

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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**12/24**  
**THE PAGEANT**  
**LIVE STREAMS**  
**AT 4 PM!**



## December 24-25, 2015



Dear Friends,

The weather outside is frightful - that is, if you are hoping for a white Christmas. The Christmas Eve weather forecast calls for rain and a high of 72 degrees! Nevertheless, the unseasonably warm air has not wilted the level of excitement around Grace Church. The energy has

been building all week as choirs rehearsed their carols and the flower guild put poinsettias and greens in place. Then on Tuesday afternoon it reached a fever as the cast of the pageant began arriving for their dress rehearsal. Christmas comes once more!

On Christmas Eve at Grace Church, we tell the story of Jesus' birth in three distinct and beautiful ways. At 4:00 pm today we will present a magnificent pageant that includes a cast of approximately 80 costumed angels, shepherds, wise men, friendly beasts, and villagers, all in addition to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, of course. Then by 8:00 pm the choir stalls will be back in place in the chancel for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a service in which we "read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God, from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child." Finally at 11:00 pm we will celebrate the midnight Eucharist, by which we remember and make present God's giving of Jesus. When we receive him in bread and wine at the altar, the Word becomes flesh in us.

Finally, if three services in one evening leaves you hungry for more, we do indeed have one more: the Christmas Day 11 am Eucharist: a bright, happy liturgy with carols, choir, and sermon.

Take your pick, and come prepared to sing praises to the newborn King. If you are traveling or unable to attend any of



Click [HERE](#).

### THE CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS AT ALL SERVICES

will go to support the Vestry Fund for [Outreach](#), which makes grants to help alleviate hunger and homelessness in our city. In 2015 grants from the Fund supported the food pantry at Church of the Village (13th St at 7th Ave), Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing, and International Rescue Committee (for emergency housing for refugees in New York). Please give

the services, you can watch the pageant live by clicking [here](#). No, our Christmas won't be white, but I pray that it will be merry and holy, both at the same time.

See you in church.

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

## Please join us for Christmas Services!

### DEC 24 – The Eve of the Nativity **CHRISTMAS EVE**

#### **4 pm Christmas Pageant**

Featuring our cast of friendly beasts, angels, shepherds, and villagers. Doors open at 3:30 pm.

#### **7:30 pm Festival Music for the Organ**

Dr. 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 & Violin**

John Thiessen, baroque trumpet, Cynthia Roberts,  
baroque violin, Allen Whear, baroque cello  
& Patrick Allen, organ.

#### **11 pm Candlelight Choral Eucharist**

The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

### DEC 25 - The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: **CHRISTMAS DAY**

#### **11 am Holy Eucharist with Carols**

The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

For more details on services and music, click [HERE](#).

*Coming Soon...*

generously this  
Christmas!

*The Epistle E-news  
goes on recess  
until Sunday, Jan  
10, 2016.*

## SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

**December 27**  
**The First Sunday  
after Christmas Day**  
*(No Sunday School  
today)*

**9 a.m. Holy Eucharist**  
Sermon: The Rev. Chase  
Danford  
Music: The Parish Choir

**11 a.m. Holy Eucharist**  
Sermon: The Rev. Chase  
Danford  
Music: The Adult Choir

**6 p.m. Holy Eucharist,  
in the Chantry**  
Sermon: The Rev. Chase  
Danford  
Music: Hymns with  
Instrumentalists

**January 3**  
**The Second Sunday  
after Christmas Day**

**9 a.m. Holy Eucharist**  
Sermon: The Rev.  
Stephen C. Holton  
Music: The Parish Choir

**11 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

# AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

by GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

SUNDAY 3 JANUARY  
AT 4:00 P.M.

THE ADULT CHOIR  
Featuring  
TAMI PETTY, ALVIN CRAWFORD,  
JOSHUA PARRILLO AND  
ARAM TCHOBANIAN

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IN NEW YORK  
EPISCOPAL

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The Reverend J. Donald Waring, Rector  
Patrick Allen, Organist and Master of Choristers  
George Fergus, Organ Scholar

Photo: Vincent Dixon Design: ARTellect

This beautiful seasonal opera by *Gian Carlo Menotti* will be offered as part of Choral Evensong. Originally written over 50 years ago as a television piece, it has become a loved part of the season. Please join us for this special offering.

**JAN 14 – "ST. MARK'S IS DEAD" – AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING!** Journalist Ada Calhoun is the author of *St. Marks Is Dead: The Many Lives of America's Hippest Street* (Nov 2015), "revelatory" ([Kirkus](#)), "captivating" ([Publishers Weekly](#)), "timely, provocative, and stylishly written" ([Atlantic](#)) "ecstatic roll call" ([New York Times Book Review](#)). The Village Voice named her "the most important new voice on old New York." She attended Grace Church and will join us on Thursday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30–8:30 pm in the Reception Room. "No pressure potluck." (Bring something to share, if you can.) Admission is one non-perishable item for the food pantry. Presented by the ECW.

Sermon: The Rev.  
Stephen C. Holton  
Music: The Adult Choir

**JAN 24 – THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR  
TREBLE VOICES** – The Junior Choristers of the Grace Church  
Choirs with Dr. Barry Rose and the Whiting of Novices. Held in  
the Church at 4 pm.

**4 p.m. Choral Evensong**  
AM AHL AND THE NIGHT  
VISITORS  
by *Gian Carlo Menotti*  
The Adult Choir

**6 p.m. Holy Eucharist,**  
**in the Chantry**  
Sermon: The Rev.  
Stephen C. Holton  
Music: Hymns with  
Instrumentalists

### The Epistle E-news goes on recess...

*The next issue will arrive in your inbox during the week leading up to  
Sunday, January 10, 2016. Wishing to you and yours a joyous Christmas and  
a blessed and happy New Year!*

*To find service information,  
you may visit [www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org), updated weekly.*

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