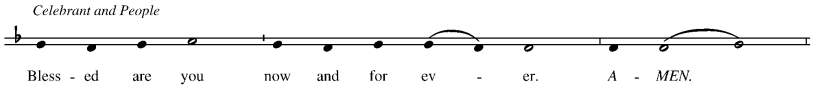
*Welcome to Grace Church*

# The First Sunday of Advent
# November 29, 2026

10:00 a.m. at Berkshire South Community Center and on Zoom




GRACE CHURCH

an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires

*Step into Grace where strangers become friends.*
*We are an open and affirming church.*
*Every one of every age, race, ethnicity, culture,*
*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.*

***At the sound of the bell, we invite you into silence in preparation for worship.***

**PRELUDE**

***Prelude from Six Canzonetti***

Noël Goemanne (1926-2010), Belgian musician who refused to become a composer for the Third Reich, was arrested for playing music by Felix Mendelssohn in public, and moved to the United States in 1952 as a committed pacifist.

**WELCOME** The Rev. Jimmy Solano Pickett

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

*Reader* Blessed are you, holy and living One.
*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

*Reader* A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

*adapted from Isaiah 40*

*Reader* Christ came as our redemption--
*People* **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

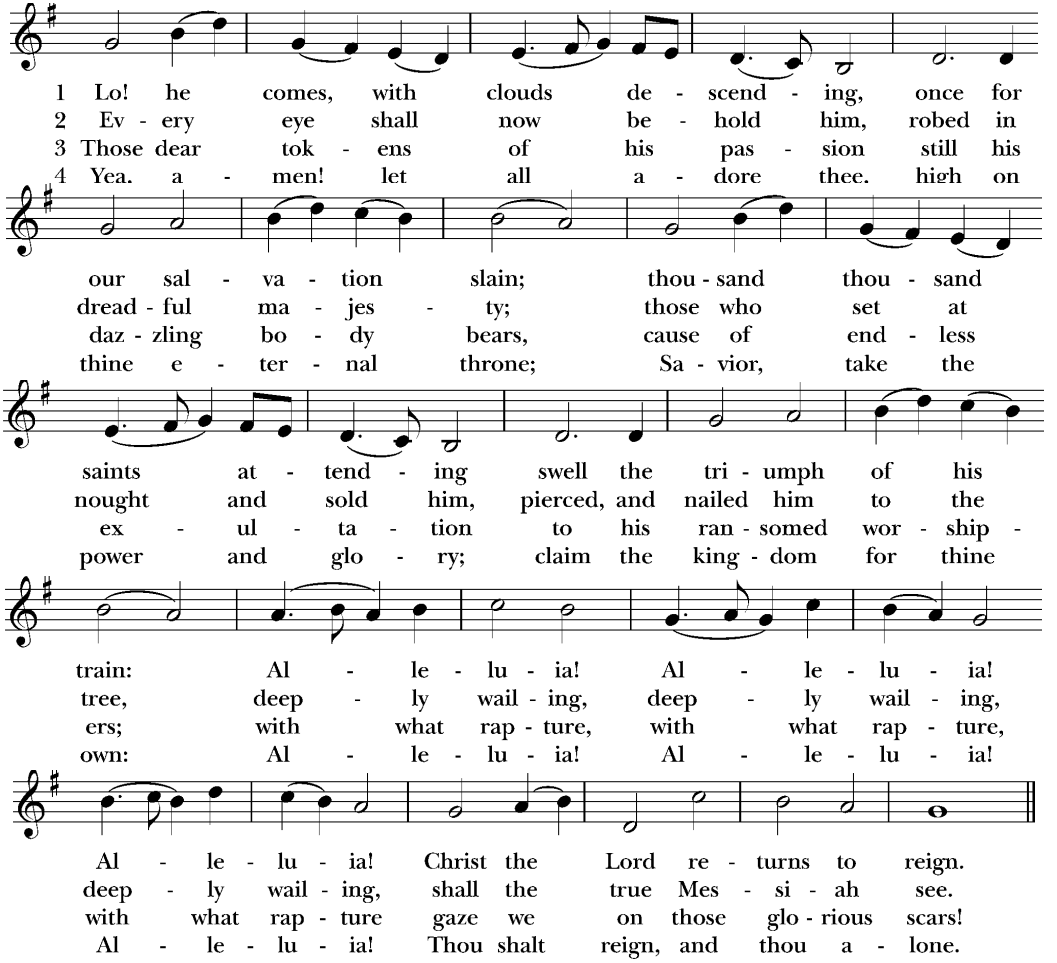
*Reader* Christ will come one day as our life--
*People* **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Reader* Christ comes to us now as our rest and consolation.
*People* **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

# The Word of God

## Opening Hymn: H 57

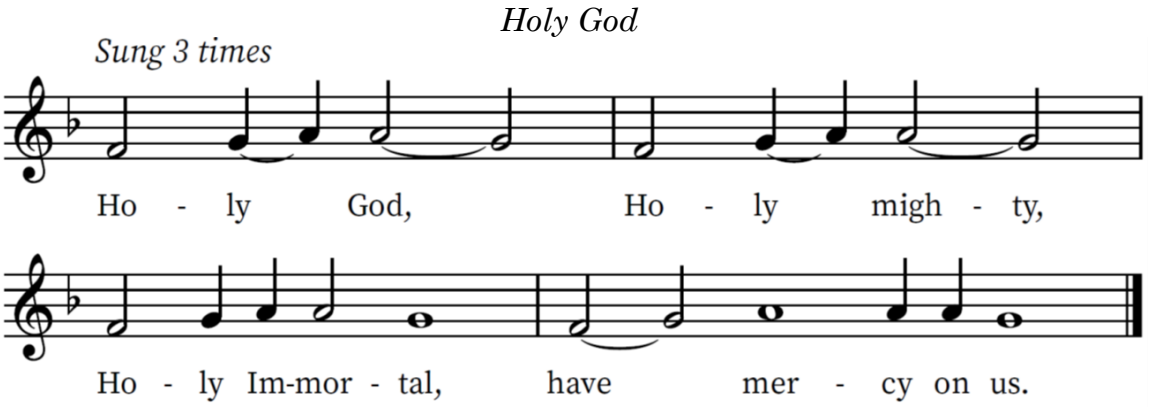
*Lo! he comes, with clouds descending*




Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Music: *Helmsley,* melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1788)

*Celebrant* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

**TRISAGION: SAINT GREGORY OF NYSSA #2**




Setting: Znamenny chant (Russia), harm. Boris Ledkovsky (1894-1975)

**THE COLLECT**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.
*People* **And also with you.**
*Celebrant* 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** **Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18**

*Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
**2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

3 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

17 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

**18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**THE SECOND READING** **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any

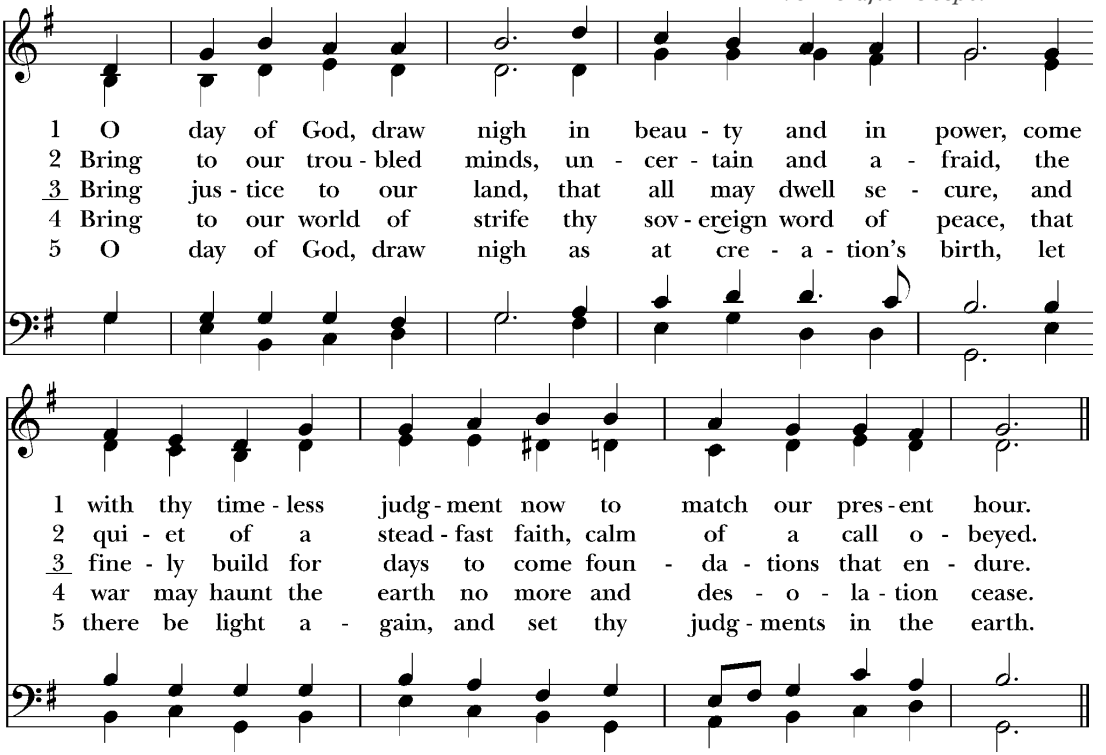
spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN: H 601**

***O day of God, draw nigh***

*Vs 1-3 before Gospel*
*Vs 4-5 after Gospel*




Words: Robert Balgarnie Young Scott (1899-1997)
Music: St. Michael, Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?); harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

**THE GOSPEL** **Mark 13:24-37**

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 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 suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

**THE SERMON** The Rev. Jimmy Solano Pickett

**THE NICENE CREED** *Enriching our Worship Translation*

**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,**
**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary**
**and became truly human.**
**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,**
**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**
**who 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.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**
*Advent 1B from A New Zealand Prayer Book—He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*

Creator of the stars in the sky, the sun, and the moon, You are the light by which we wake and work.
**Illumine our darkness and keep us alert.**

Surround your church, her leaders, and people, with your armor of light. We pray especially for Sean, our presiding bishop; Miguelina, our bishop; Jimmy, our priest, our Vestry, and for all priests and other ministers. Strengthen them as they reach out to you in prayer and hope. Open their hearts to your will.
**Illumine our darkness and keep us alert.**

We pray for our leaders: especially Donald, our president; Maura, our governor; and the Congress and courts of this land. Savior of the nations, guide those who govern, and awaken those they lead, that we may all live in the spirit of cooperation and share so that all have enough: food, care, and peace.
**Illumine our darkness and keep us alert.**

For people across the world whose spirits bend under the yoke of oppression and struggle, give the people of this community a sense of togetherness and support. Open our eyes to those who fall by the wayside and whose faces and needs remain invisible.
**Illumine our darkness and keep us alert.**

Lover of our souls, you continue to mold us in your image and hold us in your hands. We ask your blessing on those who struggle with illness, anxiety, grief, or isolation. Today we pray for those with no shelter, or not enough shelter, as the days grow colder.
**Illumine our darkness and keep us alert.**

Father of us all, we pray for those who have recently returned to your embrace and those who are broken with grief.

*Celebrant* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**.

**THE CONFESSION**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins to God.
*Silence*

*Celebrant and People*

**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 the grace of 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.**

**A Gratitude Moment**

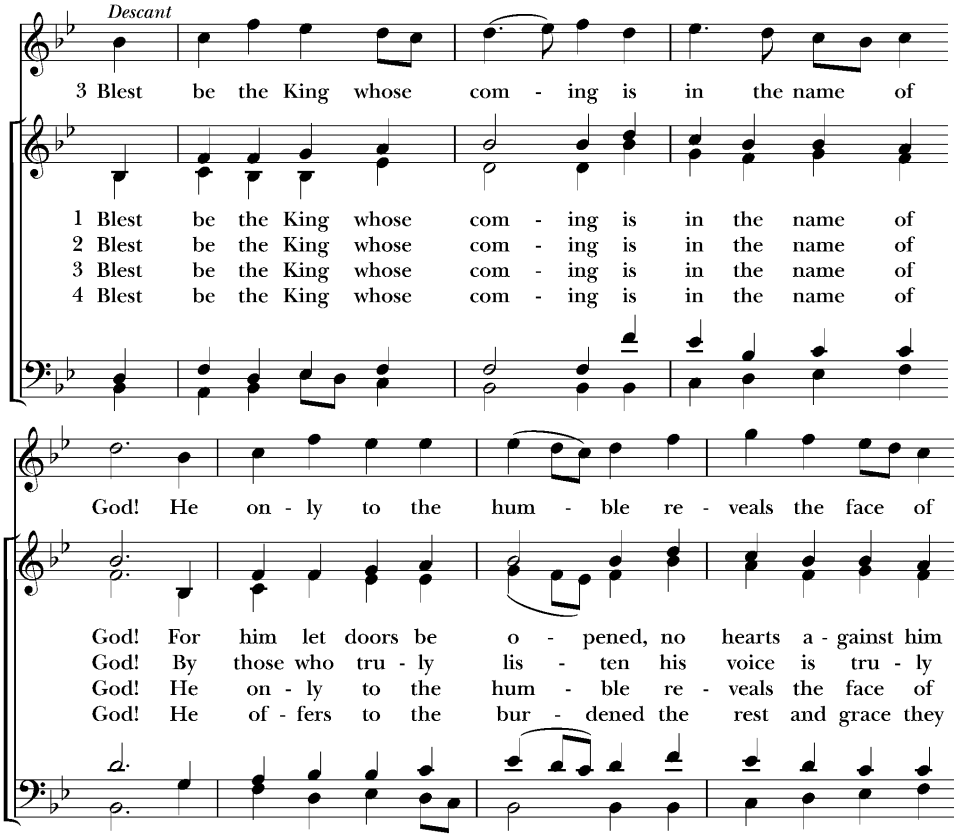
*Take a few moments to think of one thing during the past week for which you thank God. If you wish to share your gratitude moment briefly with the congregation, please come to the microphone.*

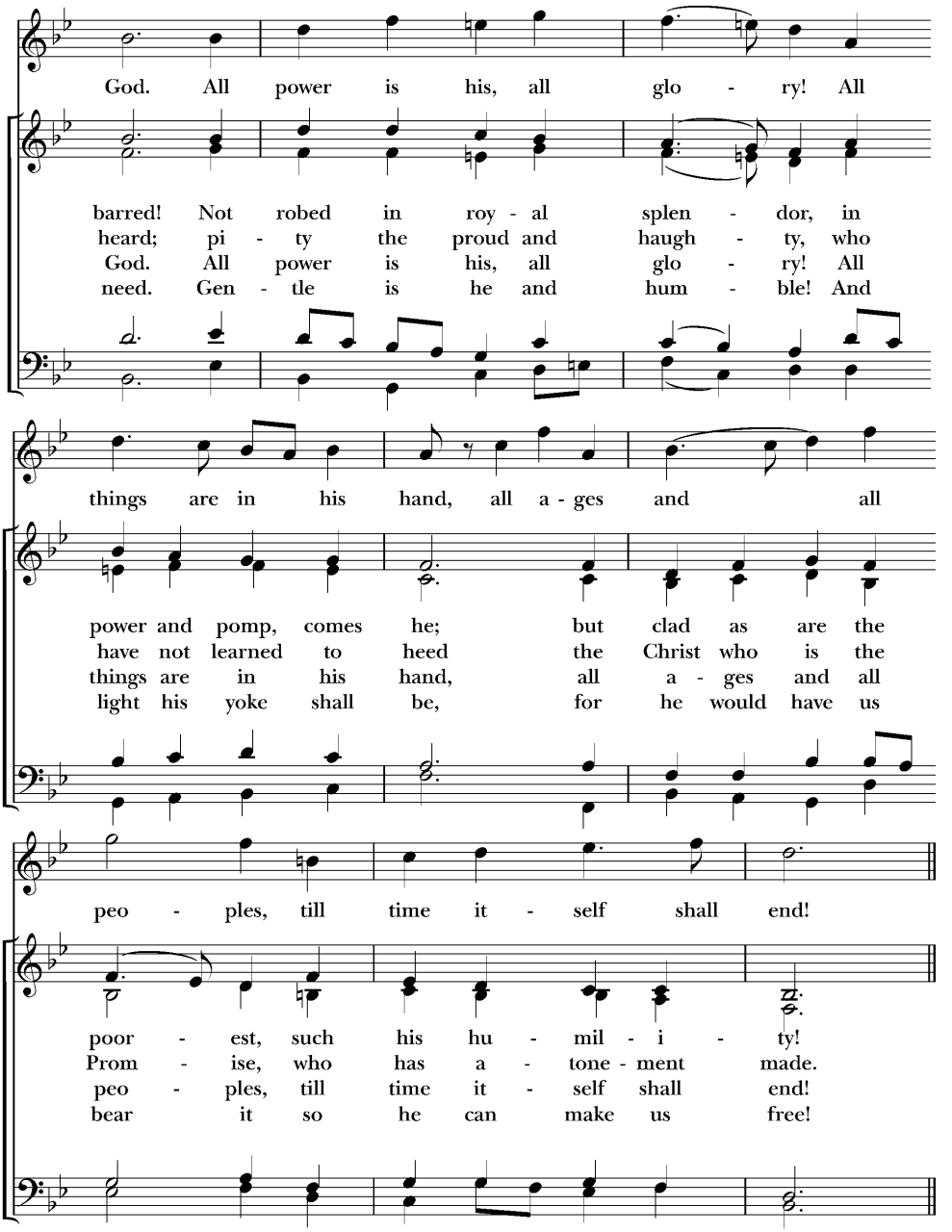
# The Holy Communion

*Celebrant* Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**Offertory Hymn: H 74**

***Blest be the King whose coming***

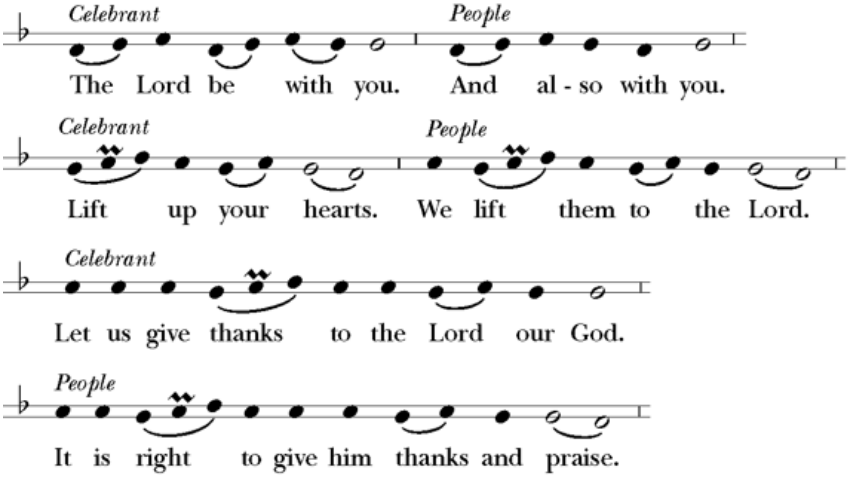





Words: Frederico J. Pagura (1923-2016); tr. F. Pratt Green (1903-2000), alt. Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt.; harm. and desc. Ronald Arnatt (1930-2018)

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Eucharistic Prayer 3* *Enriching Our Worship*

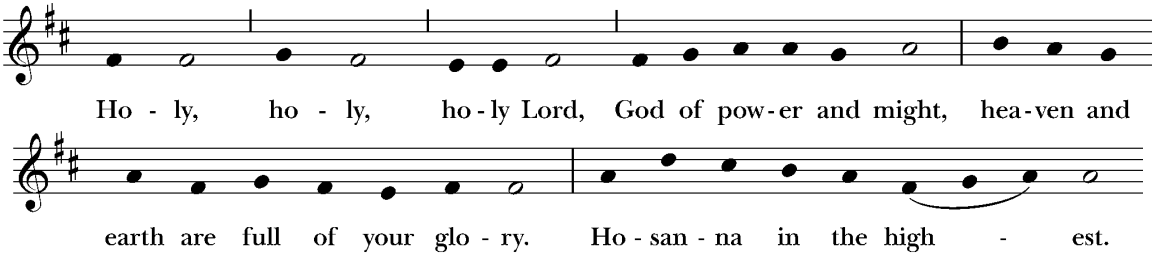


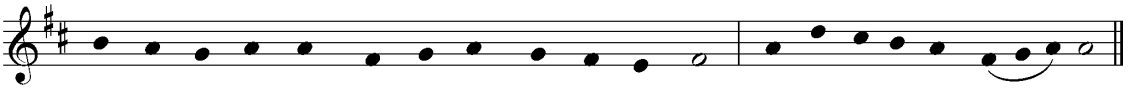

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so, as the morning stars sing your praises, we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

**SANCTUS: S 124**

***Holy, holy, holy Lord***






Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

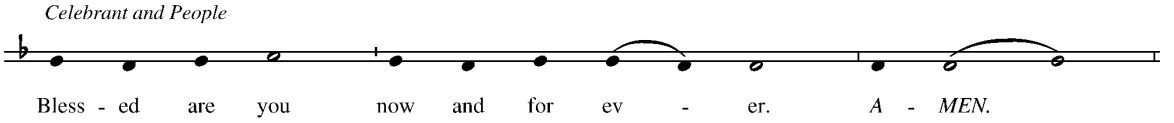
And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*People* **Dying, you destroyed our death.**
**Rising, you restored our life.**
**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

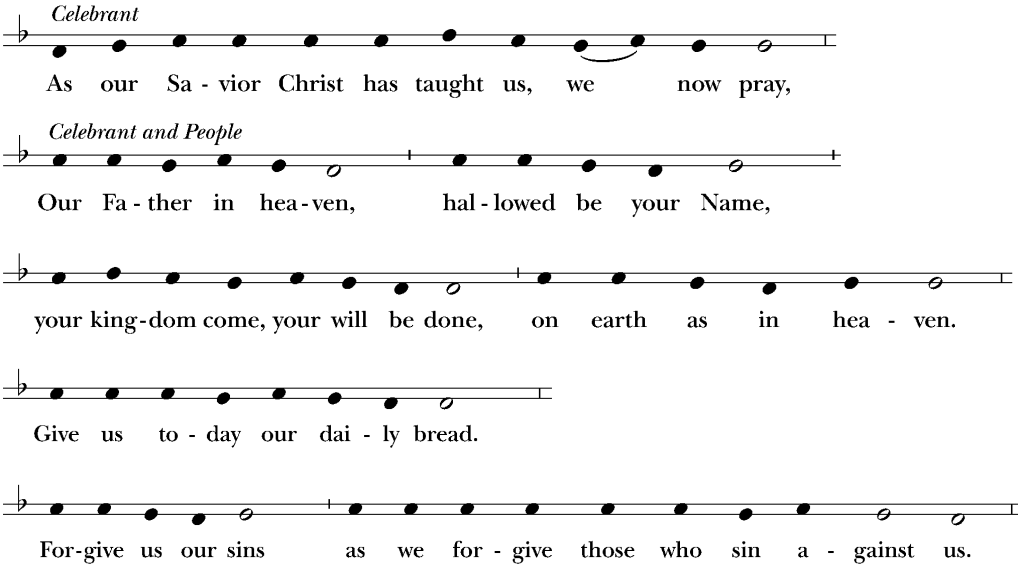
Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

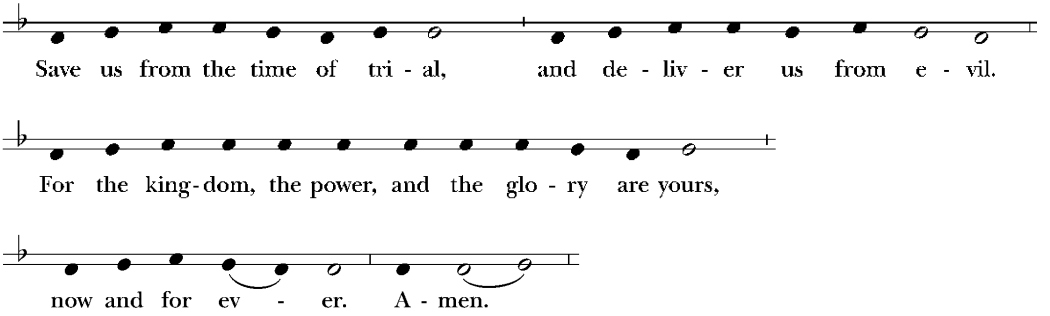
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.




*And now in the words that Jesus taught us and teaches us still, we pray,*

**S 148**

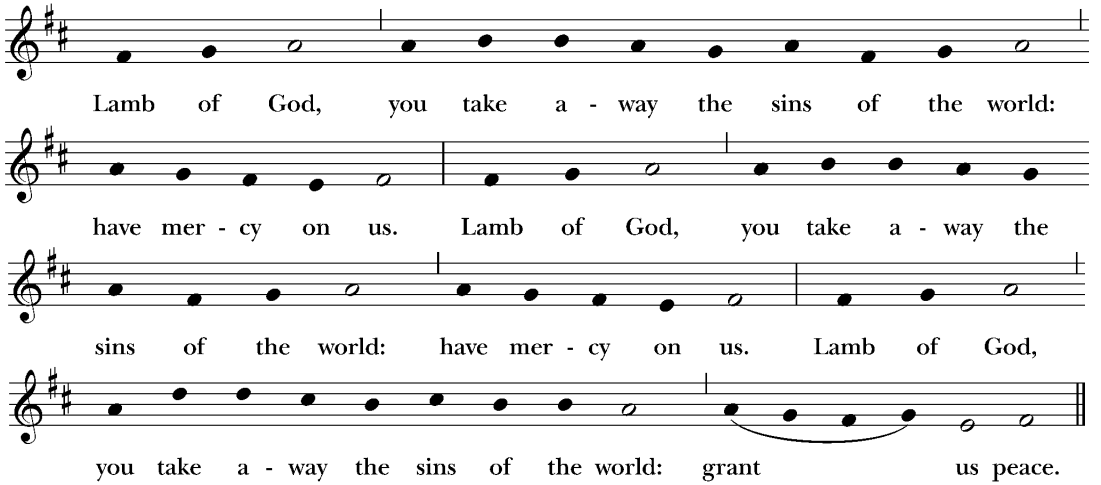





## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## THE FRACTION ANTHEM: S 161

***Lamb of God***




Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

| | |
|---|---|
| *Celebrant* | Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; |
| *People* | **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.** |
| *Celebrant* | The Gifts of God for the People of God. |
| *People* | **Thanks be to God.** |

All Are Welcome at God's Table

Gluten-free bread is available. Please let the priest know if you would 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.

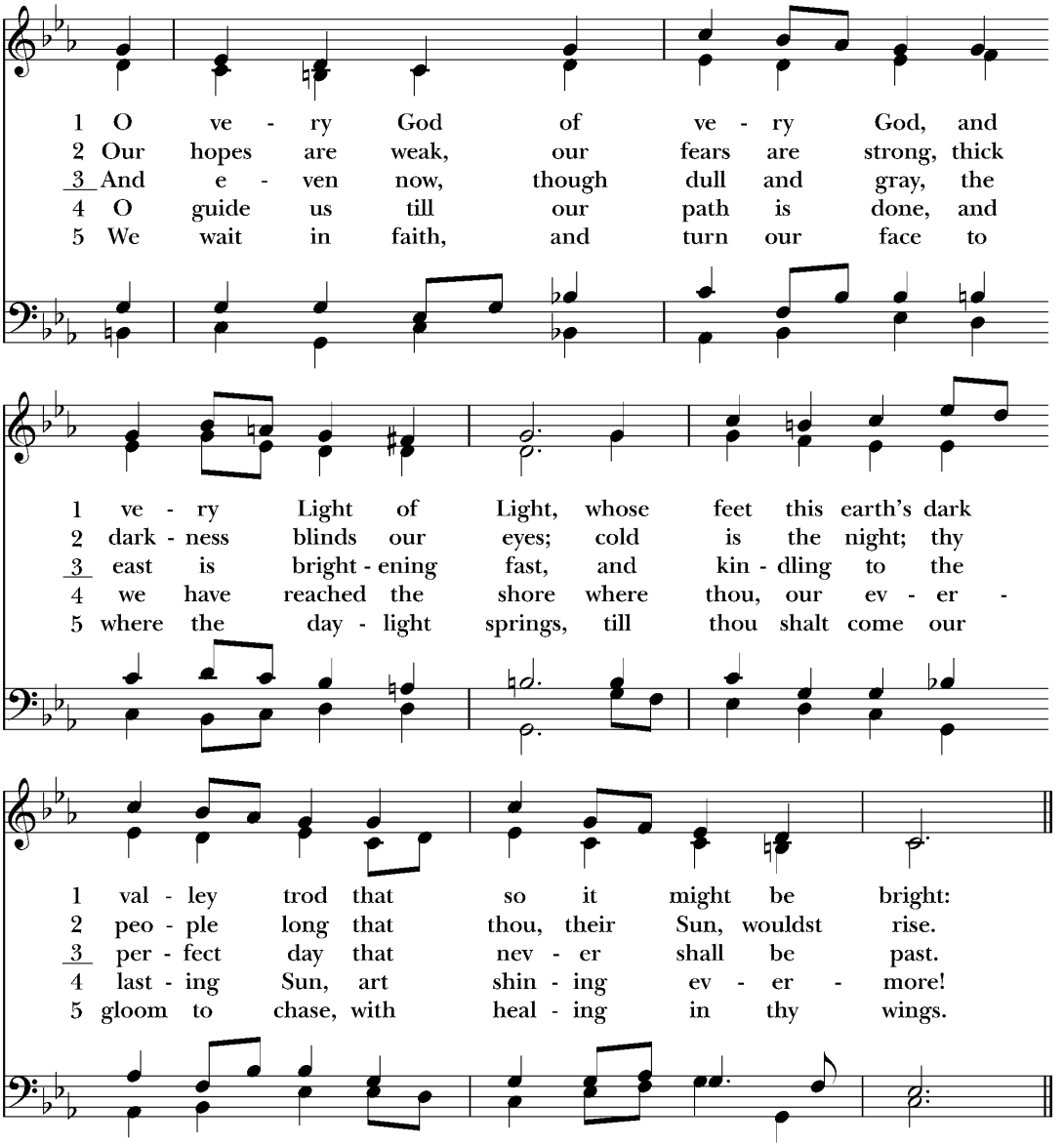
The Grace Healing Team is in the back of the room during Communion to offer the laying on of hands and a prayer for healing to anyone who desires it for themselves or another.

*If you cannot 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: H 672

### *O very God of very God*




Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
Music: *Bangor*, from *A Compleat Melody or Harmony of Zion*, 1834

**THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Let us pray.*

**Eternal God, giver of life, 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 Redeemer. Amen.**

**A PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN**

*Let us pray.*

**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 the Christ. Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** See page 28.

**BLESSING**

*Celebrant* May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

*People* **Amen**.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

*People* **Amen**.

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

*People* **Amen**.

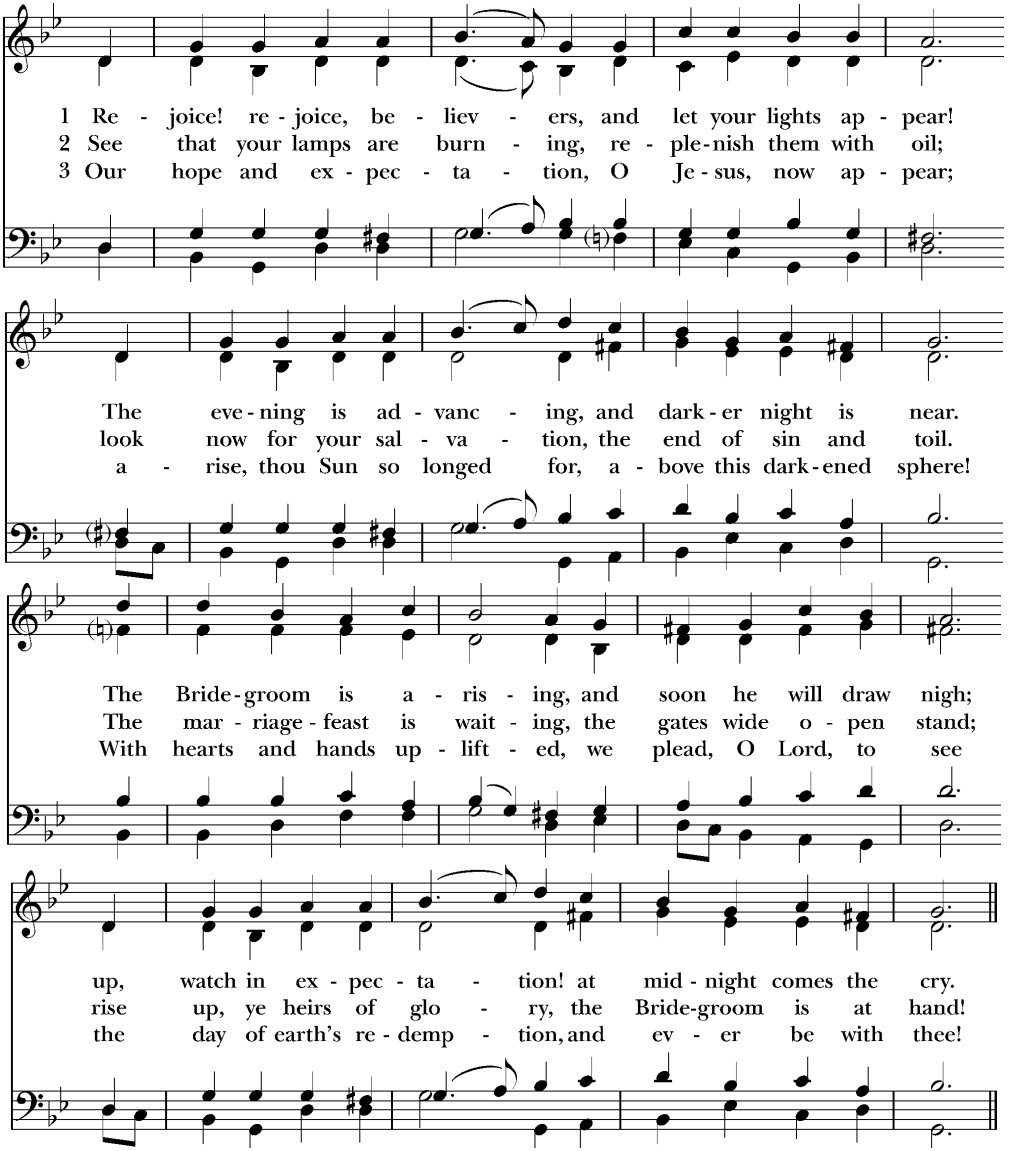
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, all those you love, and those you don't know how to love, this day and for ever.

*People* **Amen**.

**CLOSING HYMN: H 68**

***Rejoice! Rejoice, believers***



Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.
Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghmru,* 1865

## DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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

## POSTLUDE

***Wachet auf (Sleepers wake!)***

*Melody by Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

Pastor Nicolai wrote this hymn, "Wake up!"during the plague in Unna, Westphalia (Germany) 1597-1598 when he buried up to 30 people a day in the cemetery of his church.

## GRACE CHURCH INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Please Include in Your Daily Prayers This Week*

**Members of the Parish Family:** Richard Starr; Kirk and Connie Garber; David Pixley; Edna Leavenworth; Pennie Curry; Aicha and Matt Marcos; Rick and Sue Gore, and the Haywood family; Louise Peterson; Charlene Peet; The Rev. Marc Britt; Anne Andrews; George Raymond; Dindy and Mark Anderson; Linda White and her grandchildren, Claire, Mark, and Johnny; David Hamill; Rosemarie Blakely.

**Others we Love:** Aya Abdallah and Frank Zimmerman, son and daughter in law of Janet Zimmerman; Pat Murray, grandmother of Caroline Murray; Lenny Clough, brother-in-law of Dindy Anderson; Judy Davis, grandmother of Jacob Greer; Lisa Solomon, friend of David Pixley; Jack Starr, father of Richard Starr; Julia DePeyster, friend of Lea Richardson; Ada Gómez, mother-in-law of Rev. Jimmy; Cynthia Griesing, Holly Murray's mother; Doreen's sister, Linda Manardi; Paul, neighbor of Gina and Phil; Susie, Mike, and Emily Silver; Fran Hunt, Anne Andrew's sister; Michal Snyder, Dessida's sister; Anne Kistrup and Pam Reed, Lynn Walker's friends; Susan Bunce, Mary Booton's sister; George Laye; Fleming Rutledge; Tania Guerrero and her baby daughter Eugenia Marie Ayala Guerrero; David Rodriguez Ovalle, Sergio Rodriguez's father; Richard Cherneff; Cynthia Griesing, Holly Murray's mother; Bishop Michael Curry; Sara Miles and her wife Martha; Jerry and Karen Ericson; James Driscoll; Livia Driscoll; Deborah McCurdy.

**Those who have died:** Cathy Haywood, Doug Happ, Lorraine Colombo, Lisa Leavenworth**,** Fred Harris**,** Dick Rutledge**,** Dale Peterson, Hawa Kiebre and Salif Tiri Ouedraogo, mother and father of Aicha Marcos; Kathy O'Brien, Pennie Curry's sister; Paul Haywood, Sue Gore's brother; The Rev. Donna Larson former Rector of St. George's; Hannah Peabody, Caroline Murray's friend; The Rev. Donald Peet; Pamela Drumm.

**Our world:** For the people of Iran, Lebanon, Haiti, Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, the Sudan, and all other places of violence and war, that peace and justice may prevail, and human fear and suffering diminish. For all victims of hatred in this country; for all victims of gun violence and also for those who inflict gun violence on others. For all who are alone, 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 Rev. Samuel Vaught, the Rev. Jane Tillman, and the Rev. Libby Wade; Christ Trinity and the Rev. Erik Karas; our Bishop, the Mampong Babies' Home; and The Rt. Rev. Miguelina Howell, our Bishop.

In the sixth century, **the "filioque" clause** referring to the Holy Spirit crept into the Nicene Creed in the Church in the West (Roman) without consultation or agreement from the Church in the East (Orthodox): "…Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father **and the Son**." The Episcopal Church meeting in general Convention in 1994 agreed to remove the clause in the next revision of the Book of Common Prayer. In the meantime, since Grace Church prints the creed text in our bulletins, we have removed the clause and adjusted musical settings to put the Episcopal Church's intention into practice.

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

| ROTA | **Today 11/29/26** | **Next Week 12/6/26** |
|---|---|---|
| WELCOME TEAM | Rick Gore<br>Sue Gore | Mackenzie Kendall<br>Louise Peterson |
| ACOLYTE | Jacob Greer<br>Caroline Murray | Jack Kamps |
| LECTOR | Matt Marcos | Carol Way |
| INTERCESSOR | Holly Murray | Lynn Walker |
| CHALICE BEARERS | Jacob Greer<br>Holly and Caroline Murray | Jack Kamps<br>Mackenzie Kendall |
| HEALING TEAM | Sue Gore<br>Ted Cobden | Kathy Clausen<br>Ted Cobden |
| ALTAR GUILD | Jacob Greer<br>Mackenzie Kendall | Jack Kamps<br>Mackenzie Kendall |
| COFFEE HOUR | Kirchoff<br>Gore | Greer/Kendall<br>Gore |
| COUNTERS | Rick Gore<br>Kathy Clausen | Matt Marcos<br>Kathy Clausen |
| VESTRY CLOSER | Kevin Rosero | Matt Marcos |

## CALENDAR
## ALL IN-PERSON + ON ZOOM

Wednesdays, 10:00 am: Contemplative Eucharist at Grace Church Chapel
Thursdays, 4:00 pm: Centering Prayer at Grace Church Chapel
Sundays, 10:00 am: Worship Service at Berkshire South Community Center

## GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

| | |
|---|---|
| Senior Warden: | Matt Marcos |
| Junior Warden: | Evie Starr |
| Treasurer: | Sue Gore |
| Clerk: | Doreen Hutchinson |
| Class of 2027 | Jainee McCarroll, Kevin Rosero |
| Class of 2028 | Mackenzie Kendall |
| Class of 2029 | Dindy Anderson, Phil Burt, Lynn Carlson |

## GRACE CHURCH

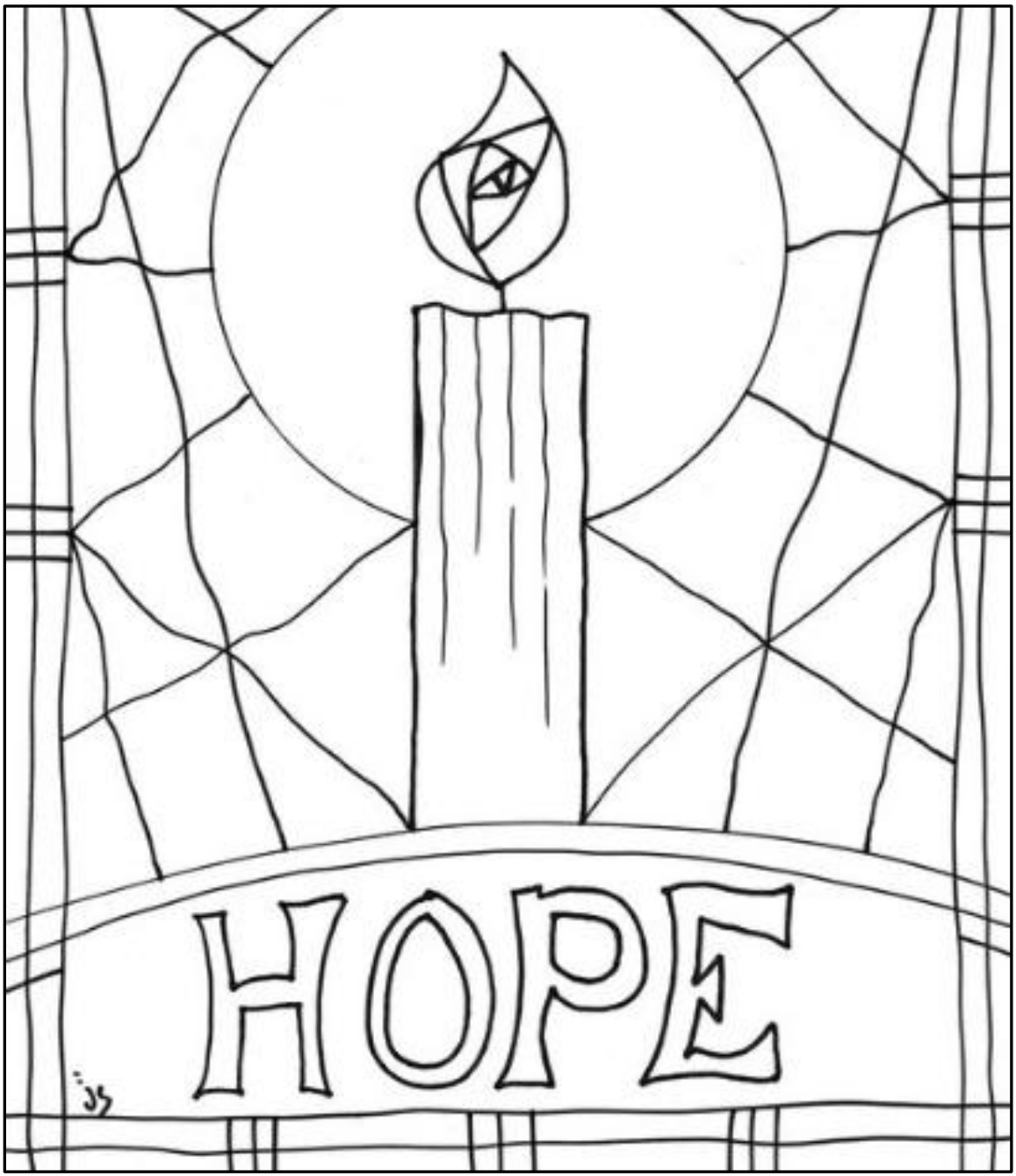
Chapel: 67 State Road | Mailing: PO Box 114
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Phone: (413) 644-0022 | E-mail: office@graceberkshires.org
Please visit our website: www.graceberkshires.org

## GRACE CHURCH STAFF

| | |
|---|---|
| Bishop of Western Massachusetts: | The Rt. Rev. Miguelina Howell |
| Rector: | The Rev. Jimmy Solano Pickett |
| Gideon's Garden Director: | Jack Kamps |
| Choir Director: | John Cheek |
| Keyboardist: | Lee Cheek |
| Parish Administrator: | Mackenzie Kendall |

Grace Church worships and gardens
On the traditional land of the Mohican people.

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HOPE

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADVENT OFFERINGS**

Check out the Welcome Table! We have:

- A family friendly weekly devotional,
- A daily devotional,
- An advent calendar

If you are still interested in an advent wreath, send an email to the office! We still have three wreaths left for a suggested $25 donation!

**GRACEFUL GATHERING**

December 7th at 12:00 noon
Lea Richardson's house

Join us for the last Graceful Gathering of 2026. Bring your lunch and enjoy the fellowship!

**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT MAKING!**

The Richardsons' house on Monday,
December 7th at 2 pm.

**MONDAY NIGHT COMPLINE**

8pm on Zoom
(Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th, 14th, and 21st)

**THURSDAY CENTERING PRAYER**

4pm @ Office Chapel

**CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY EUCHARIST**

and Blessing of the Nativity Creche
4:30pm @ Berkshire South