

The Right Reverend Andrew ML. Dietsche, Bishop

The Right Reverend Matthew F. Heyd, Bishop Coadjutor

The Right Reverend Allen Kunho Shin, Bishop Suffragan

The Right Reverend Mary Glasspool, Assistant Bishop

The Reverend Adolfo Moronta, Priest-In-Charge

Michael DiLeo, Director of Music of Grace Church

Juan Carlos Abreu, Director of Music of La Gracia

Suzan Ortega-Collado, Administrator

Eduardo Huerta, Sexton

**First Sunday of Advent**

**December 3, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

**33 Church Street**

**White Plains, New York 10601**

**www.gracewhiteplains.org**

**914-949-2874**

**VESTRY**

**Members**

Daisy Calderón, Senior Warden

Eileen McClean, Junior Warden

Kevin Richards, Treasurer

**Class of 2023:** Andrea Hamilton, Daisy Calderón, & Kevin Richards

**Class of 2024**: Mary Baker, Eileen McClean, Camille Worrell, & Sandy McAllister

**Class of 2025:** Sorraya Sampson-Elliott, & George O’Hanlon

**Grace Church is a diverse congregation committed to a common life sustained**

**by worship. We bear witness to God’s love in Christ through our life together and**

**our service to the wider community. All are welcome.**

 **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**10:00 AM SERVICE**

**Decemer 3, 2023**

**HOLY EUCHARIST**

**Prelude: Meditation on Advent Hymn**

**Opening Hymn: #57 Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending (1982)**

**The Opening Acclamation**

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

**People:** **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

**Collect for Purity**

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may**

**perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Collect of the Day**

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 Lesson**

**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: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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

***Qui regis Israel***

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 Epistle**

**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: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn: #66 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (1982)**

**The Holy Gospel**

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to **Mark 13:24-37.**

**All: 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.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You Lord Christ.**

# **The Sermon** **The Rev. Adolfo Moronta**

**The 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 salvation**

**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.**

# **The Baptismal Covenant**

#

*Because we begin a new liturgical year today, we renew our Baptismal Covenant* **BCP 304**

Priest: Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Priest: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the**

 **forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Priest: Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in

 the prayers?

**People: I will, with God’s help.**

Priest: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the

 Lord?

**People: I will, with God’s help.**

Priest: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**People: I will, with God’s help.**

Priest: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**People: I will with God’s help.**

Priest: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every

 human being?

**People: I will with God’s help**.

**Prayers of the People**

1. We give thanks for gathering us together in this community; grant your church a discerning spirit and a watchful eye that we may make good use of this holy time and bear witness to your presence hidden among us. *[Pause]*

****

 O Come, Emmanuel, **Your people await your coming.**

1. We give thanks for the resources you have given our nation; grant us wisdom to share them generously and to be the light in darkness for all who are hungry in body, mind, and soul. *[Pause]*

**** O Come, Emmanuel, **Your people await your coming.**

1. ****Grant that our leaders and the leaders of all nations use their powers wisely and compassionately. Strengthen those who are struggling for justice and stability throughout the world. Guide us toward the unity, peace, and freedom that we find only in you. *[Pause]*

 O Come, Emmanuel, **Your people await your coming.**

1. ****Comfort those who are separated from their loved ones during this holiday season. Watch over those who are travelling, and those who have nowhere to go. Shelter the homeless and guide those who are lost. *[Pause]*

 O Come, Emmanuel, **Your people await your coming.**

1. ****Give your healing grace to those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those for whom the holiday season is a time of loss, and those we now name, silently or aloud. *[Pause]*

 O Come, Emmanuel, **Your people await your coming.**

1. ****Watch over our children, that they may know the peace, as well as the excitement, of your presence. *[Pause]*

**** O Come, Emmanuel, **Your people await your coming.**

1. Gather into your joyful presence those who have died especially those whom we now name, silently or aloud . . . *[Pause]*

 O Come, Emmanuel, **Your people await your coming.**

**Priest:** O Rising Sun, brightness of light eternal, sun of justice, come and shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. Glory to you forever. **Amen.**

*Silence*

**The** **Confession of Sin BCP 360**

**Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.**

**Celebrant and People: 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.**

**Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through your Lord 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 the Lord always be with you.

**People: And also with you**.

**Announcements**

**Offertory Anthem: Winter Song**

**Offertory Hymn: #54 Savior of the Nations Come (1982)**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

Celebrant*:* The Lord be with you

**People*:* And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we thank you, O holy and living God, Creator of heaven and earth, for the gift of a world full of wonder and for our life, which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe; through Jesus Christ you gather us into one great family. Therefore with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name as we sing:

**Holy S125 (Hymnal 1982) - Prolux**

O God, from before time you made ready the creation. Through your Wisdom, your Spirit moved over the deep and brought to birth the heavens: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; growing things, both plants and animals; and finally humankind.

You made us in your image, male and female, to love and care for the earth and its creatures as you love and care for us, your children. You graced us with freedom of heart and mind, but we were heedless and willful.

You took us by the hand, and taught us to walk in your ways. And although you led us with cords of compassion and bands of love, we wandered far away. Yet as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

Then you acted anew in Creation. In order that we might see and know the riches of your grace, your Spirit entered into Mary, the maiden of Nazareth, that she might conceive and bear a Son, the holy child of God. The world had waited long in pain and hope, and at last our Savior came to birth, fulfilling the promise of the reign of God in love.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He yearned to draw all the world to himself, yet we would not. We were heedless of his call to walk in love.

At last the time came for him to make the sacrifice of himself, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me. As we gather to share the bread and the cup, we remember his loving gift to us:

**We remember his death on the cross,**

**We proclaim the resurrection to new life,**

**We await the return of Christ in glory.**

And we join together in the love of Christ to give thanks and praise to you, our God. Here at this table, we offer to you all that you have made: this bread and this cup, our time and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your love and your blessing on all we offer here. Breathe your Spirit onto these gifts of bread and wine, to make of them the Body and Blood of Christ. Let your Spirit who broods over the whole creation dwell within us. Gather us to be your holy people, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. Draw us, O God, to your heart at the heart of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

**Amen - Prolux**

**And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing.**

 **The Lord’s Prayer #264 (LEV&S)**

**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.**

**At the Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.**

**Jesus Lamb of God S164 (Hymnal 1982)**

**The Gifts of God for the People of God.**

**Communion Hymn: #67 Comfort, Comfort ye my people (1982)**

**The Post Communion Prayer BCP 365**

Celebrant: Let us pray

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, 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 Lord. Amen.**

**Sending forth of Lay Eucharist Ministers**

**The Celebrant says: In the name of the congregation**

 **I send you forth with these holy gifts.**

 **That those to whom you go**

 **May share with us**

 **The communion of Christ’s body and blood.**

 **We who are many are one body**

 **Because we all share one bread, one cup**

**Blessing**

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: #56 O Come O Come Emmanuel (1982)**

**Dismissal:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**After the dismissal:**

1. Remain standing until the candles are extinguished.
2. Remain seated until the postlude has ended.

**Postlude: Improvisation on Veni Veni Emmanuel**

**Celebrant & Preacher** -The Rev. Adolfo Moronta
 **Organist & Choir Director** –Michael DiLeo

If you are visiting with us for the first time, we welcome you to Grace Church!

Our liturgy is found in the Book of Common Prayer.

Our communion is open to all baptized Christians. Please take the time to fill out one of our visitor cards which the ushers have available.

Your presence is a blessing to us; may our worship together be a blessing to you.

**Grace Church Prayer List**: We hold the following people in prayer: Annie Cleary, Lee Aldrich, Bernice Burton, Catel, Carole Carter, Christina Lewis, Kimberly Corelli, The Family of Darlene & Johnny Peoples, Bill Dunphy, Cathy Dunphy, Cecile Fray, The Corselli Family, Delaney Family, Sandra Esannason, Cindy Etheridge, Laura Fields, Laurie Noone, Sid Fromm, Leigh Burton, Lydia Green, Michael Nissman, Sylvia Howard, Jackie Jansky, Evgeniy Kaufman, Emilia Terron, Mitzi Pelle, Natasha Vodyanitskaya, Tatyana Popova, Mathew Broomfield, The Broomfield Family, Antonio Landi, Dr. Liddell Madden, Samantha Delaney, Yegor Hodzhayan, William Biles, Carolyn Carter Serena Bent, Cynthia Sangurima-Brown, Alex Gale, Blake Hamilton-Pérez, Manoris Long, and the Countries of India, Ukraine and Haiti

**Serving in the Armed Forces:** Kenny Duffy, Denny J. Edmondson, Christopher P. Halstead, Sgt. David Packer, Christopher Vigliotti, Gunnery Sgt. Les Yearwood



**Birthdays – December**

1st Stuart M. Madden

1st Carol Mitchell

1st Malcolm C. Davis

2nd Valentine Parkinson

4th Dawn M. Edwards

7th Gwendolyn Hutchins

8th Carlos R. Muñoz

9th Cynthia Sangurima

9th Camille Worrell

10th Marie L. Lewis

10th Yvonne B. Scarborough

10th Ronak Kumar

11th Donna M. Graves

13th Lyris Cooper

14th Jonah S. Smith

15th Ramona Williams

16th Andrea Spencer

16th Blake Olivia Hamilton

19th Gloria Chang

22nd  Rina Heavner

23rd  Sylvia Brown

24th  Rudye Breach

24th Charles H. Smith

25th Mary W. Jackson

25th  Amy Auld Owens



**Weddings - December**

**12/28** Christopher & Lindsay Larson

**Ushers**

Camille Worrell

Nikolas O’Hanlon

Matthew Reid

**Readers**

Ginger Waters

Marie Barrow

**Eucharistic Ministors**

Marie Barrow

******The Angelus**

The next Angelus will be published at the beginning of the New Year.  If you have something you would like to appear in that issue, please submit it by **December 10th**

to: marygene57@msn.com

**How to Pledge to Grace Church**

The church is flexible in receiving your generosity. Blessings.

**Option 1:** The standard way of staying current with your pledge still applies. Feel free to put a check in the mail and send it to the address below (Attention: Office Administrator). Bundling for a few weeks is fine.

**Grace/La Gracia Episcopal Church**

**33 Church Street - 2nd Floor**

**White Plains NY 10601**

**Option 2:** There is a secure drop box on the red door at the front of Grace. The box will

be checked regularly for financial contributions, including cash (which will be recorded). Kindly put our pledge in an envelope with your contact info written clearly.

**Option 3:** Visit us on the web at: [www.gracewhiteplains.or*g*](https://d.docs.live.net/f2acd8f8dc28e972/Desktop/www.gracewhiteplains.org)

Look for the “Pledging” tab across the top and click on it. Then, you’ll see a yellow **"Donate"**

button; clicking on that will take you to another site for electronic giving (either by using a credit card or with a PayPal account). For

more details on PayPal, feel free to visit:  (www.paypal.com). ***Please note*** – PayPal charges a fee to the church for these transactions (*which is why a check in the drop box or sent by mail is preferable*.) Thank you for contributing!!

**Pledge Form 2024**

* If you would like to make a pledge for 2023, it is not too late. Please ask an usher for a form and drop it in the collection plate. You can also click here for a Pledge Form.

 [**Click Here For English Pledge Form 2024**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csortega%5CDesktop%5C2024%20PLEDGE%20FORMS%20ENGLISH%20%26%20SPANISH%5C2024%20Pledge%20FORM%20Revised%20by%20Andrea%20Spencer%207.25.23.docx)

**Pledge Envelopes**

* + If you would like to use an envelope to put your offering in the collection plate, generic envelopes are in the back of the church. Please ask an usher for assistance if necessary.

**Counters Need**

We are looking for Counters. Counters work in teams of two and usually only count one Sunday a month.

**Thursday Noon Eucharist!!!**

Please join us every Thursday **at 12:00 PM** for the noon Eucharist- …

**Music Ministry**

Please feel free to donate towards Grace Episcopal Curch/ La Gracia’s Music Ministry. Your donation will be appreciated.

**Join the** **Grace Church Choir**

The Grace Church Choir consists of a range of volunteer singers to paid professionals, including section leaders. Being a choir member allows you to participate in worship

more fully by "Praying Twice in Sung Prayer." We are currently looking for more people of all voices to join our choir, so please spread the word to anyone who may be interested. No experience or auditions required**. We are happy to have the choir back singing at the 10:00 am service. Rehearsals take place from 11:45 am-1:15 pm each Sunday.** **Any new members interested in joining the choir, please speak to our Organist and Choir Director Michael DiLeo, or contact at** **mdileoyankees@aol.com**

 **Fall/Winter Service Schedule**

The 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Sunday Services resumed on September 24, 2023.

**Coffee Hour Hosts**

December 3rd – Francileide Ferrari

December 10th – Erika & Barbara Santos

December 17th – Kevin Reichard & Family

**LOOKING AHEAD**

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| **DECEMBER** |
| **Sunday, December 10th** | 200th Anniversary Committee Meeting - Library |
| **Monday, December 11th** | La Virgen De Guadalupe (La Gracia) |
| **Thursday, December 21st** | Annual Christmas Dinner 7:00 PM |
| **Sunday, December 17th** | Lessons & Carols 10:00 AM |
| **Sunday, December 24th** | Christmas Pageant 4:00 PM |
| **Sunday, December 24th** | **There will be only 1 Sunday Service at 10:00 AM (English)****7:30 La Gracia Christmas Eve Service (Spanish)****10:00 PM Grace Church Christmas Eve Service (English)** |
| **Sunday, December 31st** | Services 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM **(English)** & 12:30 PM **(Spanish) Baptism of Luna Marie Halstead during 10:00 AM Service** |
| **JANUARY** |
| **Sunday, January 28th** | **Bilingual Mass 11:00** **AM** Annual Meeting |

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