

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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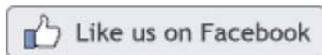
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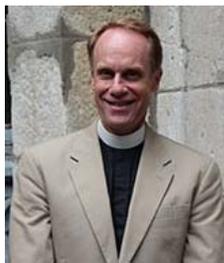


#### CHRISTMAS SERVICES



## December 11, 2016

The Third Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

During the season of Advent we sing majestic, sometimes haunting hymns about the coming of Jesus. One of the hymns (#76) contains the following phrase: *and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.*

The suggestion is that in order to welcome Christ into our lives, the spiritual work we all need to do is individual and interior. True, Isaiah and John the Baptist, the prophets we hear from the most in Advent, do call us to deep reflection and repentance. However, they do not mean for us to shun the other dimension of true spirituality, which is communal and outward. Indeed, sometimes the best way to reach our interior selves - our hearts - is by being out in the world and engaged with its joys and sorrows.

Late this week a story that has been at the top of the headlines concerns the deaths of two tiny sisters, aged 2 and 1. They were living with their parents in a "cluster-site" apartment for the homeless when a faulty valve on a radiator blew and filled their room with scalding steam. The tragedy has called attention once again to the growing problem of homelessness in the city. For us, what does it mean to sing: *and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come?*

I believe that the call to express our faith privately and publicly is not an "either-or" choice, but a "both-and" commission. Thus, we the people of Grace Church

Click image for service times.

## **TIME FOR CHRISTMAS GREENS AND FLOWERS!**

Every year at Christmas time it is the generous donations from our parishioners and friends that enhance the beauty of Grace Church. *Donations "in honor of" or "in thanksgiving for" your loved ones will be listed in the Christmas bulletins if received by Tuesday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>.*

[Click HERE, to donate now!](#) (Write your dedications in the "comments" box.) Suggested donation \$50, but all is gratefully received. Thank you!

**All Grace Church members and friends** are encouraged to make a financial pledge to the work of the Lord for the year 2017. **Read more by clicking the brochure below...**

always should be engaged in helping to address the plight of the homeless. It is a very tricky business for reasons far too complicated to explain here. Nevertheless, over the years we have participated in a variety of ways, from hosting a shelter, to giving grants to agencies of mercy, to devoting volunteer hours at food pantries and shelters.

As you likely know, our current major effort is with Habitat for Humanity. With generous parishioner giving and volunteer hours we are at work in Queens, preparing a home *where such a mighty guest may come* - that "mighty guest" being a family with children. At this week's Sunday Forum, representatives from Habitat for Humanity and our parishioners who have been hard at work will tell us more about the project. We'll have stories to tell and pictures to show, so make a point of coming at 10 am in the Reception Room to hear more about the good work Grace Church is doing.

Finally, if all has gone according to plan, most of you reading this should have received the feasibility survey about the project to restore our own house. Check your inbox (or your spam filter) for an email from Erin at Episcopal Foundation. Any questions, contact James Romanik by clicking [here](#).

See you in church.  
[The Rev. J. Donald Waring](#)  
Rector

## **This Sunday**

**December 11th**

### **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. A CEREMONY OF CAROLS**

**By Benjamin Britten**



**COME THOU  
FOUNT OF  
EVERY BLESSING**

*Grace Church in New York  
2017 Annual Campaign*

**Make your pledge  
[HERE!](#) (No payments  
have to be made until  
next year.)**

**Please pray for...**



***Those who suffer***

Families of the victims  
of the Oakland  
warehouse fire  
Nora Webb  
Johanna Bell

**Music: The Girls' Choir with Alumnae of the Choir  
and  
Women from the Adult and Parish Choirs  
Nancy Allen, harp**

**6 p.m. Holy Eucharist**  
Sermon: The Rev. Mary Cat Young  
Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

**GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING** – Decorate a holiday gingerbread house with your family after the 9 and 11am services. \$20 minimum suggested donation per house, which will help support "The House that Grace Built" Habitat for Humanity project. If you did not RSVP, check with the registration table to see if there are extras.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AT THE SUNDAY FORUM.**  
Join us at 10 am in the Reception Room for an update on the Habitat for Humanity "House that Grace Built" project. Frances Hardy, from Habitat for Humanity NYC, and volunteers who have worked on the house will share photos and plans for finishing the house in 2017.

**A CEREMONY OF CAROLS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN** will be offered by The Girls' Choir joined with Alumnae and women from The Adult and Parish Choirs. Nancy Allen joins the choir with her harp. This moving work is a special annual holiday tradition. Held at 4 pm in the Church.

**THE ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS** for local charities will conclude today with a collection of new men's underwear (larger sizes) and socks for the NYC Rescue Mission. Donations will be collected in the baskets at the back of the church at all services. Please give generously this Advent!

Walton E. McLeod

Leroy A. McLeod

Peter Duncan

Julia Harvey

Donna Lee

Josephine Ferraiuolo

Howard Small

Trish Lawrence

*and those who have  
died*

Dale Edward Miller,  
The victims of the  
Oakland warehouse  
fire

## *Coming Soon*

**DEC 14 – BEYOND US AND THEM: FAITH IN A POST-ELECTION AMERICA** –The Rev. Chase Danford invites parishioners to join him at an event featuring noted theologian and energizing speaker James Alison. Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 7–8:30 pm at Trinity Church, Wall Street (75 Broadway). The dialogue will also livestream on the Trinity Wall Street website. *Note that the 6 pm Wednesday Eucharist dismisses by 6:45, and attendees might consider taking the R train together.*

**DEC 17 – SIGN UP FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/GRACE CHURCH BUILD DAYS** – As you have no doubt been hearing, we are partnering with Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate a condemned house in St. Albans, Queens for a family in need. Volunteers have already been hard at work since July and would love to have you join them! *Next build dates: Dec 17, Jan 7, and Jan 21. For more information, photos and to sign up, please click [here](#).*

**DEC 21– 20'S AND 30'S-ish 'SMALL GROUP'**– Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 21st at 7:15 pm for the next meeting of our new spiritual formation and fellowship opportunity for young adults. The Rev. Chase Danford will lead a discussion about violence in the name of religion, scapegoating, and other ideas presented by theologian James Alison at the Trinity Institute the week before (come whether you are able to attend that event or not). Held in the Reception Room; Christmas cookies and light refreshments will be provided. Questions? Email the Rev. [Chase Danford](#).

**DEC 22 – GREENING OF THE CHURCH** – A few good souls are needed to help dress the church on Thursday, Dec 22, for the joyous celebration of Christmas. *If you would like to sign up, you must contact Ellen McElduff [here](#).*

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

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