

Welcome

We are pleased to have you worship with us this morning! We hope that your spiritual life is deepened today.

Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the church hall following worship.

Nursery care and Sunday School up to age 12 is available in the parish hall. Children will rejoin their parents after the Peace.

Contact Us

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Staff

Rector The Rev. Jason Wells
Music Minister Justine Paul
Sexton Jane Lavin

Leadership

Senior Warden Randy Makee
Junior Warden Gerry Monroe
Clerk Scott Cumming
Treasurer Stephen Wheeler
Vestry Beth Lavoie
Audrey Rose
Brittany Wheeler
Marily Wilson

This Sunday's Servers

Eucharistic Minister Jay Hendee
Eucharistic Min. Brooke Wheeler
Acolyte Charlie Makee
Reader Brooke Wheeler
Reader Barb Ashworth
Usher Will Ashworth
Usher Barb Ashworth
Counter Will Ashworth
Counter Deb Allen
Coffee Hour The Makee family

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Feeding you, body, mind and soul

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 15, 2013



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn 72

Hark the glad sound! the Savior comes

Opening Acclamation and Prayer

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy

Hymnal S-95

Cantor or Choir *All* *Cantor or Choir*
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

All *Cantor or Choir* *All*
Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

Response: **And also with you.**

Adventskranz Photo by Liesel

Isaiah 35:1-10

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:4-9

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob
for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas,
and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

James 5:7-10

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 56, vv. 5-6 *O come, O come Emmanuel*

Matthew 11:2-11

First response: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Second response: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon The Rev Jason Wells

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 salva-

tion 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

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory

Hymn 462 *The Lord will come and not be slow*

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
power 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.

Memorial Acclamation

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Amen

Celebrant *People*
A - men.

Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Altar. If you come to the rail and cross your arms over your chest, you may receive a blessing instead of Communion.

If you would like to be baptized, please speak to the Rev. Jason Wells as soon as possible for scheduling.

Communion

Hymn

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

Closing Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Hymn 59

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding

Dismissal

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals happen during the 10am Sunday School classes. All children (youth, elementary, nursery) will rejoin their parents during the Peace.

Lectio Divina on Wed, Dec. 18 at 5pm to explore this ancient, accessible prayer method. Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Poinsettias To beautify our Christmas worship, fill out the envelope in your pew and place it in the offering plate when it comes by. Orders must be in **today**. Suggested gift: \$10.

Rosary Class Today at 11am, Father Jason will teach you how to use this ancient form of prayer and meditation.

Homeless Memorial Candlelight Vigil on Fri., Dec. 20, 4pm at the State House. Come on the longest night of the year, the first night of Winter, to honor our homeless who died in 2013. Donations of socks, hats and mittens welcome.

From the Pledge Clerk Any donations for 2013 must be received by 11am on Dec. 29. Donations received later will be recorded for 2014.

Christmas Eve Worship: 4pm and 7pm

Our first, earlier Christmas Eve service features the children's Christmas pageant at 4pm. The second, later service features sermon, choir, candlelight and violinist Naomi Durand at 7pm.

Friendly Kitchen Donations

Until December 18, bring donations of THINSULATE GLOVES, FLEECE HAT AND A PAIR OF WHITE ATHLETIC SOCKS to the box located in the Parish Hall. The items will go to the Friendly Kitchen for Christmas gift bags for their guests. Some of them live out in the cold all day and night or have homes with little to no heat.

BY THE NUMBERS

Date	Att.	Pledge	Plate
12/1	82	\$1,678	\$57
12/8	79	\$2,119	\$64
Year	3,250	\$78,123	\$5,268

COMING UP

12/20	5pm	Turkey Supper
12/22	11am	Stump the Priest
1/19	11am	Annual Meeting

PRAYER NEEDS

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer
St. James Church, Laconia

Requests

Thurston, Ernest, Anna, Kelly, Jo, Robert, Maggie and James.

"O" ANTIPHONS

Open your hymnal to Hymn 56 (*O come, O come Emmanuel*). You will see dates starting on Dec. 17 by each verse. Try praying one verse as part of your evening devotions in the week leading to Christmas.

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.**

Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11
Monday	Numbers 24:2-17a
Tuesday	Genesis 49:2, 8-10
Wednesday	Jeremiah 23:5-8
Thurs.	Judg. 13:2-7, 24-25
Friday	Isaiah 7:10-14
Saturday	Zeph. 3:14-18a