

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



In This Issue

[Volunteer Opportunity Tomorrow!](#)

[Christmas Service Times](#)

[Why Pledge?](#)

[Parish Prayers](#)

[This Sunday](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

Quick Links

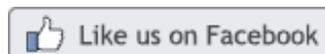
[GIVE to Grace](#)

[Make Your PLEDGE](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

[More About Us](#)

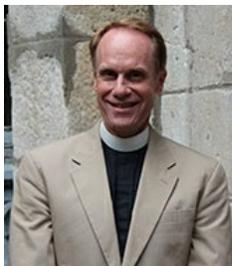
[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)



**TOMORROW
(SAT 12/16)!
A FEW MORE
VOLUNTEERS
are NEEDED
for
THE HOUSE
THAT GRACE
BUILT!**

December 17, 2017

The Third Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

Although I have never been to the Holy Land, I certainly have images of Bethlehem etched in my mind thanks to countless Christmas pageants and Sunday School classes. I have always imagined Bethlehem on the night of

Jesus' birth to be dark, crowded, and cold (and snowy, too, because all the Christmas carols say so). The Gospel of Luke records that when Mary and Joseph arrived in town after their long journey, *there was no room for them in the inn*. The place was jammed with strangers, pressing in on each other, jockeying for position, all in the hope of finding a comfortable spot to spend the night.

We in New York City are no strangers to the restless crowds. On the streets it is amazing that traffic moves at all given the sheer number of cars trying to navigate this small island we call Manhattan. On the sidewalks, especially at holiday time, the press of slow moving pedestrians (most of whom these days are staring at their smartphones) can be maddening if you are actually trying to get someplace. On subway platforms, or when stadiums and theaters empty, the crush of the crowds can be overwhelming.

Unfortunately, it is crowds such as these that people of evil intent seek to take advantage of for their own malicious purposes. It has been a disturbing autumn as one horrific act of violence after another played itself out in Las Vegas, Texas, and close to home here in New York City. Given the nature of the times, a number of people have raised the question about the security of the church, especially as we anticipate the crowds of Christmas Eve and Day. Do we have a plan?



On Saturday, Dec 16th we return to Queens to put some finishing touches on "The House that Grace Built." We need a few more pairs of hands! To sign up, please visit the website [here](#) or e-mail Martha Korienek [here](#).

Christmas Service Details [HERE](#).

Annual giving achieves two goals that are important to the spiritual health of every Christian...

We do. Normally we work with an outside firm to provide a security presence on Sundays. In Christmases past we have increased the detail from one guard to two. This year we will have three. In addition we are working with yet another firm that is conducting a security audit of our Christmas services. They are strongly suggesting that we search backpacks and bags. To be fair and thorough, that means all of them. We are currently working through how this can happen efficiently and courteously. In the meantime, let me suggest two things: 1. If possible, don't bring a bag to Christmas services. 2. If you do, please model patience and good cheer in the narthex, which will go a long way towards easing the tensions of our many visitors, some of whom may find it odd to be having their bags searched in church.

At our Vestry meeting earlier this week we talked about what is often the delicate balancing act of being the church. On the one hand, we need to make room at the inn for all sorts and conditions of people. On the other hand, we need to strive for the safety of everyone. Hopefully, our increased attention to security this year will be an actual sign of welcome to those who come to sing praises to the newborn King.

See you in church. Still two more Sundays of Advent to go!

[The Rev. J. Donald Waring](#)

Rector

This Sunday

December 17th

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 Girls' Choir, High School Singers and Adults

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

ALL THINGS
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL



Grace Church in New York
2018 Annual Campaign

Read more about pledging by clicking the image above. **Want to make your pledge now?** You may do so [here](#). Questions about pledging? Contact **James V. Romanik** at 212-254-2005 or [here](#).

*Please pray
for...*



those who suffer

Steve Gano
Krista Kostenko
Adelaide
Peggy

THE SUNDAY FORUM is on recess for the remainder of Advent and Christmas. It will resume in January.

ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS CONCLUDE TODAY with a collection of new men's underwear (larger sizes) and socks for the NYC Rescue Mission. Donations are being collected in the baskets at the back of the church at all services. Please give generously this Advent!

Coming Soon

CENTERING PRAYER FOR ADVENT – Mondays & Wednesdays. Also known as "contemplative prayer," Centering Prayer is an ancient Christian practice of being still and quiet and connecting with the Spirit of God dwelling in each of us. Mondays at lunchtime through Dec. 18 from 12:15–12:40 pm in the Church. Wednesdays through Dec 20 from 5:15 to 5:45 pm (Church). Led by parishioner and seminary student, Currie Estreich.

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

DEC 24, 25, and 31 – SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE Please note that Sunday school will not meet Dec. 24 or Dec. 31, but child care (through age 4) will be provided at morning services on both dates. No child care will be provided at Christmas Eve 4 pm, 8 pm, or 11 pm services or the Christmas Day service, but coloring sheets and other activities will be available at the back of the church on the children's bookshelf.

THE OFFERINGS AT ALL CHRISTMAS SERVICES will go to support the Vestry Fund for Outreach, which makes grants to help alleviate hunger and homelessness in our city. In 2017, grants from the Fund supported the food pantry at Church of the Village (13th St at 7th Ave) and Habitat for Humanity. Please give generously this Christmas!

SUNDAY MORNING, DEC 24

Kimberly and Sandy
Josephine

*and those who
have died*

Allen Ringland,
(Optimus
1955-1956)
Dean Monroe
Lisa Shen
Maresco

9 AM Advent IV – HOLY EUCHARIST – The Parish Choir. Sermon
by the Associate Rector.

11 AM Advent IV – MORNING PRAYER – The Adult Choir. Sermon
by the Associate Rector.

CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC 24

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.

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

11 PM CANDLELIGHT CHORAL EUCHARIST
The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

MONDAY, DEC 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

11 AM HOLY EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS
The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

SUNDAY, JAN 7 – AMAHL & THE NIGHT VISITORS
4 pm Choral Evensong. The Adult Choir.

*To find service information,
you may visit www.gracechurchnyc.org, updated weekly.*

802 Broadway New York NY 10003 (212) 254-2000
www.gracechurchnyc.org