



our line of time is moving
forward,
looping on until we're filled, full,
until we're made whole:
the sweet mystery of life,
repeating
has made a glorious day of
night,
a light burning brightly
calling forth into song
the stale breathe,
the curses remade into
blessing addressing every
need,
the shackle falling from the
wrist,
the peal of laughter crying
free,
accept the healing here
before the throne of peace,
open the world and let it sing,
a song a joy,
God among us,
our story.

a single flame
illuminating the sky,
our hearts and our minds,
reigning down ever more
from then and now
from the start to the end
this is where we begin,
made whole,
made right,
the refining delight
dripping
draining dross
dripping light from the center
the diamond churning
burning hold
the colors whirling soul
brightening the night,
brings us round the fire,
the circle of friends
redeemed from sore ends
and endless self-made
suffering,
angels ring the sound of our
song,
this,
The Holy One,
calling us home.

ADVENT IV

December 24, 2023
GRACE CHURCH SEATTLE

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

1300 E Aloha St

Worship 10:15 AM

Live stream found on

Grace Church Seattle's

[YouTube](#)

WORSHIP SERVICE

10:15 AM

Nursery: (6 months to 2yrs)

Room 118

(children may be picked up at the end of the worship service)

Preschool: (3yrs to 5yrs) Room

120 (children are picked up during *offering*)

Worship Prep Class: (Kinder to 3rd grade) Room 119

(children are picked up during *passing of the peace*) No class Christmas Eve or 12/31.

Nursing Room

(Nursing moms only)

Back of Sanctuary, west side.

Family Room

Chapel (Livestream Viewing)

Lap desks, color pencils, activity pages are found in foyer

Parents, please note our Diocese requires minors never be unaccompanied during church events including Sunday morning worship. Thank you for keeping an eye on your children. Please reach out to any of our pastoral staff with questions. Thank you for your understanding.

Cover Artwork:

"Advent"

Jade Hawk, 2023

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ADVENT 2023

We Christians believe, however, not just in one coming of Christ but in three: the coming of Christ in the incarnation..., the coming of Christ in what Scripture terms 'the last days'..., and the coming of Christ in our present moment, through the Holy Spirit's work and through Word and sacrament.... Advent celebrates and holds together all three 'comings' of Christ. It is a deeply paradoxical season, at once past, present, and future. Ancient yet urgent.

Tish Harrison Warren, Advent: The Season of Hope

What does Advent mean to you? Is it a time of arrival? Of slowness and anticipation? Or maybe it is at once harried and all too familiar, almost so busy that the busyness feels ordinary. We come to Advent bringing our own story and hopes for what it was and what we hope for this time of year. What is it that you hope for?

In the *Lord of the Rings*, the hobbits are famous for saying:

We've had one breakfast yes, but what about second breakfast?

In some ways, this can be our posture towards Advent:

We've had one Advent, yes, but what about second Advent?

The Advent that begins the first page in our church calendar points to the last page—a page in the calendar we haven't gotten to celebrate yet (we can only imagine that the second Advent will include a lot less trips to Target!).

But it gets even better than this.

We've had first Advent and second Advent, what about third Advent?

The third way Jesus comes to us is in the here and the now. As we look back to Jesus' first Advent and look forward to his second Advent, this season reminds us of how Jesus comes to us today—through the power of the Holy Spirit, and through word and sacrament. We live in hope each day for Jesus to make good on his promise to be with us even until the end of the age.

Join us as we enter into this glorious story of Jesus dwelling with his people:

Our King and Savior now draws near:

O come, let us adore him!

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Advent is the first season of the church year, lasting for four weeks leading up to Christmas Day on December 25. "Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming or arrival." Here is a helpful prayer for the season:*

*Oh Patient Father,
who out of long darkness brought forth the very bodies of heaven:
teach us how to hold steadfast vigil in the absence of things,
that we may watch and work and wait
as ones who have known the dark,
and yet do not fear it, through Him who is our Light. Amen.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Seated

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCE

Isaiah 40:3 (ESV)

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

PRELUDE

Stand if able

THE SEASONAL GREETING

Revelation 22:20

Surely the Lord is coming soon.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Joel 2:1

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming.
It is close at hand.
Come, let us worship God.

Liturgical Colors: Liturgical colors can orient us to the season of the church year and help to engage our sense of sight in worship.

Purple is the color for Advent, representing penitence and preparation. It signifies the feeling of sorrow for our sins in the light of Christ's passion and death.

The small symbols you will see throughout these pages correspond to a "Key to Liturgy" [available here](#) or printed and found in the lobby at the Grace Kids Table. .

Prayer by
Carreen Raynor, 2023

The Seasonal Greeting is a way we welcome each other into this holy space and time. It prepares us for the hearing and responding to God. Our liturgy can be thought of as a conversation between each other and God. Conversations require both hearing a responding. This greeting prepares us for the hearing and responding to God.

ACNA Book of Common Prayer,
2019



Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be -
 2. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where
 3. Re - dee - mer, come, and o - pen wide my

hold, the King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 Christ the Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 heart to Thee; here, Lord, a - bid! Let me Thy gra - cious

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 pre - sence feel, Thy peace and love to all re - veal.

Music: TRURO, Psalmodia
 Evangelica, 1789
 Text: George Wiessel, 1642;
 trans. Catherine Winkworth

ADVENT COLLECT FOR PURITY

Sacred and starlit Jesus,
in this season of feast and frenzy,
you invite us to slow and ponder the simple scene
of your nativity.

By the inspiration of your incarnation,
purify our dizzying demands and desires,
that we may kneel, rest, and worship at your side,
as a people fully welcomed into the glory
and glow of your holy family.

Through Christ, the light of the world, Amen.

A collect is a prayer that is intended to collect or sum up the prayers of the community, typically following a four-fold pattern: invocation, meditation, petition, and doxology. The Collect for Purity helps us to hear God's word and worship by reminding us that we are laid bare when we come before him. He sees and knows all that we are and all that we bring to him.

Collect by
 Gabriel St. John, 2023

Kyrie Eleison

Ky-ri-e E - le-i-son! Ky-ri-e E - le-i-son!
 Translation: Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy!

Chri ste E - le-i-son! Ky-ri-e E - le-i-son!
 Christ have mercy! Lord have mercy!

music: Isaac Wardell
 words: traditional

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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.

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Carreen Raynor, 2023

Oh Christ, whose name is Love,
and who names us Beloved:
teach us to know your nature
as you know our frame,
that we may freely love the world
as we know ourselves to
be loved by you.

Amen.

(Silent reflection.)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

We come to God that we
might be shaped and formed
by his Word.

Seated

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Christians adopted the practice of the lighting of candles during Advent in the Middle Ages. The lighting of Advent candles dramatically depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. Another candle is lit during each of the four Sundays of Advent, signifying themes of hope, love, joy, and peace.



LECTIO SACRA

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-17

"Lectio Sacra" means "sacred reading." It has been the practice of the church for thousands of years to have portions of the bible read during worship services. The assumption behind this practice is that we are people who need to be shaped by all of God's word.

"After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2 he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you."

But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:

"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"'

"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

"The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

New Testament Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!



Praying through the Psalms each week teaches us how to pray, using the prayer book of ancient Israel. As we pray, there will be pauses for reflection.

Stand if able

PRAYING THE PSALMS

Psalm 132:8-18

'Arise, Lord, and come to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.
May your priests be clothed with your righteousness;
may your faithful people sing for joy.'"

**For the sake of your servant David,
do not reject your anointed one.**

The Lord swore an oath to David,
a sure oath he will not revoke:

**"One of your own descendants
I will place on your throne.**

**If your sons keep my covenant
and the statutes I teach them,
then their sons will sit
on your throne for ever and ever."**

For the Lord has chosen Zion,
he has desired it for his dwelling, saying,
"This is my resting place for ever and ever;
here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it.

**I will bless her with abundant provisions;
her poor I will satisfy with food.
I will clothe her priests with salvation,
and her faithful people will ever sing for joy.**

"Here I will make a horn grow for David
and set up a lamp for my anointed one.
**I will clothe his enemies with shame,
but his head will be adorned with a radiant crown."**

Antiphon: Our King and Savior Now Draws Near

music: Jess Alldredge
©2023 Grace Church Seattle
text: traditional
Seasonal Antiphon, Book of
Common Prayer

Leader: sings first time
Congregation: sings on repeat and second ending

Our King and Sav - ior now draws near: O
come, let us a - dore him.
him. O come, let us a - dore him.

Kneel or Sit



CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

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.**

(You are invited to confess your sins silently.)

Stand if able



RECEIVING OF GRACE

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.**

May the peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV)

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

PASSING THE PEACE

As recipients of God's grace, we gladly receive peace from him. In response to his grace, we also extend that grace to one another. Traditionally, Christians have greeted one another during this time in the service with the phrase, "*May the peace of Christ be with you*" and receive back the greeting "*And also with you.*"



Seated

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are new, please let us know about your visit through the QR code. If you are a regular attender, you can update your household information through the same QR code. Please use the cards inserted in the Order of Worship to share any praises or prayer requests you might have.



Seated

OFFERING

***Parents, please pick up your children from the Preschool Class. Nursery may stay through to the end of worship.**

Offering Tiles

Many of us tithe electronically and this can be a wise practice and a blessing to the church. A downside can be the loss of the embodied practice of physically bringing our offering to the Lord. If it will aid you in your worship to reclaim a physical expression of tithing, tiles are now available in baskets at our welcome table for you to choose and place in the offering basket as it is passed.

To give to the Grace General Fund, you can give several ways:

- To give online, text GODISLOVE to 206.859.9405 or scan the QR code. (This will take you to our on-line giving page)
- Give via Venmo (Give to @graceseattle; all transactions are private)
- Give via PayPal (Give to bookkeeper@graceseattle.org)
- To gift stock, contact our bookkeeper@graceseattle.org
- Mail to check to:

Grace Church Seattle

505 Broadway E, PMB 324, Seattle, WA 98102

To give to the Serving the City Fund or Benevolence Fund, you can give several ways:

- For text, online, and app giving, specify "Serving the City" "Benevolence Fund" in the "Fund" field.
- For all other giving, Indicate "Serving the City" or "Benevolence Fund" in the memo or comments field.
- Matching giving available through Benevity (contact our bookkeeper for details).



MUSICAL OFFERING

We come to the Table of our Lord
that he might feed and nourish us.



LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Stand if able

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

We Ascend (The Sursum Corda)

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.

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:

The *Sursum Corda* (Latin: "Lift up your hearts") is an ancient Christian communion prayer. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been raised with Christ and now reign with him in heaven.

The Song of Heaven (The Sanctus)

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
2. Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry,
3. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

God of pow - er and might.
Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Ho - san - na in the high - est!

The *Sanctus* (Latin: "Holy") is one of the songs being sung in heaven before God's throne. We join our voices to with the angels and those who have gone before us in the faith to give glory to God.

Jess Alldredge
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We Remember (Words of Institution) Seated

We Ask God's Blessing (Prayer of Consecration)

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon these your gifts of bread and wine that they may be for your people the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, may we be one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him.

As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. For by him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

We Preach the Good News

Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

We Draw Near (The Lord's Supper)

(All are invited to come forward during Communion. The act of receiving the bread and wine is a confession, that as you receive those gifts, you have already received the gift of a renewed relationship with God, through Christ. If that is not your confession, you may still come forward to receive a prayer. Simply cross your arms across your chest as an indication that you are coming for prayer.)

Communion Elements:
Cup: Wine or Grape Juice

Bread ingredients: Wheat Flour, Rye Flour, White Unbleached Flour, 1% Milk, Yeast, Vegetable Oil

Rice Crackers: Organic Brown Rice Flour, Organic White Rice Flour

[Prefilled, factory-sealed communion](#)

[elements](#) also available:
Communion wafer ingredients: wheat flour, water, vegetable shortening (soybean oil, cottonseed oil).

Receiving Communion

We will come forward by rows, starting at the front. There will be factory sealed communion elements as well as gluten free crackers with designated juice and wine on the table at the front. Otherwise, there is bread to dip in either wine (tall cup) or juice (short cup).

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley, 1744
Rowland H. Prichard, 1830
arr. Jess Alldredge



Come, Thou long ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy
Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and
peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us
yet a king, Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy
find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it
hope of all the earth Thou art. Dear De - sire of ev - ery
rule in all our hearts a - lone; By thine all suf - fi - cient
na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
mer - rit Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

**THE BLESSING**

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.**

Guide Our Feet

Jess Alldredge
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Give light to all who dwell in the dark, and
guide our feet in - to the way of peace.

**SENDING**

Let us go forth and serve the world
as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God!

WELCOME TO GRACE

The various opportunities for growth, connection and service at Grace are listed below.

GRACE KIDS If you have any questions about Grace Kids, email linn@graceseattle.org.

Resources for Sunday Worship. Children are always welcome to remain in the service. To participate in a class, children must be signed in each week with KidCheck, our secure check-in system and wear their printed name tag. Check-in stations located in lobby and downstairs.

- Nursery (6 months–2 years), located downstairs in classroom #118
- Preschool (3-5 years), located downstairs in classroom #120. Children are picked up during the *offering*.
- Worship Prep Class (Kinder-3rd grade), located downstairs in classroom #119, children are picked up during *passing of the peace*. **This class does not meet on the 5th Sunday of the month.**
- Nursing mothers' room is located in the back of the Sanctuary
- Family room is provided in the upstairs chapel with a livestream viewing.
- Kids Activities are available in the lobby each week for use during in-person worship.

Christian Formation Class. Christian Formation Classes are offered for children age 2 - 5th grade.

YOUTH GROUP All youth ages 12-18 are welcome to join our Youth Group, which meets during Christian Formation Hour the first three Sundays of the month. This year we'll be exploring the practice of prayer together. If you are interested or have questions, email Nelson Hall at nelson@graceseattle.org.

YOUNG ADULTS Join other young adults in our community as we gather together for lunch the second and fourth Sundays of every month at 12:30 PM. Please contact nelson@graceseattle.org for more details.

COMMUNITY FORMATION

Adult Christian Formation Class. The adult class will be exploring the Gospel of Mark this fall. You can access the audio to all the classes through the QR code.

Community Groups. These are groups of 6-12 people that gather in peoples' homes in a variety of neighborhoods in the Seattle area. Email Jamie Afshari, at jamie@graceseattle.org for more information.

Growth Groups. These are groups of 3 men or 3 women that are designed to be communities where people can be known and grow (1-year commitment). Please contact Jamie Afshari at jamie@graceseattle.org or John Haralson at john@graceseattle.org.



SERVING THE CITY Serving the City (STC) exists to disciple our congregation in service, to care for our neighbors and neighborhoods, and to support people who have been marginalized. We do this by partnering and volunteering with local organizations to support their work in our community—New Horizons, REST, World Relief, and Olive Crest. This fall, STC is hosting focused events on caring for the housing insecure and unhoused in our city, we hope you join us as we learn, pray and seek the ways the Lord may be calling us to serve in this area. If you are interested in learning more about STC, contact Drew Billups at drew@graceseattle.org.

MUSIC & ARTS. As a worshipping community, we seek to respond to God with music and visual arts that are winsome, well-crafted, and beautiful. We also find ways to stay connected to the broader artistic and creative community in our neighborhood and city. If you are interested in getting involved with the music and arts at Grace, or want to learn about the Grace Artists group, email Jess Alldredge, Worship Arts Director at jess@graceseattle.org.

OTHER GROUPS

LGBTQ+ / SSA Community in Seattle. Join us each month for Sunday lunch, laughter, and a sense of community, here on Capitol Hill! For over five years, Grace Church Seattle has been an active supporter of "Revoice"; a ministry committed to supporting LGBTQ+/SSA individuals who long to follow Jesus. Now, Revoice has established a local chapter here in Seattle in order to offer support and community to our LGBTQ+ / SSA siblings. For more information and details select "Seattle" at <https://www.revoice.org/local-chapters>

Recovery From Sexual Compulsivity Discussion Group. This group meets Wednesdays at 8 PM via Zoom. It is an anonymous (first-names) male-only meeting that follows a 12-step format open to men of any or no faith. For more information contact Clint Morse (206-915-1669).

Book Club. Love reading? Join us once or every month. We read all kinds of literature including best sellers, classics, non-fiction, and young adult fiction. We meet in person at different locations each month - email office@graceseattle.org for more details.

EVENTS

Gregg Colburn Presentation. We have rescheduled the presentation by Dr. Gregg Colburn, author of Homelessness is a Housing Problem for January! Please join us at the SDA on Thursday, 1/25 at 6 PM. This is a valuable opportunity to hear from a figure who has been an important part of the national conversation around the challenge of homelessness. Dr. Colburn's research looks at data from cities and counties across the US to try to understand why homelessness is more intense in some areas. The book dispels common myths about the causes of homelessness, zeros in on the fundamental cause, and offers practical solutions. Bring your friends! An RSVP through the QR code is appreciated but not essential, also feel free to share the link with friends!



2023-2024 Ministry Year Key Dates

Key dates for this year are listed below, you can see more details and subscribe to our calendar through the QR code.



December

- Sunday, 12/24 - Christmas Eve
 - Prayer & Communion Service - 10:15 AM
 - Christmas Pageant - 11 AM
 - Lessons & Carols - 5 PM

January

- Friday, 1/19 - Sunday, 1/21 - Youth Retreat
- Thursday, 1/25 - Dr. Gregg Colburn Presentation at 6 PM at the SDA. Details above.
- Sunday, 1/28 - Congregational Budget Meeting

February

- Sunday, 2/11 - Jamie's Ordination Service & Celebration

March

- Saturday, 3/9 - Parents/Loved Ones of LGBTQ+ (with Revoice Leadership)
- Sunday, 3/10 - Revoice Leadership at Grace

Men's & Women's Retreats

- Friday, 4/12/2024 - Sunday 4/14/2024 - Men's Retreat at Rainbow Lodge
- Friday, 5/3/2024 - Sunday 5/5/2024 - Women's Retreat at Rainbow Lodge

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Year End Giving. If you want your giving to count for 2023, funds must electronically transferred or postmarked by December 31. See page 9 for details on how to give.

Celebrate Christmas with Grace folks? If you are looking for community on Christmas and would like to join some Grace folks, please email Nicole at office@graceseatle.org.

Lessons and Carols. Join us at 5 PM for our Lessons and Carols service. This service is a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus and a great service to bring friends and family to. The cookie tradition continues! Please bring cookies or bite size desserts will you to share.

Grace Kid's Classes in December. There will be no Worship Prep Class on the morning of December 24 and December 31. Nursery and Preschool will be open both mornings. There will not be classes or childcare for the evening Lessons and Carols Service. Children are welcome in the service and the family room in the upstairs Chapel will be open.

Men's Retreat Planning Committee. We are forming the committee to plan the 2023 Men's Retreat at Rainbow Lodge, April 12-14. If you are interested in joining the committee, please email Nelson at nelson@graceseatle.org by January 7.

Benevolence Team. The team is looking for more people to join in the work they do to support those with financial needs in our congregation and community. To learn more about joining the team, email benevolence@graceseattle.org.

Bell Tower Counseling is a non-profit counseling center in Seattle that provides evidence-based and biblically-sound counseling services to those in need across Washington state. Through partnerships with individual donors and churches like Grace, Bell Tower is committed to offering generous scholarship resources to our clients so that financial need is never a barrier to receiving high-quality counseling care.

We have openings for new clients right away as well as opportunities for donors to come on board to help us sustain this important work. You can schedule a free intake call at belltowercounseling.org/contact and learn more about giving opportunities through the QR code.



WOMEN IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP After a year-long prayerful discernment process by the congregation and leadership of Grace, we believe it is good and right for Grace to move forward with both women preachers and women priests. We look forward to opening up our pulpit and leadership structures to women and believe that our congregation will benefit from having a fuller reflection of the image of God in and through our church's pastoral and preaching ministries.

SOUL CARE SEATTLE

Grace is blessed to partner with Soul Care Seattle, an urban retreat and spiritual direction ministry located on Capitol Hill. They have many different ways to help you grow in your relationship with God.

Soul Care Seattle is located at **The Layne**: 1252 16th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112

Listening Prayer Group. A Listening prayer group is a small group that meets with the intention of building a community around the word of God. The passages will focus this year on the questions Jesus asked his followers and asks us today. For more information and to RSVP scan the QR code. Meetings are at 7 PM at The Layne on these Thursdays: 1/18, 2/22, 3/21, 4/18, and 5/16



Half-day Retreat schedule at the Layne (Saturdays, 8:45 AM to 12 PM). Why a silent retreat? How many of us have the space to be truly quiet and listen to ourselves or listen to God about ourselves? In this time, you are free of distractions, defenses, calendars, and performance. These retreats are available to those who would like to experience silence & prayer in community. You will start, and end, as a larger group, but then you will have personal time to do any of the following: contemplate the prayers and writings that are given to you, walk in the beautiful parks around The Layne, or rest on the porch or other areas in the house. Scan the QR code to register and email renee@soulcareseattle.com if you have any questions. The silent retreats are held on these Saturdays: 1/13, 2/10, 3/16, 4/20 and 5/18



Centering Prayer Group. Centering Prayer consists of sitting in silence with God - beyond thoughts, words, and emotions and opening our mind, heart and whole being to the Trinity. We begin each session praying a Psalm together, a 20-minute period of silent Centering Prayer, followed by Sacred Reading of Scripture (Lectio Divina). All are welcome. **Please note this is over zoom.** Scan the QR code to register (no cost). If you have any questions email donna@soulcareseattle.com. The time of fellowship and prayer is from 7 to 8:30 PM and are held on these Thursdays: 1/11, 2/15, 3/7, 4/25 and 5/9



Spiritual Direction. Find out more about Spiritual Direction and how to sign up through the QR code.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

12/24 Christmas Eve
Holy Communion Service 10:15 AM
(In-Person only)
Christmas Pageant 11 AM
Lessons & Carols 5 PM

12/31 First Sunday of Christmas
Worship Service 10:15 AM
No Worship Prep Class
(In-Person and Livestream)

01/07 First Sunday After the Epiphany
Christian Formation Hour 9 AM
Worship Service 10:15 AM
(In-Person and Livestream)

Emergency Plan

In the unlikely event of an emergency or evacuation, all children attending a Grace Kids Class will be escorted immediately from their classrooms to the farthest edge of the front lawn, at the corner of E. Aloha St. and 13th Ave. E., where they can be reunited with their parents or guardians.

STAFF

Rev. John Haralson, Pastor john@graceseattle.org
Drew Billups, Assistant Pastor, Serving the City drew@graceseattle.org
Jamie Afshari, Director of Community Formation jamie@graceseattle.org
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Nelson Hall, Assistant Pastor of Youth & Young Adults nelson@graceseattle.org
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MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Angela Wheelless, Meals Ministry meals@graceseattle.org
Jo Taniguchi, Premarital Mentoring taniguchijo@gmail.com
Benevolence Fund, benevolence@graceseattle.org.
Sara Billups, Eric Hadden, Rebecca Ifland and Tamarack Randall serve on the benevolence team. Email the address above or any of them individually if you have financial need.

VESTRY

Nate Andrews nateofgraceseattle@gmail.com
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PASTORAL CARE

Not sure who to contact? If you have needs or resources you'd like to offer the community, please contact us at pastoralcare@graceseattle.org.

GIVE

You can give financially to Grace in many ways.

- General Fund. This goes to support the mission and worship of our congregation.
- Benevolence Fund. This goes to help those in our congregation and community who are facing unexpected financial need.
- Serving the City Fund. This goes directly to our efforts to serve the hurting and marginalized in our city.

You can give to any of these funds online through the QR Code.



Financial Update (as of 10/31/2023):

General fund: YTD giving - 629,385.44, Budget - 808,330

Serving the City: YTD giving - 13,682.00, Budget - 125,000

Grace Church Seattle is a member congregation of the Churches for the Sake of Others Diocese of the Anglican Church in North America.

Worship Location 1300 E Aloha St, Seattle, WA 98102
and Livestream on Youtube

Mailing Address ****NEW**** 505 Broadway E, PMB 324, Seattle, WA 98102

graceseattle.org
office@graceseattle.org