

Grace & Holy Trinity Church

an Episcopal parish on Monroe Park



First Sunday in Advent

Year A

Holy Eucharist, Rite One

November 30, 2025 | 8:00 a.m.

Welcome

Welcome to Grace & Holy Trinity. We hope you will find a community here with us, whether you are a college student, Richmond newcomer, out-of-towner, or a long-time resident looking for a new church home. **If you are visiting,** please fill out the **Connect Card** from the Connect Table and place it in the offering plate during the service. A wonderful **nursery** staff is available from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. should you wish to drop off your young children (up to age 3) during worship. **Changing tables** are located in the family restroom in the choir room. A greeter can direct you. Information about **complimentary Sunday parking** can be found on the back of this bulletin.

The Word of God

The beginning of our worship is intended as a time of reflection.

Advent I

Celebrant Our king and Savior now draws near;

All Come let us adore him.

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

Advent Wreath

Celebrant By day and by night, and through the circle of the seasons, you keep watch over us, God Most High. We praise you for this Advent wreath. It is the evergreen crown of your royal people. Soon it will grow bright and scatter the darkness. Around this shining wreath we shall keep watch for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who comes to comfort our fears and make new this waiting world: Glory in heaven and peace on earth, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer p. 323

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

The Collect for Purity

Book of Common Prayer p. 323

Celebrant Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Trisagion

Book of Common Prayer p. 324

Celebrant Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

All Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Book of Common Prayer p. 159

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

You may be seated for the readings.

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1–5

Lector A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122

Book of Common Prayer p. 779

Read responsively by whole verse.

Laetatus sum

Lector 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

All 2 **Now our feet are standing ***
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

4 **To which the tribes go up,**
the tribes of the Lord, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the Lord.

5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

6 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ***
"May they prosper who love you. (continues on next page)

- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, ***
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

Second Reading

Romans 13:11–14

Lector A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Matthew 24:36–44

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Steve Pace, *Deacon*

Silence for reflection.

The Nicene Creed

Book of Common Prayer p. 326

Celebrant Let us stand, and affirm our common faith in these words of the Nicene Creed.

The Prayers of the People

Book of Common Prayer p. 328

Parish Prayer List

The Confession of Sin & Absolution

Book of Common Prayer p. 330

The Peace

Book of Common Prayer p. 332

Welcome & Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Book of Common Prayer p. 376

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

– *Ephesians 5:2*



To donate or pay your pledge, scan the QR code or visit ghtc.org/give.

In receiving the offertory plates we say ...

All All things come of thee O Lord and of thine own have we given thee. – *1 Chronicles 29:14*

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

Book of Common Prayer p. 367

The Lord's Prayer

Book of Common Prayer p. 336

The Breaking of the Bread

Book of Common Prayer p. 337

Communion Instructions

Communicants will drink from the Chalice at the Altar in the chapel or intinct (dip) their wafer in the intinction cup. If you choose to intinct, after you receive the wafer, simply pinch the wafer between your thumb and index finger and hold it up near your face. This will signal for the intinction cup to be brought to you. You will dip the wafer yourself and then receive. Alternatively, communicants who receive the Bread may refrain from drinking from the Chalice entirely. Those who refrain from drinking from the Chalice are encouraged to cross their arms and say “Amen” when the Chalice is offered: their “Amen” is their verbal acknowledgment of the grace of the sacrament, the full grace of which is communicated through the Bread.

Post-Communion Prayer

Book of Common Prayer p. 339

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Henri-Frédéric Amiel & *Book of Common Prayer* p. 339

Deacon Friends, life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us so be swift to love, make haste to be kind and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Flowers at the Altar



This Sunday's Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of John Beverley Rankin. *If you would like to remember or honor a loved one by giving altar flowers, scan the QR Code, call the office, or visit ghtc.org/flowers for information.*

Today's Worship Leaders

The Rev. Steve Pace, *Deacon & Preacher*

The Rev. Marissa Sotos, *Celebrant*

Andrew Peacock, *Lector*

The Season of Advent (Blue)

Advent comes from the Latin word “adventus” meaning “coming.” The season is a time of expectation and preparation for the coming of the Lord’s Nativity at Christmas and for the final coming of Christ “in power and glory.” Advent is the first season of the church year, beginning the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The theme of readings and teachings during Advent is to prepare us for the Second Coming while commemorating the First Coming of Christ at Christmas. We use blue vestments during Advent to symbolize hope, expectation, and anticipation for the coming of Christ. Blue also represents the darkness before the birth. The blue color is seen in our church hangings and in the clergy’s vestments. We also use **Advent wreaths** to symbolize this four week passage to Christmas Day. The wreath is a circle made of evergreen with four candles: three blue and one pink candle for Mary. Our tradition also uses a white fifth candle for Christ placed in the center and lit on Christmas. We invite you to wait in Advent.

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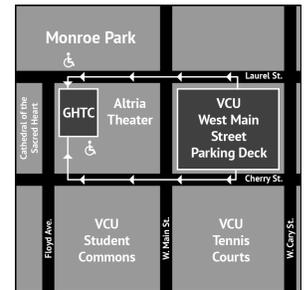
Complimentary Sunday Parking Instructions at VCU W. Main Street Parking Deck



Validation Number: WM-1593

Expiration date: 06/30/2026

QR code only valid on Sundays.



1. Enter the parking deck from N. Laurel Street or N. Cherry Street.
2. At the parking gate arm, press the button to receive a ticket.
3. Park in any available space in the deck.
4. After visiting Grace & Holy Trinity, exit the parking deck in your vehicle and scan your parking ticket into the machine at the parking gate arm.
5. When the machine asks for payment, hold the QR code to the scanner.
6. The machine will scan the code, accept it as payment, and the parking gate arm will raise in order for you to exit.

***If you need assistance, press the “i” button at the gate and someone will assist remotely.**

| GHTC Staff: Name, <i>Title</i> | Ministry Focus | Phone Ext. |
|--|---|-------------------|
| The Rev. Brent A. Melton, <i>Priest-in-Charge</i> | Admin. Liturgy Formation | Ext. 17 |
| The Rev. Marissa Sotos, <i>Assistant Priest</i> | Outreach Communications Liturgy | Ext. 16 |
| The Rev. Steve Pace, <i>Deacon</i> | Outreach Pastoral Care | Ext. 12 |
| The Rev. Russ Kerr, <i>Campus Minister</i> | Pace Center Student Engagement Coordinator | |
| The Rev. Jenny Montgomery, <i>Priest Associate</i> | Worship Parish Life | |
| Luke Brennan, <i>Assistant Choirmaster & Organist</i> | Youth Instrumental Ensemble Choir | Ext. 21 |
| Tyler Brady, <i>Communications Associate</i> | Communications Media Printing | Ext. 25 |
| Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis, <i>Choirmaster & Organist</i> | Music Choir Liturgy | Ext. 18 |
| Lauren Frazier, <i>Parish Administrator</i> | Property Admin. Pastoral & Clergy Support | Ext. 23 |
| Barbara Hobson-Simpson, <i>Receptionist</i> | Doors Phones Welcome | Ext. 10 |
| Madeleine Preston, <i>Director of Formation</i> | Children & Youth Adult Formation | Ext. 15 |
| Mark Roman, <i>Sexton</i> | Property | |
| Kathy Schultheis, <i>Financial Administrator</i> | Admin. Expenses Pledges | Ext. 14 |
| Abigail Stinnett, <i>Children’s Choir Director</i> | Children’s Choir | |

We ask that you please take this bulletin with you and recycle it when you are finished.

Grace & Holy Trinity Church
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