

Welcome to Grace Church

The Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist
December 5, 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

John Cheek, bass-baritone

"But who may abide the day of his coming" - Handel's Messiah

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, thou Lord of might, who to thy
O come, thou Branch of Jes se's tree, free them from
tribes on Sin - - - nai's height
Sa - tan's tyr - - - an - ny
in an - cient times didst give the law,
that trust thy might - y power to save,
in cloud, and ma jes - ty, and awe. Re-joyce! joyce!
and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el!

Reader Come, O Holy One,

As the water of life and refiner's fire!

Strengthen us with courage for your work of justice

that in all the creation and among every people

your peace may be established

and your joy abound,

through Jesus our Deliverer. **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-*pare* ye the way ____ of the Lord. ____

Pre-*pare* ye the way ____ of the Lord. ____

6

way ____ of the Lord. ____

Make straight in the des-ert a high-way for our

God. ____

Pre-*pare* ye the way ____ of the Lord. ____

16

Pre-*pare* 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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

A Reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 16

The Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

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

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People Thanks be to God.

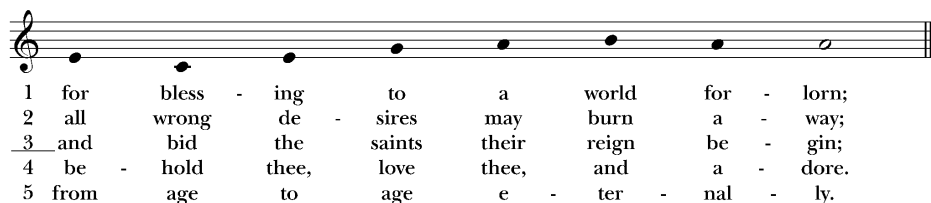
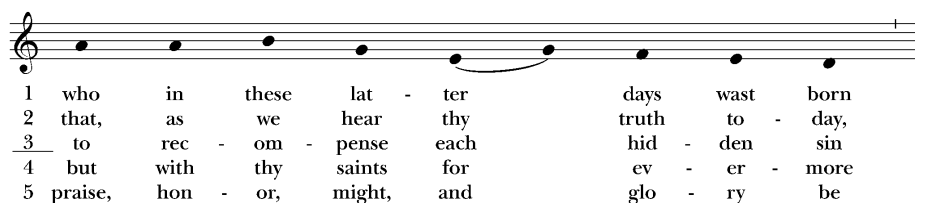
SEQUENCE HYMN

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,



THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

Priest The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 'Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.
 Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
 and the crooked shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways made smooth;
 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Tina Rathbone

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.

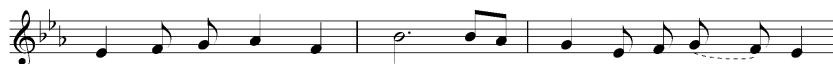
OFFERTORY HYMN

H 75

There's a voice in the wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a —
2 O — Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God — en - du - reth, the —



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst — of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The —
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
flowers of the field they — per - ish, like
feed his — flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay; the power and pomp of
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our — God — may go!
na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way;
lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

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.

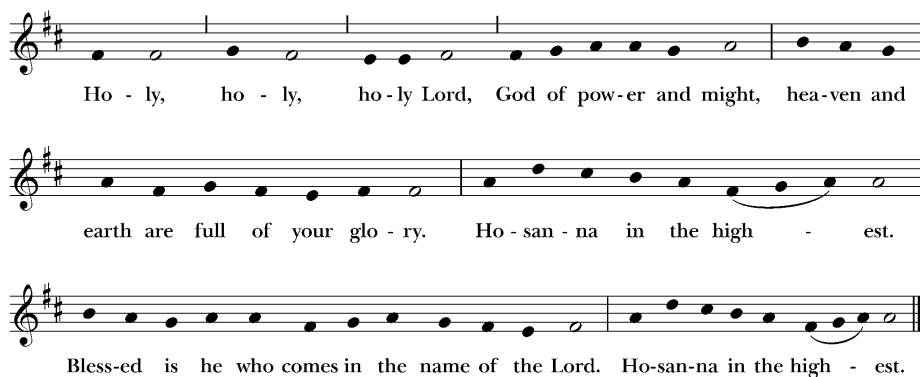
By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

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.
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

ELW 256

Comfort, comfort now my people

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near.
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

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 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with line numbers 1 through 5 indicating the different parts of the choir.

System 1:

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

System 2:

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

System 3:

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love
 and serve the Lord
People **Thanks be to God.**

WORSHIP LEADERS

	TODAY 12/5	NEXT SUNDAY 12/12
WELCOME TEAM	Doreen Hutchinson Marcia Doelman	Sue and Rick Gore
<i>ACOLYTE</i>	Peter Kirchoff	Kathy Clausen
<i>LECTOR</i>	Penny Curry	Robert Forman
<i>INTERCESSOR</i>	Doreen Hutchinson	John Cheek
<i>HEALING TEAM</i>	Sue Gore Kathy Clausen	Ted Cobden Pennie Curry
<i>ALTAR GUILD</i>	Sarah Sieber Margaret Layton	Monique Kirchoff Margaret Layton
<i>TECH</i>	Abe Streeter	Abe Streeter
<i>COFFEE HOUR</i>	Gore/Cheek	Booten/Brooke
<i>COUNTERS</i>	Sue Gore Ian Booten	Rick Gore Sarah Sieber

GRACE CHURCH INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Please Include in Your Daily Prayers This Week

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

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, Dick Alford and Aidan Perkins.

CALENDAR

Sunday	Worship with Eucharist	10:00 AM
Thursday	Centering Prayer	5:00 PM

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 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

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Bishop of Western Massachusetts:
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Fisher

Rector: The Rev. Tina Rathbone
RevTina@graceberkshires.org (617) 852-4916

Gideon's Garden Director of Farming:
Ms. Annalise Clausen
gideonsgarden@graceberkshires.org (413) 644-6572

Music Director: Mr. Ryan LaBoy
RLaboy@graceberkshires.org (413) 644-0022

Keyboardist: Ms. Lee Cheek
lee.cheek@yahoo.com (413) 854-1095

Parish Administrator: Ms. Jean Chapin
Office@GraceBerkshires.org (413) 644-0022

GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION

67 State Road / PO Box 114
Great Barrington MA 01230
Voice Mail (413) 644-0022
E-mail: Office@GraceBerkshires.org
Visit us on the web at www.graceberkshires.org

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

Making the House Ready for the Lord

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but
still nothing is as shining as it should be
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an
uproar of mice it is the season of their
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves
and through the walls the squirrels
have gnawed their ragged entrances but it is the season
when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly
up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will
come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know
that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

---Mary Oliver