



# CHRIST AND GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1545 South Sycamore Street,  
Petersburg, VA 23805 (804) 733-7202

[www.christandgrace.org](http://www.christandgrace.org)

*Our mission: Offering Hope, Healing and Hospitality*

*It is our custom to observe a prayerful silence before the service begins.*

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## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 17, 2017

*We welcome families with children. If anytime during the service your child needs a place for active play, a small unstaffed nursery room, restrooms, and respite area, with a speaker to hear the service, are located downstairs under the front entrance to the church. A Sunday school for children ages 2-10 meets downstairs during the 10:30 service. Children will return to church at the offering.*

**8:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION RITE II – without music**

**10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION RITE II – with music**

### The Word of God

**Prelude** *Noel for the flutes*

Louis-Claude Daquin

**Handbells:** *Come Christians Join to Sing  
Ask Ye What Great Thing*

arr. Kimball

**Hymn 59** *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding*

Merton

**Opening Acclamation** *standing*

Book of Common Prayer p. 355

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

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

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.**

8:00 a.m. only

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Hymn S-96** *Lord, have mercy*

Schubert

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

### The Collect of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

*sitting*

*See scripture insert*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 438** *Tell out my soul*

Woodlands

**Gospel:** *standing*

(p. 357)

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* **Glorify to you, Lord Christ.**

**John 1:6-8, 19-28**

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon** *following, a moment of silence is observed*

Bill Queen

**The Nicene Creed** *standing*

(p. 358)

**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 Prayers of the People** **Form V** *standing or kneeling*

(p. 389)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy".

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Holly, our Bishop, Jay, our Bishop Assisting, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in positions of public trust, especially Donald, our president, Terry, our governor, the Congress, the General Assembly, the City Council, our courts, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer we remember: Boston & Dixie Lackey, Paul & Carol Lamb and Andy, Bethany and Aiden Lambert. For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

We remember those who desire healing in body or spirit: our church members Polly Davies, Horace Higgins, Barbara Ragsdale, Daphne Spurlock and Elaine Yeatts, as well as our relatives and friends Elise Bethell, Kenneth Crowder, Shannon Farthing, Selena McColley, Ellen Moyer, Tommy Parson, Mark Richards, Edward Roberts, Dana Watkins Spiers, and Renee Williamson. For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our own needs and those of others; I invite you to offer your own prayers, either silently or aloud; (*pause*),

We pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William Walsh and Ruth Walsh by their family. For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**To you, O Lord our God.**

Let us pray together our prayer for Christ & Grace's Rector Search

**Dear Lord, Surround us with your abundant love. Unite us as a parish during our journey together and encourage every voice to be heard at this time of transition. Grant us patience and wisdom to discern your will for our church. Strengthen our hearts and minds in our search for our new rector. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*pause*) *kneeling* (p. 360)

**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.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**The Peace** *standing*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Offertory Sentence**

## **The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Anthem** *Magnificat*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

**At The Presentation: Hymn 56** *O come, o come, Emmanuel* (v.2) *standing*

8 a.m. only **Doxology** *standing*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C**

*standing*

(p. 369)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord** (Hymnal S-130)

Schubert

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Miriam, Deborah, and Hannah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and of his mother Mary: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, (p. 364)

**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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

**Fraction Hymn S-154 Alleluia**

New Plainsong

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All baptized persons, regardless of denomination or church membership, are welcome to come forward and receive the Holy Bread and Wine. A larger chalice for drinking or a small chalice for intincting (dipping) are available at the altar rail. If you wish to intinct, please hold your wafer up so chalice bearers can see it. If you would like Communion brought to you in the pew, please tell an usher.*

**Communion Hymn 72 Hark! The glad sound**  
*(The congregation is invited to sing)*

Richmond

**Kneeling Hymn 641 Lord Jesus think on me**

Southwell

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** *standing*

(p. 365)

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.**

## Blessing

**Hymn 539 O Zion haste**

Tidings

## Dismissal

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Variation II on a French Noel

Louis-Claude Daquin

Lay Readers: 8:00 Nancy Holden, Claire Brill

10:30 Jim Hunter, Sean Little, Erica Roney, Claire Brill

Ushers: Jim Donnelly, Jonathan Shockley Audio: Bee Betts Greeters: Everyone

Acolytes: Lexi Ellis, Ray Ellis, Ashley Thacker, Katherine Thacker and Faith Geisz

**WELCOME VISITORS.** We extend a warm welcome to our visitors today. If you would like to know more about our church, kindly fill out one of the cards in the pew racks and place it in the collection plate. Join us in Lackey Hall after both services for refreshments and conversation. Exit the church through the door beside the baptism font – Lackey Hall is at the far end of the hallway.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TODAY** will be Web and Facebook Use by Jonathan Shockley. Next Sunday there will be no forum because of the Christmas Pageant.

**ECW CHRISTMAS WREATHS STILL AVAILABLE!** Prices are: Small- \$13, Large - \$30. If interest, please contact Kitty Gwaltney at 733-6938 or [kgwaltney@comcast.net](mailto:kgwaltney@comcast.net).

**A CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION SERVICE** will be held today at 5:30 p.m. Pre-service music starts at 5:15 p.m. with featured musician Melissa Adams. A reception follows the service. Please join us and bring a friend.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL** will be next Saturday, December 23, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. All participants need to be present.

**PURCHASE MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS** for the Christmas altar by completing the form on the table outside Lackey Hall or call the church office at 733-7202. Twenty-five poinsettias will be purchased at a cost of \$16.00 and the name of your loved one will be listed in the Christmas bulletin. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 17.

**MENS SHELTER CHRISTMAS DINNER.** Please join us at the Men's Shelter for a Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 20, at 6:00 pm. Sign-Up Sheet for holiday dishes is on the bulletin board in Lackey Hall. In the past we had some great musicians participating - are any of you still around and willing so we can sing a few Christmas songs? Also, we will be giving each man a Walmart Gift Card and you can make a monetary contribution by placing it in the box located by Christmas tree in Lackey Hall.

**OUR ADVENT TREE** is up and decorated with Advent scripture chains made by our Children's Sunday School. Each week we will add more symbolic décor that lead to the birth of Jesus. Advent calendars and readings are available in the basket by entrance of Lackey Hall.

**THE 2018 FLOWER CHART** is now posted in the hallway leading to Lackey Hall, with openings beginning on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Please fill out one of the forms next to the calendar so we know how you would like your dedication to read – you can leave the form in Jill's mailbox or give it to Lee Adams. The cost is still \$51; make your check payable to Christ and Grace with 'memorial flowers' in the memo line. Questions? Contact Lee Adams at [shakubuku42@gmail.com](mailto:shakubuku42@gmail.com) or 243-3302. Thank you for your support of the flower ministry!

**PECANS STILL AVAILABLE!** Halves and pieces, chocolate covered raisins, and honey roasted peanuts all make great gifts. \$10 each. Available in Lackey Hall.

**Calendar for the Week**

|        |            |                                      |
|--------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mon.   | 6:30 p.m.  | Vestry Meeting                       |
|        | 7:00 p.m.  | Tri-Cities Band Rehearsal            |
| Tues.  | 7:00 p.m.  | Bell Choir Rehearsal                 |
| Thurs. | 7:30 a.m.  | Bible Study – Lackey Hall            |
|        | 7:00 p.m.  | Choir Rehearsal / AA Meeting         |
| Sat.   | 9:00 a.m.  | Pageant Rehearsal                    |
|        | 10:00 a.m. | Altar Guild Set up for Christmas Eve |

Contact us at [ChurchOffice@ChristAndGrace.org](mailto:ChurchOffice@ChristAndGrace.org) to request our monthly newsletter. You can also find current information on our website [www.ChristAndGrace.org](http://www.ChristAndGrace.org) and on our Facebook page [ChristAndGracePetersburg](https://www.facebook.com/ChristAndGracePetersburg), where you can like us and share us.