

*Welcome to Grace Church*

# The First Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist  
November 28, 2021

10:00 a.m. at Crissey Farm



## GRACE CHURCH

**an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires**

and on Zoom

*Step into Grace where strangers become friends.*

*We are an open and affirming church.*

*Everyone of every age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, or economic status is invited to join us as together we live out the Gospel message of love, forgiveness, service, and justice. No matter where you are in your spiritual journey – you are welcome here.*

*The bell rings and the people gather in silence.*

## PRELUDE

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*The lighting of the Advent Candle occurs in the interlude between the two verses of O Come O Come Emmanuel (H56)*

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
O come, thou Wis - com from - on high, who or - derest  
cap - tive Is - ra - el,  
all things might - i - ly;  
that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
to us in the path of know - ledge show,  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joyce! joyce!  
and teach us in her ways to go.  
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

**Reader** Come O Holy One,

As the morning light after a wakeful night!

Keep us mindful that at any moment you may ask of us

An accounting of our lives;

Help us to love you and love one another in all we do,

And so clothe us with your light

That we may bring others to love you also,

Through Jesus our Savior. **Amen**

# The Word of God

***Celebrant*** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
***People*** And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for  
 ever  
 Amen.

## SONG OF PRAISE

LEVAS 11

*Prepare ye the way of the Lord*

Pre-prepare ye the way \_\_\_\_ of the Lord. \_\_\_\_ Pre-prepare ye the

way \_\_\_\_ of the Lord. \_\_\_\_ Make straight in the des-ert a high-way for our

God. \_\_\_\_ Pre-prepare ye the way \_\_\_\_ of the Lord. \_\_\_\_

Pre-prepare ye the way \_\_\_\_ of the Lord. \_\_\_\_

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

*A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 25:1-9

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their  
schemes.

- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my  
transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

## THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Thessalonika.*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

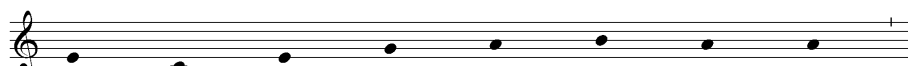
*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*People* Thanks be to God.


# SEQUENCE HYMN

H 63


*O heavenly Word, eternal Light* vs1-2 before Gospel, v 5 after



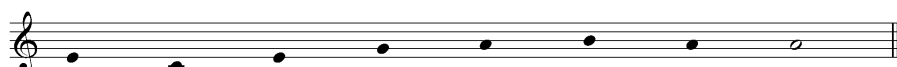
1 O heaven - ly Word, e - ter - nal Light,  
 2 pour light up - on us from a - bove,  
 3 and when, as judge, thou draw - est nigh  
 4 O let us not, for e - vil past,  
 \*5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 be - got - ten of the Fa - ther's might,  
 2 and fire our hearts with ar - dent love,  
 3 the se - crets of our hearts to try,  
 4 be driv - en from thy face at last,  
 5 and God the Spi - rit, ev - er One,



1 who in these lat - ter days wast born  
 2 that, as we hear thy truth to - day,  
 3 to rec - om - pense each hid - den sin  
 4 but with thy saints for ev - er - more  
 5 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 for bless - ing to a world for - lorn;  
 2 all wrong de - sires may burn a - way;  
 3 and bid the saints their reign be - gin;  
 4 be - hold thee, love thee, and a - dore.  
 5 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

*Priest* The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the

stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

*Priest*     The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*     **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**

*The Rev. Tina Rathbone*

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,**

of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and  
glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*The leader and People pray responsively*

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and  
the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite  
Mystery both hidden and revealed:  
**Hear us when we pray to you.**

Blessed are You who join us together in the communion of  
Christ's Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this



parish and throughout the world, that we may manifest your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people to repair the world.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Deliverer, You unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit. Resurrect their hope, grant them peace, and restore their joy.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the stranger, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Morning Star, come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your promise.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Lover of souls, when we wander far away, lead us back to You; when we refuse your embrace, do not give up on us; when we forget You, do not forget us.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Desire of every heart, forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into your Way, and Truth and Life.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

God who has come, God who is coming, God who is yet to come:  
Make us ready to welcome and receive You in the stranger's  
face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of  
healing, the birth of possibility, and the gift of wonder. Let  
every heart prepare You room.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

Dear people of God, what else, or who else, should we pray for?  
*The People offer their concerns and thanksgivings, aloud or in  
silence.*

*The Presider concludes with the following collect:*

O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity,  
and reveal the fullness of humanity. Come: renew your creation,  
restore us in your love, and enable us to become who we are,  
and are not quite yet: your faithful and loving people. We ask  
all this in the name of your son, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

## **THE CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

*Silence*

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

## THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
***Amen.***

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant*      The peace of Christ be always with you.  
***People***      **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of God by sharing a socially distanced sign of Christ's peace.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

**O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord *Amen.***

# The Holy Communion

***Celebrant*** Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

## OFFERTORY HYMN

**H 57**

*Lo, He comes with clouds descending*

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
 2 Ev - every eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

**Celebrant** All things come from you, O Lord.

**People** And of your own have we given you.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer C

*Book of Common Prayer*

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*      Lift up your hearts.

*People*          **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*          **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The celebrant continues*

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

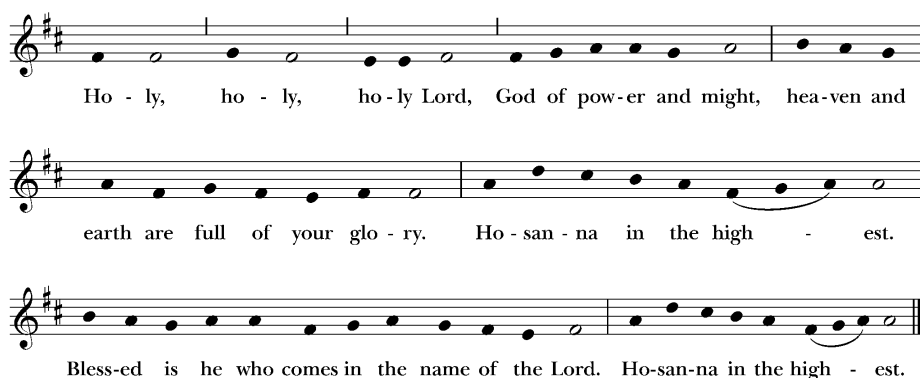
**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

*Celebrant and People*

## SANCTUS

S 124



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and

earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The celebrant continues*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,**

and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and a period of  
silence is kept, then all sing:*

**FRACTION ANTHEM**

**WLP 874**

*Christ our Passover*

*Principal Canon*

Who - ev - er eats this bread will live for - ev - er.

Who - ev - er eats this bread will live for - ev - er.

*Secondary Canons*

A

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world.

B

Who - ev - er be - lies in me shall not hun - ger or thirst, for the

bread which I give for the life of the world is my flesh.

**Celebrant** The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**The People** Thanks be to God.



*To ensure the safety of all, we are currently sharing only the bread from the altar, not the wine. Gluten-free bread is also available. Please let the priest know if you prefer this. If you would rather receive a blessing instead of communion, please come forward and cross your hands over your chest. And, lastly, if you need communion brought to you, just let the usher know. All are welcome at God's feast!*

*If you can't physically receive the communion bread because you are participating in this service virtually, you are invited to pray this Prayer for Spiritual Communion:*

Lord Jesus, as you promised to be with us in the bread and wine that is your body and blood, grant that we may receive you spiritually today into our hearts, minds, and souls. Stay with us; be our companion in the way; kindle our hearts and awaken hope that we may know you and have confidence in your loving care, now and forever. Amen.

## COMMUNION HYMN

LEVAS 13

*My Lord, What a morning*

*Harmony*

My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing, O

my Lord, what a morn-ing, When the stars be-gin to fall.

*Fine*

*Unison*

1. You'll hear the trum - pet sound, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. You'll hear the sin - ner mourn, \_\_\_\_\_ To wake the  
 3. You'll hear the Chris - tian shout, \_\_\_\_\_

na - tions un - der - ground, \_\_\_\_\_ Look - ing to my God's right

hand, When the stars be - gin to fall. *D.C.*

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and people*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
 you have graciously accepted us as living members  
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
 and you have fed us with spiritual food  
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
 Send us now into the world in peace,  
 and grant us strength and courage  
 to love and serve you  
 with gladness and singleness of heart;  
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **A PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN**

*Celebrant and people*

**Most generous and loving God, we thank you for the gift of children. With each child you refresh your promises to all of us. Through each child you remind us to take care of all you have created.**

**We pray your blessing on each child today. Teach them to love courage and to trust you. Help them see you at work in your world.**

**Help them speak words of love, peace, and friendship. Turn their faces in kindness toward their neighbors, and fill each one with confidence in your steadfast love. This we ask in the name of your child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

Christ the sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever. AMEN

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**H 66**

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant*  
*People's response*

Go in Peace. The Christ is coming.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## WORSHIP LEADERS

	<b>TODAY 11/28</b>	<b>NEXT SUNDAY 12/5</b>
WELCOME TEAM	Rick & Sue Gore	Doreen Hutchinson Marcia Doelman
<i>ACOLYTE</i>	Cathy Haywood	Peter Kirchoff
<i>LECTOR</i>	Sue Gore	Penny Curry
<i>INTERCESSOR</i>	Sarah Sieber	Doreen Hutchinson
<i>ALTAR GUILD</i>	Monique Kirchoff Cathy Haywood	Sarah Seiber Margaret Layton
<i>TECH</i>	Abe Streeter	Abe Streeter
<i>COFFEE HOUR</i>	Booton/Gore	Gore/Cheek
<i>COUNTERS</i>	Sue Gore Margaret Layton	Sue Gore Ian Booten

## GRACE CHURCH INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Please Include in Your Daily Prayers This Week

**Members of the Parish Family:** Sue Gore, George Raymond, Doreen Hutchinson, Anne Andrews, Pennie Curry, Mark Anderson, Stacey, Claire and Mark Thomas, Meredith Haider, Linda White, Rosemarie Blakely, Marina Bowens, John Breasted, Jane Brooks, Vonnie Frye, Barbara Gore, Barbara Turner and Annalise Clausen.

**Others we Love:** Larry Cheek, John's brother; Karen LaRocque friend of Sue Gore; Rosalind Haywood, Sue Gore's mother; Deborah McCurdy; Joy Milani, dear friend of Dindy Anderson; Rino Aldrighetti, beloved friend of Steve White; and two-year-old, Wyatt Hicks.

**Those who have died:** Sara Keene; Vanessa Neves, daughter of Patti Poulos, friend of many in the congregation; Sara Bowers; Bernadette McCarroll, step grandma to Ellis and soul sister to Jainee & John; Alan Sparks, brother of Debbie Holmes; Ruth Crawford; John Grammer, husband of Mary Anne; Neil Brandt, brother of Linda White; John Turner, husband of Barbara Turner; Leslie Albert, friend of Margaret Layton & Sarah Sieber; Jim Santolin, a dear friend of Rick & Sue.

**Our world:** For the people of Afghanistan, and of Haiti, who continue to struggle under burdens seemingly too great to bear. For all victims of gun violence, and for those who inflict gun violence on others. For people who suffer from COVID, those who have died, those who mourn, caregivers, hospital workers, and those who have been affected through loss of work, income, and housing. For all who are alone, or afraid, or despairing. For prisoners, unhoused people, newly arrived immigrants and all our neighbors, near and far.

**The many ministries of our local community**, especially: for our partners at St. Paul's and the Revs. Sam Smith and Jane Tillman; Christ Trinity, and the Rev. Erik Karas; our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Doug Fisher; and the Mampong Babies' Home in Ghana.

**And we offer thanks:** for all those celebrating a birthday or anniversary this week, especially, Vonnie Frye & Nell Pinkston

### **CALENDAR**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Worship with Eucharist</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Centering Prayer</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>

All Sunday services will be at Crissey Farm and are both in-person and livestreamed. Our Centering Prayer group (also in person and livestreamed) meets at our office, at 67 State Road. If you are unable to join us in person, please visit our website, [www.graceberkshires.org](http://www.graceberkshires.org) for zoom links.

*For more information about Grace Church's regular work and worship, please visit Tuesday's Child newsletter on our website, [www.GraceBerkshires.org](http://www.GraceBerkshires.org)*

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

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Keyboardist: Ms. Lee Cheek  
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GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

Senior Warden Kathy Clausen  
Junior Warden Richard Gore, Jr.  
Treasurer Sue Gore  
Clerk Mary Anne Grammer  
Class of 2022 John Cheek, Cathy Haywood  
Class of 2023 Dindy Anderson, Holly Murray  
Class of 2024 Anne Andrews, Dutch Pinkston