



Grace Notes

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”

—Isaiah 60:1

One by one the candles of the Advent wreath have been lighted. The circle of the Advent wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life promised to us through Jesus Christ. The first candle is sometimes called the candle of prophesy or hope. It symbolizes the messages from God delivered by the prophets that foretold the birth of Christ. The second candle is the candle of preparation which indicates that we must get ready to welcome the promised one who will be born in Bethlehem. The third is the candle of love, and with this flame we are reminded of the love of God that encircles us. Long ago the pope had the custom of giving someone a rose on the fourth Sunday of Lent, which led the clergy to wear rose-colored vestments on that day. The custom was then extended to the third Sunday of Advent and is represented by the rose-colored candle in the Advent wreath. The fourth candle, which we will light this coming Sunday, is the candle of joy and peace. With the lighting of each candle the light increases, and our joy blossoms forth as we anticipate the birth of the Holy Child.

Worship Opportunities

December 24, 2017

9:00 am Holy Eucharist – SINGLE SERVICE

4:00 pm Holy Eucharist—FAMILY SERVICE

9:00 pm Holy Eucharist – LATE SERVICE

+

December 25, 2017

10:00 am Holy Eucharist – SINGLE SERVICE

+

Wednesday, December 27—NO BIBLE STUDY AND NO SERVICE

+

December 31, 2017

10:15 am Holy Eucharist – SINGLE SERVICE

Grace Episcopal Church
1100 Washington Street
Bath, ME 04530
207-443-3762



Our Mission Statement

Grace Church strives to love and serve God through worship and ministry in our church, the community and the world.



Remember in our Prayers

In our parish family for: Mitch Miller, Al Ferguson, Catherine Jacob, Phil Koonce, Jessica Gatcomb and family, and Bill Maier.



Let us pray for family and friends: Michele Ober, The Gordon family, Patricia White, Bert Pagan; Justin, Tina and Tim, Judith Logan, Judy, David Koonce, Leroy & Faye Nichols, Kim Coleman, Ed Pyles, Mary-Lee Banek, Janice Shine, Larry Ferguson, Mark Smith, David Batten, Joan Dixon, Timothy, CC Wall and Teresa Joan White.



Christmas Schedule

Sunday, Christmas Eve (12/24)

Advent 4 at 9:00 am

Family Service at 4:00 pm

Late Service at 9:00 pm

Monday, Christmas Day (12/25)

Single Service at 10:00 am

Sunday, New Year's Eve (12/31)

Single Service at 10:15 am

Happy Birthday to you!

Sarah Wetherbee	12/24	Jesus Christ	12/25
Natasha Woodland	12/27	Sandra Meck	01/01
Mary Montgomery	01/04		



BLUE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season can be especially painful for those who are hurting in any way. Blue Christmas liturgies acknowledge the pain many of us suffer, and remind us that Jesus enters the world, enters human life, and enters our individual lives, even if – especially if – we’re struggling or in pain. Grace Church will be participating in an **Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service TONIGHT, Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 pm**, hosted this year by the **Bath United Methodist Church (340 Oak Grove Ave)**. Falling on the Winter Solstice, Blue Christmas is traditionally a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. There’s also an interesting convergence for this day, however, in that it’s the traditional feast day for Saint Thomas the Apostle. This linkage invites making connections between Thomas's struggle to believe the tale of Jesus' resurrection, the long nights just before Christmas, and the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss.



Children's Christmas Eve Service assignments/rehearsal schedule

All rehearsals will be at the church. Depending upon previously scheduled activities, the rehearsals may be located in Tubbs Hall, Choir Room, Chapel or Sanctuary. Mary Caron will have to let you know prior to rehearsal.

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Thursday	December 21 st	5:45-6:30 pm	DRESS REHEARSAL in the Sanctuary
Sunday	December 24 th	3:30 pm	CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE Please be at the church at 3:30 pm <u>in</u> <u>COSTUME!</u> The service starts at 4:00 pm.

MARY’S BOYCHILD – CHARACTERS

1. Mary – Avery Steenstra; Soloist for “Happy Birthday Jesus”
2. Joseph – Alden Eosco
3. Innkeeper – Cate Davis
4. Stars – Caroline Rand (star that leads the shepherds)

Niesa Wallace (star that leads the Magi)

5. Shepherds – Willa Wallace, Gavin Eosco
6. Magi - Katie Rand, Jovey Wallace
7. Angels – Addie Sypien, Harper Steenstra, Piper Teale
8. Cows – Beverly, Jane
9. Sheep – Laney Wallace
10. Donkeys –

Prayers of the People

Addie
Harper
Piper
Willa

Crucifer

Cate



THE LITTLE FLOCK PROGRAM

Reminder: Grace Church continues to collect non-food items for the Little Flock Program. There is a basket in the Narthex where items can be placed; they will be taken to the Seventh Day Adventist Church for clients to pick up. Below is a list of the items that they distribute on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 889 High Street, Bath. (**The next dates are WEDNESDAYS 27 December & 10 January.**) This program is open to the area communities including Georgetown. The items listed are not able to be purchased with Food Stamps, so this is a much appreciated and needed program. Thank you, as always, for your support and generosity.

LITTLE FLOCK NON-FOOD ITEMS

- Paper products such as toilet paper and paper towels
- Laundry and dish soap
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Shaving essentials
- Dog and cat food
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Diapers
- Hats & gloves in the winter months



*Best wishes for a Holy and Merry Christmas
and Healthy and Happy New Year
From the staff of *Grace Notes**

Please note: there will be **no Grace Notes next week.**
It will be published again January 4, 2018.
Enjoy the holidays!

Worship Leaders

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Celebrant – The Rev Cn Dr Ted Gaiser

9:00 am

Lector: Marnie Hackenberg
First Server: Sharon Steele
Crucifer: Marnie Hackenberg
Ushers: Glenis Elliott & Colleen Stevens
Altar Guild: Jackie Berry
Coffee Hour: Judi & Bob Mansfield

*Readings

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

*Each scripture citation has a link to the LectionaryPage.net reading.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

If you have any questions or suggestions for this calendar, please call or email Glenis Elliott at 837-0014 or GlenisWayne93@comcast.net.

Weekly Happenings

- Wednesdays ****Bible Study – 8:30 am – Chapel**
- Wednesdays ****Holy Eucharist – 10:00 am – Chapel/Sanctuary**
****NO BIBLE STUDY OR MID-WEEK SERVICE ON December 27th**
- Thursdays Telecast of Grace Church Sunday Service – 4:00 pm –
Local Cable Channel 14
- Thursdays Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 pm – Choir Room

Committee Meetings & Groups

- December 21st Children's Christmas Eve DRESS REHEARSAL– 5:45-6:30 pm –
Sanctuary
- December 21st Girl Scout meeting – 6:00-8:00 pm – Tubbs Hall

- December 21st Blue Christmas – 6:30 pm – Bath United Methodist Church (**See article above**)
- December 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent – Single Service – 9:00 am
- December 24th Christmas Eve Family Service – 4:00 pm
- December 24th Christmas Eve Late Service – 9:00 pm
- December 25th Christmas Day -- Single Service – 10:00 am
- December 27th **NO BIBLE STUDY OR MID-WEEK SERVICE**
- December 28th Feast @ 5:30 – Washington House
- December 31st New Year's Eve – Single Service – 10:15 am
- January 2nd Prayer Shawl – 9:30 am – 11:00 am – Library
- January 4th Thursday Book Club – Library 10:00 am – 11:30 am
- January 4th Feast @ 5:30 – The Moorings
- January 18th Women's Fellowship Book Club – ***Just Merry* by Bryan Stephenson** — 11:00 am – Library (**FMI**, contact Paula Conley at 389-1158)

