

GRACE NOTES—December 2024

THE REFLECTION POOL, BY FATHER JOE HANNAH

A few days ago we bought our Thanksgiving Turkey, which prompted me to look for the Cutco carving knives we use a few times per year. On the high shelf in the kitchen next to the knives I found the object that sparks the anticipation of Advent and the celebration of Christmas in my flinty old heart. It is the cookie press. I make press cookies only in December, and this faithful old contraption has been in the family since it was purchased from Ferary's department store (my grandfather Joe Ferary) in Masontown, PA somewhere around 1948. It is still in mint condition and ready to help kick off the Christmas season.

Anticipation is the big theme in Advent and you find it throughout our readings every Sunday. Old Testament books such as Jeremiah and Daniel anticipate the coming of a savior, the "son of man", who will sweep away the enemies of Israel and "execute justice and righteousness in the land." This was expected to be a very powerful religious and /or political leader descended from the house of the revered King David. In the New Testament we find the Jewish people who eventually founded the Christian church(es) coming to terms with the fact that their savior was mighty indeed-in empathy, character, determination, strength, and holiness. Jesus achieved dominion over death by his obedience on the cross. Coming again in power and glory, in whatever form that it is manifest, would have to wait. For the Jewish people, especially at the time, this was counterintuitive. Where are the chariots of fire!? Needless to say, it takes time to make disciples of all the nations. The early christians believed that the change was imminent. We now know that Jesus has indeed broken into the world, but we are still working on making earth as it is in Heaven!

The light that overcomes darkness has come into the world. Jesus was a gentle soul who was fierce in his convictions. In Advent we are grateful for the love of a God who sent His only son into the world under circumstances that even the most humble among us can understand. We are drawn to the light. So sing carols, display lights, make cookies, share your wealth, and be of good cheer.

Christmas is coming.

Prepare Him room.

Fr. Joe



Calling All Bakers!

"COOKIE SALE"

Changed to December 11th - same night as Community Band Concert.

Signups in foyer for the following dates:

Men's Bake night is December 5th at 6pm. Pizza will be provided

Cookie Decorating is December 8th following Sunday Service.

(light lunch will be provided)

Cookie packaging is December 10th at 5pm.(light supper provided)

Selling is December 11th from at 6-7pm and 8pm-sold out.

If you are baking and decorating your own cookies, please drop off by 6 pm on December 10th. Someone will be here from 4 pm on.

If your cookies need decorating, please deliver by 11am on Sunday, December 8th.

If you are helping to decorate, please bring any tools you have.

Thank you

You can also bring decorated and undecorated cookies to church by 11am on December 8th.

ADVENT FORUM



Advent Study

Time: After the Sunday Service starting in December.

Book: Emmanuel: An Invitation to prepare Him Room

By: Ruth Chou Simons

NOVEMBER VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Treasurer Tina Santy's financial report was accepted.
- The 2022-2023 audit was satisfactorily completed. Thank you, Mark and Alex.
- The preliminary budget for 2025 was worked on.
- The church's locks will be changed after the first of the year. All those with keys need to take a Safe Church course by June. Contact the church office.
- The church will purchase a dehumidifier for the undercroft storage room.
- Of monies donated after funerals, the first \$500.00 will go into the rector's discretionary fund and the rest into the Memorial fund.
- Next meeting December 19, 2024. Note change of date.

KEY UPDATE

At the beginning of the year, we will be changing the locks to enter the building. Please note that to have a key, safe church training must be completed. Keys will be re-issued, then if needed you will need to complete your safe church training by June 1st to keep your key, otherwise you will be asked to return it. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Allen Wolf

Communications Coordinator

office@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Order Poinsettias Now

Visit our website to order Christmas flowers or complete a form located in the Welcome Area. Plants are \$10 each and may be picked up following the Sunday December 29th 9 a.m. service (please leave the tray when taking flowers).

Orders due by Sunday, December 15 to ensure names are included in the Christmas bulletin. Thanks!



Outreach Christmas Giving Projects 2024

As in past years, the Outreach Ministry is collecting family games for the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau. These are a popular way to get families together in a fun activity, especially over Christmas break. Any games are accepted, but we especially need those that are appropriate for families with older children and adults. Please join us in helping the Christmas Bureau spread joy this holiday season



New this year!

Outreach is also asking parishioners to provide certain breakfast items for the Baldwinsville School Bee Full Back Pack Program. During the school break, kids do not receive breakfast at school and so may be going hungry. So, in addition to the usual snacks Bee Full provides, they would like to deliver breakfast items to the families. They would like Grace Church to provide the following specific breakfast foods:

1. Pancake mix (the kind that you just add water to)
2. Pancake syrup (any kind)
3. Hot chocolate or cocoa packets

**Please bring all donations of games and breakfast items to church by
December 15**

Thank you in advance for your continued kindness and generosity!



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COOKIE



**SALE
WEDNESDAY
DEC 11**



WHERE: GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BALDWINVILLE
110 OSWEGO ST (ROUTE 48)



WHAT: HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE
\$15/BOX

BALDWINVILLE COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM

CONCERT TO BEGIN AT 7:00PM

SALE WILL CONTINUE AFTER THE CONCERT AS WELL



OUTREACH THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

Thank-you from
Outreach to our
generous parishioners!



Outreach collected nonperishable Thanksgiving dinner food items for 20 families. These will be delivered through the Bee Full program at Baker High School



Baker Students
decorating bags

ADVENT CALENDAR 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Worship</p> <p>Advent 1</p> <p>Read Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus? Where do you see them in your worship today?</p>	<p>2 Pray</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 1, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. Set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you.</p>	<p>3 Turn</p> <p>Read Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently? How might this lesson change the way you celebrate or recognize this holy season?</p>	<p>4 Bless</p> <p>Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.</p>	<p>5 Rest</p> <p>Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two. Whatever happens in that time, you can handle later. Give this time to yourself and Jesus, to rest and recharge for the week ahead.</p>	<p>6 Go</p> <p>Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God's presence in your community.</p>	<p>7 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah's speech returns, he praises God. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.</p>
<p>8 Worship</p> <p>Advent 2</p> <p>Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?</p>	<p>9 Pray</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass. Ask God to bless them in their lives and work. See how this changes the way you go about your week.</p>	<p>10 Turn</p> <p>Do you have amends or apologies or adjustments you need to make? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God's help, to make those changes.</p>	<p>11 Bless</p> <p>We know that angels are God's special messengers to us, and that Gabriel spent intentional time with Mary, helping her to understand her part in God's story. Who has shared an important lesson or their presence with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.</p>	<p>12 Rest</p> <p>Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone or while sitting next to each other on the couch or across the table. Just give it a try. Make sure to set aside time after your silence to pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest.</p>	<p>13 Go</p> <p>Go out of your way to have a conversation with someone you might not normally visit with today. Ask God to open your heart to hear this person as God does.</p>	<p>14 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week. It can be someone you have known for a while who has not heard the faith part of your story.</p>
<p>15 Worship</p> <p>Advent 3</p> <p>Imagine the faces you'd like to see at church — an all-star list of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for those folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.</p>	<p>16 Pray</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.</p>	<p>17 Turn</p> <p>Turn away from the busyness of the world right now. Turn your heart and mind toward giving thanks for this time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal.</p>	<p>18 Bless</p> <p>Spend a significant amount of time today discerning if there is a special blessing or gift you can share with your church, a local ministry, or with your community. Ask God to inspire and equip you with the fortitude and tools to make this gift something truly memorable and heartfelt.</p>	<p>19 Rest</p> <p>Spend at least 45 minutes outside today, without doing yard work or fixing lights or redoing bows on the garland. Take some time to just sit outside and let the air wash over you, taking away the stress and worry of the moment. Read Psalm 100 before and after your outside time. See how this psalm may help you rest and recharge your spirit.</p>	<p>20 Go</p> <p>Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.</p>	<p>21 Learn</p> <p>Read Matthew 4:18-22. How do these verses from Matthew inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes? Try reading several different translations of this passage. See how the language might change your reading of it.</p>
<p>22 Worship</p> <p>Advent 4</p> <p>Linger before leaving your worship time today. How is God calling you to hear and sing along with Mary's Song? Read Luke 1:39-55.</p>	<p>23 Pray</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 4, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. Pick three or four of your beloveds to focus your prayers on today. Make sure to leave some silent space for God to offer you some wisdom about what they may need right now.</p>	<p>24 Rest</p> <p>The conventional wisdom is that new parents should rest when the baby is resting. Make sure you take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus — and marvel in the wonder of a fresh, new, clean, shiny, tiny, precious start. Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.</p>				

HAPPY HARVEST BRUNCH

Thanks to everyone who came out and made the 1st annual Harvest Brunch such a success. A HUGE thank to you to Stacey, Carla and Emma for all the hard work and delicious meal!



TURKEY TROT

Congratulations to the 13 Runners from Grace: Fr. Joe, laurel H, Lucas H, Wendi R, Jenna R, Carolyn S, Konrad S, Carson S, Emma W, Heidi A, Brett A, Brooks A, and Ryder A. They raised \$790 on a wet and rainy Thanksgiving Day. They were the top fundraising team!

Great Job!

HELP WANTED

Vestry Help

Are you called to lead? The work of the vestry has two faces: leadership and management. As a vestry member, together with the rector and wardens, you will be expected to manage and lead. Vestry members should be able to make the following commitments:

- ⊗ Vestry meetings (1x per month, plus occasional additional meetings as needed)
- ⊗ Committee work (usu. 1x per month)
- ⊗ Vestry retreat (annual)
- ⊗ Regular attendance at worship services
- ⊗ Congregational events: coffee hours, meals, fundraisers, adult ed. programs, etc.
- ⊗ Diocesan meetings, as necessary
- ⊗ Annual meeting
- ⊗ Exercise confidentiality and practice healthy, honest, open communication in the parish.

Qualifications

Eighteen years of age or older;

Baptized; (wardens must be confirmed)

Active member of the parish who is regular in worship attendance and contribution of time and talent and treasure.

Please prayerfully consider your calling to this important role.

Worship Help

There are many ways that you can help with the various tasks that help enhance worship from week to week at Grace. Most require a minimal time commitment, can be very rewarding, and always come with free training!

Lights, Camara, Action!

Try running the livestream for the Sunday service and maybe you will win an academy award someday!



Like to decorate?

The altar guild can use help to set and clean up the altar to keep things looking ship shape up front.

Is reading your thing?

Try reading a lesson. They are easily accessible on-line, so you can practice all you want!

Do you like counting?

The counters can always use more help counting!



Want to get more involved? Please reach out to anyone you see doing these tasks and they would love to share with you the rewards of serving and how easy it can be. You can also talk to Father Joe or email the office to express your interest in helping out.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Please check the calendar online [here](#) for times and most accurate information. Times, dates, and events may change!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am - Worship Service	2 7pm - Monday AA Group	3	4 6pm - Community Band	5 6pm - Men's Baking Night	6 7:30pm - Friday AA Group	7
8 9am - Worship Service 10am - Cookie	9 7pm - Monday AA Group	10 5pm - Cookie Packaging 7pm - Parish Work Night	11 6pm - Cookie Sale 7pm - Community Band	12	13 7:30pm - Friday AA Group	14
15 Flower Donation Names 9am - Worship Service	16 7pm - Monday AA Group	17	18 6pm - Community Band	19 7pm - Finance @ Parish 7pm - Vestry	20 7:30pm - Friday AA Group	21 9am - Golden Fleece
22 9am - Worship Service	23 7pm - Monday AA Group	24 Christmas Eve 4pm - Christmas Eve 7pm - Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day 6pm - Community Band	26	27 7:30pm - Friday AA Group	28
29 9am - Worship Service	30 7pm - Monday AA Group	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day 6pm - Community Band	2	3 7:30pm - Friday AA Group	4

COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

IN OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 5-7 PM

Wednesday 6-? PM

Hours may change without notice.

Please contact Allen at office@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org for more information.

If you have news or were part of an event and would like it included in Grace Notes, please send a detailed write up and photos if possible to the office. Thanks!



Christmas Eve Festal Eucharist

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 PM

&

7:00 PM

Grace Episcopal Church
Baldwinsville



www.GraceBville.org

110 Oswego Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
315 635 3214
office@graceepiscopalbaldwinsville.org
Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org



Sunday 9 A.M. Holy Eucharist

WORSHIP



Grace Episcopal Church
110 Oswego Street
Baldwinsville, NY 13027 - 0006

