

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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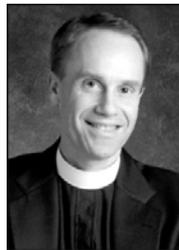
## Flower Dedications by Tuesday!

*Every year at Christmas time, your donations enhance the beauty of Grace Church.*

*For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Christmas bulletin, it must be received by **Tues, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>**.*

## December 15, 2013

The Third Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

If you come to church on Sunday, I challenge you to count the number of times you hear and read the word, "rejoice." The Third Sunday of Advent has traditionally been known as Rejoicing Sunday, or *Gaudete* Sunday.

*Gaudete* is the Latin word for rejoice, and since medieval times the prescribed Introit (another Latin word meaning "entrance") of the Mass was to begin with the word *Gaudete*. To make a long story short, the liturgical day took on the name of the first word that people would hear. Thus, to set apart the day from the other Sundays of Advent, a different color of altar cloths and clergy vestments were suggested: rose, or even pink. At Grace Church we don't have rose or pink colored stoles (darn), so the clergy will still wear purple (phew). But we do have the pink candle on the Advent wreath, and that's one of the three we'll see burning as we hear the call to rejoice.

How can we rejoice? One year ago most of the world had never heard of Newtown, CT, but now the place will be forever associated with the slaughter of the innocents that occurred at the Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. As I write these words I am deeply conscious that it was on this comparable Friday, one year ago, that evil reared its ugly head, and the world turned suddenly and savagely dark in some first-grade classrooms, where a few moments earlier love, and light, and learning had been the order of the day. Against the backdrop of such an anniversary, the



You may [click here to donate now](#) (select FLOWERS in the pulldown menu, enter names in the comments box).

We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount. Thank you!

**HAVEN'T PLEDGED YET FOR 2014? PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO DO SO NOW! Click [HERE](#).**

It's fast and easy (about 60 seconds--really).

Remember, you can take all of 2014 to fulfill your pledge, *so make your pledge now!*

call to rejoice seems completely out of place, if not altogether insensitive.

On the other hand, perhaps it's exactly the right word, depending on how you interpret it. Gaudete is not a call to be artificially and superficially happy. Rather, the call is to rejoice in the Lord always: *Gaudete in Domini semper*. Week by week the Advent wreath traces the light of Christ coming into the world. Come Christmas we will hear in the Gospel of John that the light shines in the darkness, "and the darkness comprehended it not." The darkness can't understand the light, and can't snuff it out. What is more, John goes on to say that this is the true light that enlightens everyone. You and I are the light of the world, because God's Spirit shines within us.

The call to rejoice is to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places. Let me suggest that today or tomorrow you do something intentionally and uncommonly good. Don't just go out there and generally be the reasonably nice person that you frequently are. Step outside of yourself and do one thing that is bold, and loving, and generous to set apart this third weekend of Advent. *Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete*. Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say rejoice!

See you in church.

[The Reverend J. Donald Waring](#)  
Rector

**This Sunday, December 15th**

**9 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

**11 a.m. Morning Prayer**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

**4 p.m. Ceremony of Carols  
by Benjamin Britten**

*Sing to the Lord  
a new song*



2014 Annual Campaign

GRACE CHURCH  
IN NEW YORK

Music: The Girls' Choir with  
Alumnae of the Choir and  
members of The Adult and Parish Choirs

**6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry**

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

(Service times are updated  
weekly on the [website](#).)

## A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

by Benjamin Britten

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER  
AT 4:00 P.M.

THE GIRLS' CHOIR  
WITH ALUMNI  
AND MEMBERS OF  
THE ADULT &  
PARISH CHOIRS



### DEC 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

#### 4 PM CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

- Featuring 88 talented beasts,  
shepherds, and villagers. Doors  
open at 3:30 pm.

#### 7:30 PM FESTIVAL MUSIC FOR THE ORGAN -

Patrick Allen, *organ*.

#### 8 PM FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS -

The Choir of Men and Boys  
with the Girls' Choir.  
Sermon by the Rector.

#### 10:30 PM FESTIVAL MUSIC FOR ORGAN & BAROQUE TRUMPET

Patrick Allen, *organ*, John  
Thiessen, *baroque trumpet*.

**JEFFERSON'S CHRISTIANITY - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM** - Faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Series. Author David Holmes, who has written extensively about the faiths of U.S. Presidents, will connect themes of Thomas Jefferson and the "Jefferson Bible" (i.e. Belief in the 18th century) to present day attitudes on belief. *Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served. (The Sunday Forum goes on recess until Jan. 5, 2014.)*

**ECW CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER** immediately following the 9 and 11 am services! Delicious and

11 PM CANDLELIGHT  
CHORAL EUCHARIST -  
The Adult Choir, sermon by the  
Rector.

**DEC 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY**

11 AM HOLY EUCHARIST  
WITH CAROLS -  
The Adult Choir,  
sermon by the Rector.  
(No 6 pm Eucharist today.  
Merry Christmas!)

**AID TO THE  
PHILIPPINES**

To assist in the recovery efforts following the devastating typhoon, consider [Episcopal Relief and Development](http://www.episcopalrelief.org). ERD is partnering with the Episcopal Church in the Philippines to address critical needs and plan for longer term relief and recovery.

[www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org)

1.855.312.HEAL (4325)

beautiful Christmas cookies and confections will be for sale. We'll also have a children's cupcake table, and plenty of good things to buy today for your holiday entertaining. Please come out and support the good works of the ECW! **Care to help?** Christmas cookies, confections etc. can be dropped off at Tuttle Hall on Saturday from 3:30 - 7pm and on Sunday morning at 9am. Cupcakes can be donated also for the children's table! We will package for you!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AGES 9-12** takes place today in the McKittrick Archive Room during the 11 am service.

**GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING** Families are invited to come make a gingerbread house after the 11am service. \$15 per house. [RSVP to Melissa Spindler](#) by 5pm on Friday December 13th!



**TODAY'S ADVENT COLLECTION** for local charities will focus on **new men's boxers, t-shirts, and tube socks (larger sized) for the [NYC Rescue Mission](#)**. Donations will be collected in the baskets at the back of the church. Please give generously!

**COMING SOON**

**JAN 5 @10 AM THE SUNDAY FORUM RETURNS** -The Rev. Canon Dr. Titus Presler will speak on the opportunities and challenges of his work as Principal of Edwardes College in Peshawar, Pakistan as part of our *Belief in the 21st Century series*. This season,



**ECW  
CHRISTMAS  
BAKE SALE  
FUNDRAISER!**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 15**

Immediately following the 9 and 11am  
services in Tuttle Hall

★ Beautiful and delicious Christmas cookies,  
confections and more will be for sale

★ We will also have a children's cupcake table

★ Friends and family are welcome

Please come and support the work  
of the ECW!

the Sunday Forums will continue to explore themes established during the fall: Compassion in Action and Belief in the 21st Century. *The Rev. Canon Dr. Titus Presler is Principal of Edwardes College, an undergraduate and graduate church institution in Peshawar, Pakistan. A scholar of Christian mission, he has been President of the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Academic Dean at General Seminary in New York, Rector of St. Peter's in Cambridge, Mass., and pastor in several other parish ministries. He and his wife Jane were Episcopal missionaries in Zimbabwe, and Titus grew up in India in a mission family.*

*A graduate of Harvard College and General Seminary, Titus holds the Th.D. degree from Boston University. His books include Horizons of Mission (Cowley, 2001) and Going Global with God: Reconciling Mission in a World of Difference (Church Publishing, 2010). He chaired the Standing Commission on World Mission, was a researcher for the Global Anglicanism Project, and was a consultant for the Anglican Indaba Project. He and Jane are the parents of four grown children and make their home in Vermont. Titus has preached and spoken before at Grace, where daughter Emma Presler and her husband Steven Lee are parishioners.*

**JAN 5 - AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS**, the beautiful seasonal opera by *Menotti* will be offered as part of Choral Evensong on Sunday, Jan 5 at 4 pm in the Church. Menotti originally wrote this work as a Television piece and after 50 years it has become a loved part of the Season. Please join us for this special offering.

802 Broadway New York NY 10003 (212) 254-2000  
[www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org)

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