

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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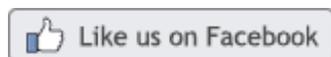
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**Help Decorate the
Church with
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS!**



Every year at Christmas time it is the generous donations from our parishioners and friends that enhance the beauty of Grace Church. You are invited to make your

December 3, 2017

The First Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

Today is December 1st, the beginning of what has always been my favorite month of the year. The vinca plants still in bloom in front of the rectory suggest that I should not be dreaming of a white Christmas, but the fact is I already have the tune in my head. Tonight and tomorrow the Grace Church Choral Society will sing their annual Christmas concert, and suddenly the season will be in high gear, snow or no snow.

Sunday begins the short liturgical season called Advent. Advent consists of the four Sundays prior to Christmas. This year the calendar is playing a cruel trick on us that will turn the 4th Sunday of Advent into a marathon of church services. On Sunday, December 24th - yes, Christmas Eve - in the morning it will be Advent IV and we will have services at 9 am and 11 am. Then we will turn right around and celebrate Christmas Eve at 4 pm, 8 pm, and 11 pm. Finally, we will celebrate Christmas Day with another festive service at 11 am on December 25. On December 26 I plan to celebrate the day by taking a very long nap.

Until then, the theme of Advent is preparation. The challenge is to be ready, not only materially with presents, cards, food, parties, and church services. It is to be ready spiritually. At hand, we are told, is something of eternal significance: the coming of Jesus into our lives. In the Gospel reading appointed for this Sunday, the need to be ready is cast as a warning. Jesus said, *"Therefore, keep awake-for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes*

donation online [HERE](#). (You may also find a flower envelope around the church and parish house.) We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount. Thank you!

For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Christmas bulletins, it must be received by Tuesday, Dec 12th. Online donors please put your dedications in the comments box.

Christmas Service Information can be viewed [HERE](#).

suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

It is within this overall theme of readiness and preparation that I wish to bring up a topic that needs our attention given some of the troubling events that have occurred this fall. As Christmas approaches church attendance increases. What is our plan in case of an emergency? What do we do if, for example, the fire alarm goes off in the middle of a service? The simple answer is to take the hand of your loved ones, head for the nearest door, and leave the building. During occupancy the three Broadway doors and the north transept door will all take you directly outside. Three other doors will take you not immediately outside, but out of the main church. These are the north aisle door near the baptismal font, the Griswold door near the organ console, and the Honor Room door in the south transept. It's always a good idea to familiarize yourself with the nearest exit.

Now back to a more pleasant topic: Don't forget the annual Advent collections for local charities that begin this week. Read below for what to bring on December 3, 10, and 17.

Happy December and a holy Advent to you all. Let it snow!

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

This Sunday

December 3rd

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

4 p.m. Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols

Music: The Adult Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Combined Novice and Junior

Choristers with Adults

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist

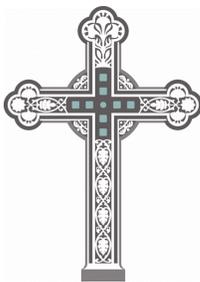
ALL THINGS
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL



Grace Church in New York
2018 Annual Campaign

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

*Please pray
for...*



those who suffer

Adelaide
Peggy
Anne Miller Daniel
Kimberly and Sandy
Louise Zonis

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford
Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists



ADVENT
LESSONS
AND MUSIC

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER
AT 4:00 P.M.

WORKS BY BACH, BRAHMS,
BYRD, HANCOCK, MANZ,
PALESTRINA, PICCOLO
AND OTHERS

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GRACE CHURCH
IN NEW YORK
EPISCOPAL

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INFO TEL 212.254.2000/6

The Reverend J. Donald Waring, Rector
Patrick Allen, Organist and Master of Choristers

Photo: Vincent Dixon Design: ARTeffect

THE LITURGICAL SEASON OF ADVENT begins today. The word Advent derives from the Latin *adventus*, meaning arrival, or approach. In our worship, the hymns and Scripture readings take on a mysterious, urgent tone as we anticipate the coming of Christ. One-by-one we light the four candles of the Advent wreath. The Gospel readings shift to Mark, the liturgical color is purple and we begin a new Church Year.

COFFEE HOUR AND ADVENT WREATH-MAKING TODAY will take place in the GC School dining room after the 9 and 11 am services. Access to Sunday school classrooms will still be possible through the side door of Tuttle Hall, which is currently set up to

Debbie McAdams
Isabella
Anna Ring
Alejandro Mota
Ernest Hansen
Josephine

*and those who
have died*

Christopher
Quatromini.

stage the GCS play.

COME AND MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH!

Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks prior to Christmas is a great way to keep our thoughts focused on the coming of Christ, and to help teach our children the real meaning of Christmas. On the first Sunday of Advent, Dec 3rd, after the 9 am, 11 am and 6 pm services we'll have all the materials ready for you. All are welcome! Experienced wreath-makers are encouraged to help others! Sign up as a volunteer by contacting Fr. Chase [here](#). (Suggested donation per wreath: \$15-25.)

THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM is on recess and will resume next week.

ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS BEGIN TODAY

with a collection of travel size toiletries for the Seamen's Church Institute Christmas at Sea project. Next Sunday, Dec 10th, we will collect hats, scarves, and gloves for the Church of the Ascension food pantry. On Sunday, Dec 17th, we'll collect 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

DEC 6 – THE COMMUNITY CAROL SING All are welcome to come and sing with The Combined Boys' and Girls' Choirs in this festive annual event! 12:15 – 12:45 pm in the Church.

DEC 9 – 20'S & 30'S ST. NICHOLAS DAY PARTY – The Revs. Mary Cat Young and Chase Danford invite college students and 20's and 30's-ish parishioners and guests to celebrate the generosity of St. Nicholas with a gathering of young adults from churches around the city! Saturday, Dec 9, 6:30-8:00 pm, at St. James' Church, 865 Madison Avenue. [RSVP to Fr. Chase here](#) or at the [Facebook page here](#).

DEC 9 – EPISCOPAL ASIAN SUPPER TABLE (EAST) Guest speaker Fr. Gideon Jebamani, an Episcopal priest who has fought

for the rights of the Dalit people (the so-called "Untouchable" caste of India), will speak on "Religious Cultural Diversity and the Challenge of Creating an Inclusive Faith Community." EAST celebrates the dignity of Asian and Asian-American spirituality. Our monthly events are a welcoming space to share stories, seek God, and bridge diverse cultures. We are a growing ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Saturday, Dec 9, at 5:30 pm in Tuttle Hall. *RSVP: EAST@dioceseny.org.*

DEC 10 – THE HOUSE THAT GRACE BUILT IS NOW A HOME! THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM – Grace Church parishioners have answered the Biblical call to be good neighbors here in New York City and around the globe. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, we spent many hours each month raising funds, digging dirt, drilling, hammering, sweating, laughing, and working together to raise the roof on 'The House That Grace Built' in Queens and at other sites in our community. Today, we celebrate these accomplishments and answer your questions about how everyone can help keep building! Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served.

DEC 10 – GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING – Decorate a holiday gingerbread house with your children or grandkids 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. *[RSVP to Chase](#) is required by Tuesday, Dec. 5th to make sure we have enough supplies.*

DEC 10 – NEWCOMERS CLASS – New people to Grace are warmly invited. Each session will discuss how to become a member of Grace, as well as this session we will be talking about *Advent and Christmas Traditions*. We recommend that you attend at least three classes throughout the year, as a way to get acquainted with the clergy, with other new members, and to grow in your faith. Held in the Reception Room at 12:30. Lunch will be provided, so *[RSVP to Martha here](#)*.

DEC 10 – A CEREMONY OF CAROLS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN will be offered by The Girls' Choir with Alumni of the Choir and members of The Adult and Parish Choirs at 4 pm in the Church.

DEC 16 – HABITAT BUILD DAY – Grace Church is working with Habitat for Humanity to preserve and maintain affordable housing within Manhattan. We will be doing home maintenance repair for a co-op on the Lower East Side. *To sign up, please visit the website [here](#) or e-mail Martha Korienek [here](#).*

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](#).*

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

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