leader Let us pray.

All 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.

Suffrages

Leader Help us, O God our Savior;
All Deliver us and forgive us our sins.
Leader Look upon your congregation;
All Give to your people the blessing of peace.
Leader Declare your glory among the nations;
All And your wonders among all peoples.
Leader Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
All Never forget the lives of your poor.
Leader Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
All And your favor to those who are true of heart.
Leader Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
All So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collect of the Day: Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For the Victims of Addiction: O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. **Amen.**



Hymn

If you be-lieve and I be-lieve and we to - geth - er
pray, the Ho - ly Spir - it must come down and set God's peo - ple
free, and set God's peo - ple free, and set God's peo - ple
free; the Ho - ly Spir - it must come down and set God's peo - ple free.

Prayers of the People *Intercessor and People pray responsively.*

Reader: We bless you and thank you, O God, for you have filled creation with the glory of life that glows. We bless you for the light of the sun and the moon and the stars, for the cleansing goodness of the waters. We bless you for the goodness that grows from the earth, which nourishes us and brings us life. We bless you for your endless grace and mercy.

We admit we are powerless over our short comings and addictions and believe only Your Grace can restore us.

People: Healer, hear our prayer

We decide to turn our will and our lives over to your care.

People: Abba, hear our prayer

Help us make searching and fearless moral inventories so we learn to recognize the exact nature of our wrongs. With Grace, we become entirely ready to have You remove our defects of character.

People: Hear our prayer, Merciful One

We pray for courage to take stock when we cause harm to others, and courage to make amends.

People: Good Shepherd, hear our prayer

We ask You to be with us during our daily reflections, so we continue to take personal inventory and when we are wrong, promptly admit it.

People: Redeemer, hear our prayer

We seek through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with You, precious God of our understanding, praying only for knowledge of Your will and the power to carry that out.

People: Hear our prayer, Comforter

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we carry this message to others and practice these principles in all our affairs. Grant us grace, and opportunity to share the blessings we have received.

People: Light of the World, hear our prayer.

For whom and what else shall we pray? *(Please add your own petitions silently or aloud.)*

Leader God of our salvation, hear the prayers we offer you this day for all who are tossed in the storms of life, and open wide our hearts to accept your peace and grace, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Leader Join me in **The General Thanksgiving**

All Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness
and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves

to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Leader **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

All **Almighty God, you have given us grace, at this time with one accord, to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name, you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

Leader Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Leader Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Music for Reflection



Letter from Episcopal Church leaders on Trump administration immigration executive orders

January 21, 2025 *Office of Public Affairs*

Dear People of God in the Episcopal Church:

Yesterday, Donald Trump was sworn in as president of the United States. We pray that he and all of our elected officials will, in the words of the Book of Common Prayer, have the wisdom and strength to know and to do God's will and be filled with the love of truth and righteousness.

Even as we gave thanks for a peaceful transfer of power, we learned from news reports that the new presidential administration has issued a series of executive orders that are a harbinger of President Trump's pledge to deport undocumented immigrants at a historic scale, restrict asylum, and direct other immigration actions. We read this news with concern and urge our new president and congressional leaders to exercise mercy and compassion, especially toward law-abiding, long-term members of our congregations and communities; parents and children who are under threat of separation in the name of immigration enforcement; and women and children who are vulnerable to abuse in detention and who fear reporting abuse to law enforcement.

As Christians, our faith is shaped by the biblical story of people whom God led into foreign countries to escape oppression. Exodus tells us the story of the ancient Israelites escaping slavery in the land of Egypt and wandering in the wilderness without a home. In Leviticus 19:33-34, God

commands that we remember this sojourn as part of our own story of faith: “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.”

Now, as Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:12-19, we are no longer aliens. Christ Jesus has made us citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. As we read in 1 Peter 2:9-12, we have received God’s mercy, and we must demonstrate this sacrificial love in our lives and deeds. Because our true citizenship is not here on earth but in heaven, we are called to transcend the earthly distinctions made among us by the leaders of this world. We must proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is promised to the persecuted and answer Christ’s call to welcome the stranger among us.

This vision of God’s kingdom, this new reality, is the one to which we Christians are pledged in our baptism above any political preference or policy, and to which our church must bear witness through word and deed. This sacred call shapes both our churchwide commitment to stand with migrants and the ministries of congregations across our church who serve vulnerable immigrants and refugees in their communities.

Since the late 19th century, The Episcopal Church has followed this call by welcoming immigrants and refugees to the United States, and today, Episcopal Migration Ministries is one of 10 resettlement agencies through which refugees enter this country. Our Office of Government Relations is a [persistent advocate](#) for immigration resolutions adopted by [General Convention](#), and works with ecumenical and interfaith partners to urge compassionate and humane policies that at the same time recognize the need to protect borders and address security threats. Thousands of Episcopalians participate in this ministry of advocacy through the [Episcopal Public Policy Network](#).

As more immigration enforcement policy changes are announced, our churchwide ministries will continue to provide practical pathways to protect the most vulnerable among us. We invite you to join us by:

- Advocating with our members of Congress by using this action alert to [take action to protect immigrants, known as Dreamers](#), who were brought to the United States as children and have lived here most of their lives. The long-standing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that offers a respite from the fear of deportation is at risk, and Congress must take action.
- [Standing against mass deportation](#) using this action alert, which would have severe consequences for our communities and economy.
- [Supporting orderly border management](#) that is proportional and humane and respects the [right of asylum](#).
- Supporting [programs that protect vulnerable groups of people](#), including Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), humanitarian parole, and the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

- Speaking out against anti-immigrant rhetoric and actions, including race-based targeting, vigilantism and violence, family division, and detention and deportation without charges or convictions. As Christians, we must stand against these expressions of hatred and fear with a clear witness to our sacred promise to respect the dignity of every human being.
- Encouraging our congregations to use the resources of the [Office of Government Relations](#) and the [Episcopal Public Policy Network](#) as we embody the Gospel through direct witness on behalf of immigrants in our communities.

Across our church, migrants are members of the Body of Christ and part of our congregations and communities, and our common life is richer thanks to their contributions. To our siblings who are at risk of deportation or of being separated from those you love, know that your story is our story, and your dignity is inseparable from our own. We stand with you, and we will face these challenges together.

As one church united in the Body of Christ, please pray especially for families who live under the shadow of separation, and for all who seek asylum for protection from persecution. Pray, too, for the people of our congregations and dioceses who work tirelessly to serve immigrants and refugees, and who now face new and heartbreaking challenges to their ministry.

Finally, as faithful Episcopalians have done for decades, please join us in [giving generously to Episcopal Migration Ministries](#) and its ministry with refugees seeking a new life in the United States.

In Christ's Peace,
The Most Rev. Sean Rowe
Presiding Bishop

Julia Ayala Harris
President of the House of Deputies

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Day	Upcoming Worship	Celebrant / Worship Leader
Feb 9 10:00am	Morning Prayer	John and Pam Adamson
Feb 16 10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion	The Rev. Jonathan Mayo
Feb 23 10:00 am	Morning Prayer	Brother Mathew Luke
Mar 2 10:00 am	Recovery Liturgy with Holy Communion	The Rev. Jonathan Mayo

Vestry will meet on February 9. All are welcome. (Meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each month)

Fr. J's Forum on Faith will begin February 16, following Coffee Hour. The forum is planned for ~30 minutes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Today's Service

Worship Leader: David K. Moyer
Organist & Music Director: John Adamson
Altar Guild: David K. Moyer
Greeter: David Lyons

Lectors

Recovery Reading: Kelly Cannon
Hebrews: Luke Ciaccio
Gospel: David K. Moyer
Meditation: David Lyons
Intercessor: Hillie Cousart

Art: Page 1: The Spiral Shell symbolizes the growth we experience as the Steps build on each other. The Dove on page 7 is our symbol for Recovery, reminding us that God's grace is for everyone, Jasmine Adamson created these symbols and many others for Grace's Recovery Ministry.

Page 2: Byzantine Icon of the Presentation of Jesus. Iconographer unknown.

Page 12: The 'Recovery Wellness Heart' is a free download without attribution.

Readings: 12 Step Reading is adapted from **AA Daily Reflection**. Publisher: Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. March 15, 1990

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Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, #482 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953). By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

If you believe and I believe, #806 from *Wonder Love and Praise* — Words and Music: Traditional Zimbabwe; adap. from English source as taught by Tarasai, ed. and arr. by John Bell.

Grace Episcopal Church is a progressive community that works to advance social justice as an outward sign of our spirituality.

Please see our website to learn more: [Graceallentown.org](https://graceallentown.org)

We invite you to worship and share in the ministries of Grace Church. Everyone who comes through the doors contributes through their presence. We welcome your time, skills, and ideas. Please let us know if you are interested in membership. You can approach any member for more information. New Member's booklets are available on the table near refreshments. Members contribute through service and/or financially.

To give financially, you can place cash or checks in the plates during worship, mail checks to the office, or give online at <https://graceallentown.org/contact-us/>.

Please consider including a charitable gift for Grace Church in your Will or Estate Plan. Those who came before us helped to ensure our future with their gifts. You can do the same by including Grace in your Will. For more information, contact David Lyons at dlyons@ptd.net.

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