

December 12, 2021



## We Gather for Worship

### Advent Candle Lighting

*Reader 1:* The third candle on an Advent wreath, usually pink, symbolizes joy. Christmas excitement is building as the holiday quickly approaches. Listen to a reading from Luke.

*Reader 2:* But the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. Luke 2:10.

*Reader 1:* The angels made a big announcement on the first Christmas, calling Jesus’ birth ‘good news’ that would bring ‘great joy.’ Everything we do to get ready for Christmas can fill us with joy about Jesus. When we’re joyful, we, like the angels, can help spread that good news.

*Sharing:* Let each person share one thing they’re especially joyful about this coming Christmas. Then say:

*Light the first three candles, two blue and the pink candles on the Advent wreath.*

*People:* **Three candles, burning bright, chasing away the darkness from light.  
Three candles, glowing light, the blessing of God, giving new sight.**

*Reader 2:* Let us pray. Dear God, we pray for the joy that is found in Jesus, that those who seek it may truly find it. May we celebrate in the joy found in You. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: #64**

***O heavenly Word, eternal Light***

*Please stand & sing as you are able.*

**Opening Sentence**

*BCP Page 78*

*Officiant:* In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

**Confession**

*BCP Page 79*

*Please sit or kneel.*

*Officiant:* Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*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.**

*Officiant:* Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## Invitatory

*BCP Page 80*

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Officiant:* Lord, open our lips;

*People:* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise. Alleluia!**

*Officiant & People:* **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## Jubilate Psalm 100

*Officiant:* Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*

*People:* **serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.**

*Officiant:* Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*

*People:* **he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture**

*Officiant:* Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \*

*People:* **give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

*Officiant:* For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \*

*People:* **and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

## Advent Antiphon

*Officiant:* Our King and Savior draws near:

*People:* **Come let us adore him.**

*Officiant:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

*People:* **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## We Hear God's Word

### First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

*Please remain seated.*

*Reader:* A reading from the book of Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, our God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

**Canticle 9: First Song of Isaiah***Ecce Deus**Isaiah 12:2-6 (BCP Page 86)**Reader:* Surely, it is God who saves me; \**People:* **I will trust in him and not be afraid.***Reader:* For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \**People:* **and he will be my Savior.***Reader:* Therefore, you shall draw water with rejoicing \**People:* **from the springs of salvation.***Reader:* And on that day you shall say, \**People:* **Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;***Reader:* Make his deeds known among the peoples; \**People:* **see that they remember that his Name is exalted.***Reader:* Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \**People:* **and this is known in all the world.***Reader:* Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \**People:* **for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.***Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \**People:* **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.****Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7***Reader:* A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*People:* **Thanks be to God.****Gradual Hymn: #645*****The King of love my shepherd is (Vs. 1,2,3)****Please stand and sing.***Gospel: Luke 3:7-18***Please remain standing as you are able.**Reader:* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am

not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Homily:** Thomas Bentley

## **Apostles' Creed**

*BCP Page 96*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **We Pray**

### **Lord's Prayer**

*BCP Page 97*

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

*Officiant & People:* **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.**

### **Suffrages: Set A**

*BCP Page 97-98*

*Please be seated.*

*Officiant:* Show us your mercy, O Lord;

*People:* **And grant us your salvation.**

*Officiant:* Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

*People:* **Let your people sing with joy.**

*Officiant:* Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

*People:* **For only in you can we live in safety.**

*Officiant:* Lord, keep this nation under your care;

*People:* **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

*Officiant:* Let your way be known upon earth;

*People:* **Your saving health among all nations.**

*Officiant:* Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

*People:* **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

*Officiant:* Create in us clean hearts, O God;

*People:* **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## Collect of the Day

*The collect prayer "collects" the themes from the various readings for the day.*

*Officiant:* Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Collect for Sundays

*Officiant:* O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Collect for the Renewal of Life

*Officiant:* O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Collect for Peace

*Officiant:* O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Collect for Grace

*Officiant:* Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Collect for Guidance

*Officiant:* Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Collect for Mission 3

*Officiant:* Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

*Please sit or kneel.*

*Reader:* Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with one heart and mind to God our Father.

*Reader:* For peace from things that separate us from one another and for our salvation.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, especially...

*People:* **St. Matthew's, Enid; Church of the Holy Spirit; Diocese of Wisconsin; The Episcopal Church of Wales.**

*Reader:* For this holy gathering and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For...

*People:* **Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Poulson, our Bishop; Tom, our clergy; Tim & Pat, our wardens; vestry, delegates, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people. We pray for our leaders, especially...

*People:* **Joe, our President; Kamala, our Vice-president; Markwayne, our Congressman; James & Jim, our Senators; Kevin, our Governor; and Marlon, our Mayor. Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For prisoners, the oppressed, all those in need or suffering, especially...

*People:* **Barbara & Family, Blackwell Family, Brad, Brewer Family, James & Shirley, Mike & Betty, Rogers Family, Kenneth, Pat & Joe, Quinn & Nancy, Prisca, PJ, John & Sharon, Emma, Ronnie, John, Troy, Sarah, Ark of Faith, all emergency responders, United States Military, and those whose suffering is known only to God.**

*Reader:* We pray for those who have died, (*especially...*)

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For ourselves, our families, and those we love. We pray for those in our parish, especially...

*People:* **Michael, Kathy, Jonathan, Jim, Melinda.**

*Reader:* Also those who are traveling, (*especially...*)

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* Remembering our most blessed Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Reader:* Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Peace**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Greet one another in the name of Christ. Please return to your seats when you hear the bell.*

## **Announcements, Birthdays & Anniversary Prayers**

*BCP Page 830*

*Welcome to our guests today. If you are new to Grace for the first time or even if you have been here once or twice before, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the plate. We promise not to harass you, but we would like to include you on our weekly email broadcasts and other event notifications. Thank you for the blessing of your presence today.*

## **For a Birthday**

*Officiant:* O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Offertory Hymn:**

*Choir*

## We Go Out To Do Our Work

### General Thanksgiving

*Officiant & People:* 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.

### Prayer of St. Chrysostom

*Officiant:* 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.

### Sending

*BCP Page 102*

*Officiant:* Let us bless the Lord.

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

*Officiant:* May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Romans 15:13*

### Closing Hymn: # 657

*Love divine, all loves excelling*

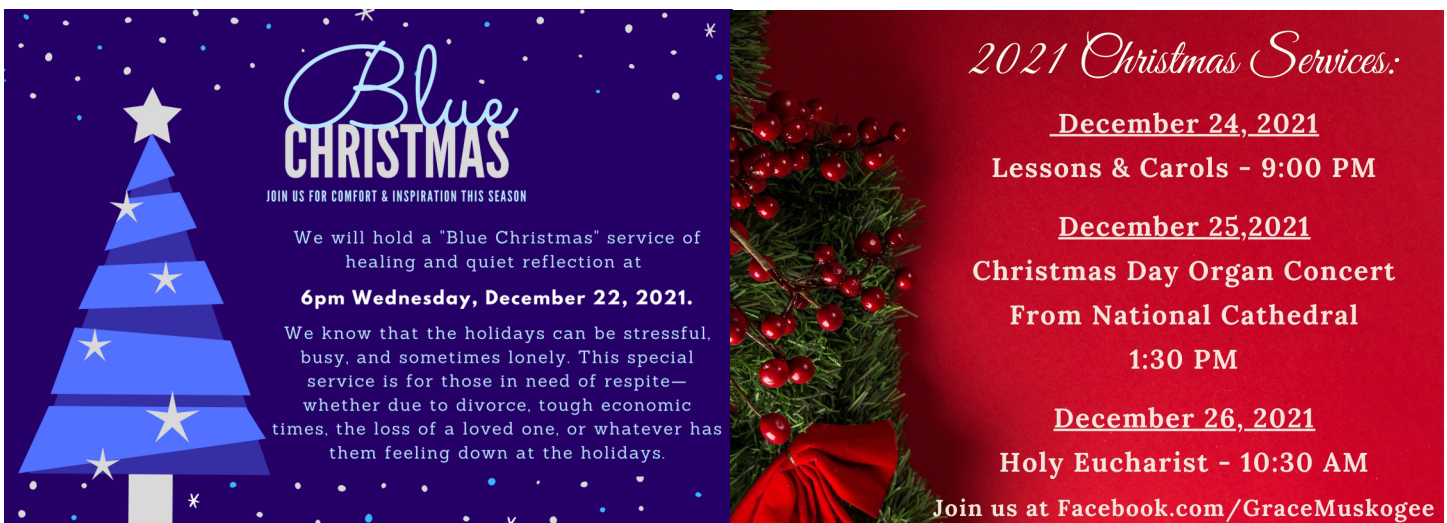
*Please stand and sing.*

### Dismissal

*BCP Page 366*

*Officiant:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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



**Blue CHRISTMAS**  
JOIN US FOR COMFORT & INSPIRATION THIS SEASON

We will hold a "Blue Christmas" service of healing and quiet reflection at  
**6pm Wednesday, December 22, 2021.**

We know that the holidays can be stressful, busy, and sometimes lonely. This special service is for those in need of respite—whether due to divorce, tough economic times, the loss of a loved one, or whatever has them feeling down at the holidays.

*2021 Christmas Services:*

December 24, 2021  
Lessons & Carols - 9:00 PM

December 25, 2021  
Christmas Day Organ Concert  
From National Cathedral  
1:30 PM

December 26, 2021  
Holy Eucharist - 10:30 AM

Join us at [Facebook.com/GraceMuskegee](https://www.facebook.com/GraceMuskegee)



# Poinsettias for the 2021 Christmas Altar



**Please make checks payable to: Grace Episcopal Church  
with altar guild on the memo line and place it, along with this form,  
into the offering plate or bring/mail it to the **Parish Office.****

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

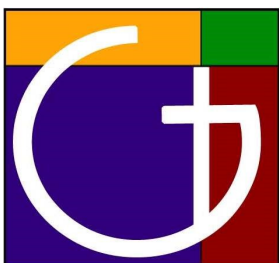
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In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

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**All donations must be received in the office no later than  
Monday, December 13th, in order to be listed in the Christmas bulletin.**



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Ministers: All the People of God (BCP p. 855)

Sr. Warden: Tim Holder

Jr. Warden: Pat Wilcox

Deacon Emeritus: The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

Music Director: Ken Yadon

Youth & Children's Director: Nancy Scott

