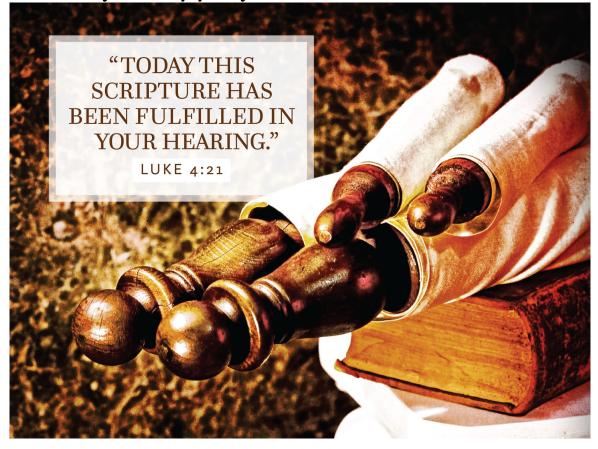
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 23, 2022



Grace Lutheran Church

8:00 am - Spoken Service & 10:15 am - Liturgical Service Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves. 11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, New Jersey 08244 Phone: 609-927-3082—Fax: 609-927-6672—Food Pantry: 609-927-9982 Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright Music Director: Mr. Scott J. Breiner Church Secretary: Diana McArdle Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

² Welcome

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here whether you are here to worship with us as a first time visitor, friend, neighbor, or lifelong member. If you have any questions, concerns, or need pastoral care, Pastor Althea would love to talk with you. Feel free to speak with her after worship or contact her by email at: pastoralthea3@gmail.com or by phone 484-345-0399.

Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be ...

- Inviting all people to *belong* to the church of Jesus Christ,
- Equipping those who *believe* as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- Sending members to *become* caring servants of God in the world.

Serving in Worship Today

Worship Assistant: Diana McArdle Altar Guild: Brenda Traa

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Greetings members, friends, and family of Grace! We are trying a new way of listing our prayer concerns in the coming weeks. If you notice someone who is missing or if anyone has someone new to add, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Althea via phone, Facebook, or email or contact our secretary in the office to add people who are on our hearts each week and include our ongoing concerns.

<u>Members of Grace</u>: Betty N., John N., Ruth T., Debbie K., Marlene D., Joyce B. <u>Family and friends</u>: Gage, Donna, Virginia, Carol (*Pastor Althea*);

Payton (Joyce Bianco), Deb, Glen, Peggy, Jeanne (Bowdens); Annmarie, Kathy (Marlene Doer); The Foster Family, Carol, John D., Baby Stella (Claire Brick); Phyllis, Shawn (Carol Fry); Jody (Grings); Michael Ann, (June Jordan)); Shirley & Carl (Debbie Kleuser);

Jim, Vicki, (*Meg LaSpina*), Bernadette, Lou; Ron, Berl, Cindy, Eric, Rose (*Renee Pugliese*); Ralph & Gwen (*Corinne Rhodes*); Karen (*Sue Robinson*); Dotte Currie, (*Deborah Walker*), Anyah, Cecilia, Edward, Lauren, Marlando, Pauline, and Richard (*Welfields*); Eileen and Marie; Pastor Richard Holtzer

<u>Those Serving Our Country:</u> Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN;
Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USM; Cainan Johnson, USAF
<u>At Home</u> - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Rahme, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann
<u>Shores@Wesley Manor</u>: Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble
<u>Woodview Estates</u>: Lorraine Moore

WITH ONE VOICE Bread of Life - Setting 5 Congregation responses in bold print.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Yisrael v'oraita

by Craig Phillips

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

Rejoice in this good news:

In + Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

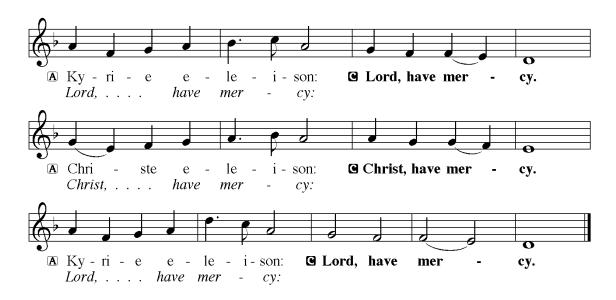
⁴**OPENING HYMN**



GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE





GLORY TO GOD





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together....Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be

written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that "the joy of the LORD is your strength."

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 19 ¹The heavens declare the glo-[|]ry of God, / and the sky proclaims its [|] maker's handiwork. ²One day tells its tale [|] to another, / and one night imparts knowledge [|] to another. ³Although they have no ¹ words or language, / and their voices ¹ are not heard, ⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends ¹ of the world, where God has pitched a tent | for the sun. ⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out [|] of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to | run its course. ⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its | burning heat. ⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-¹ vives the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom ¹ to the simple. ⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and re-¹ joice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light¹ to the eyes. ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en-¹ dures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than ¹ much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. ¹¹By them also is your ser-¹ vant enlightened, and in keeping them there is | great reward. ¹²Who can detect one's [|] own offenses? / Cleanse me from my [|] secret faults. ¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion | over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense. ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight, O LORD, my strength and [|] my redeemer.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

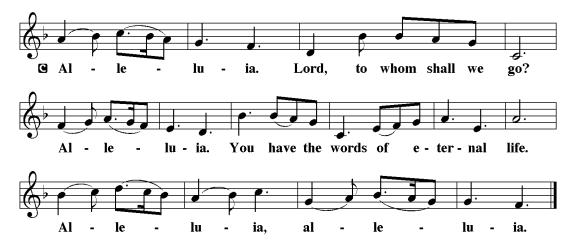
The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the fourth chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

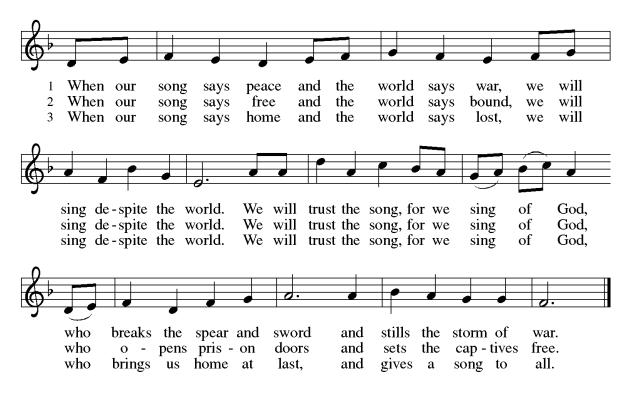
The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you. O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

12 HYMN OF THE DAY

When Our Song Says Peace



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APOSTLES' CREED

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

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 into hell. 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.

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. Amen

WEEKLY OFFERING

We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

OFFERTORY

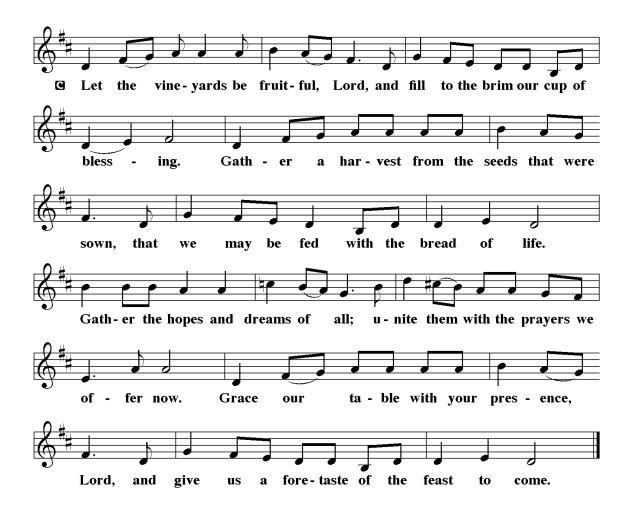
For Your Name's Sake

by Russell Nagy

Please stand as you are able

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord



OFFERING PRAYER

We pray together for however we have made offerings to God in our lives.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God,

You are Creator of all that is in heaven and on earth. We rejoice that we have many blessings to be thankful for in our lives. You have changed our lives forever with your Word made flesh. Grant us courage to change the lives of others with your Good News. Bless our congregation, this community, and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us; so let us be bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

Leader: You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Leader: All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful plants and animals you have made. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species which are at risk of extinction and give us wisdom to make policy choices which protect our planet. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

- *Leader:* You desire that there be no dissension among us. You call us to love and to promote peace. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- *Pastor:* Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, chronic illness, and those living under oppression. We also pray for all those whom we name now or in our hearts... God of grace,

hear our prayer.

- *Leader:* Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation especially Grace Place Food Pantry, Grace Stitchers, and all of our Twelve Step Programs. Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- *Pastor:* Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

14

MEAL

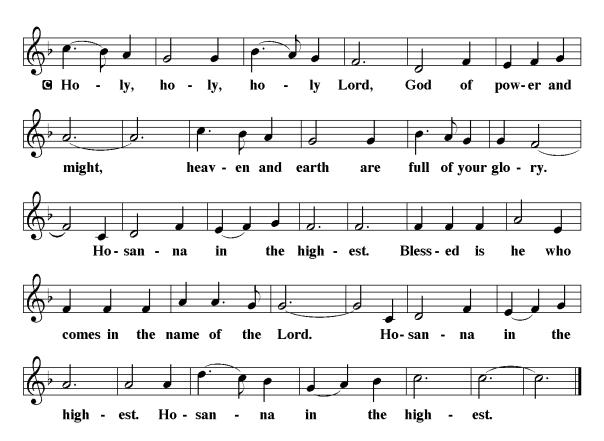
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together we celebrate this holy meal. May all praise and thanks be to you, Holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by Christ, let us pray.

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, forever and ever. Amen

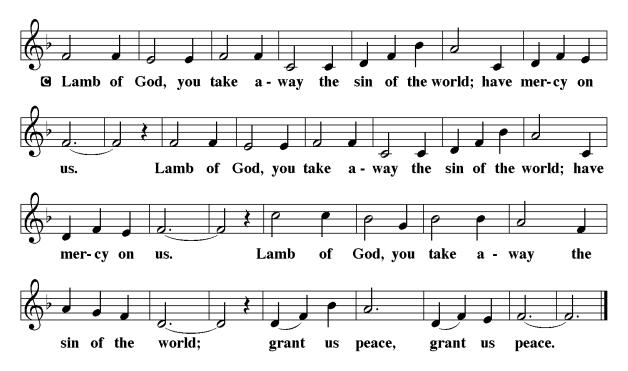
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Communion will be offered in two ways, continuous at the chancel step, and at the direction of Pastor after everyone has come forward (for those at home online and those who choose to remain seated).

Follow the direction of the ushers to come to the front or remain seated and after all have come forward, direction for the prefilled host and grape juice will be given.

COMMUNION HYMN



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

IF YOU CHOOSE TO COME FORWARD:

Follow the directions of Pastor and the Ushers.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN AT YOUR SEAT OR YOU ARE ONLINE:

Prepare your elements after all have come forward and wait for direction from Pastor.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

As we have experienced Christ, our Savior, in this meal, may Almighty God continue to nourish you and encourage you as you continue your journey in faith. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together... Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen. God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING *We are blessed and encouraged as we depart from our gathering.*

Pastor: May God bless you and hold you close.

May Christ's presence guide you in all you do. May the Holy Spirit shine in you and bring others closer to God's love and + give you everlasting hope. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve ELW # 551	IN
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Please be seated for the postlude. Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.

POSTLUDE

Allegro by G. F. Handel, arr. By Homer Whitford

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

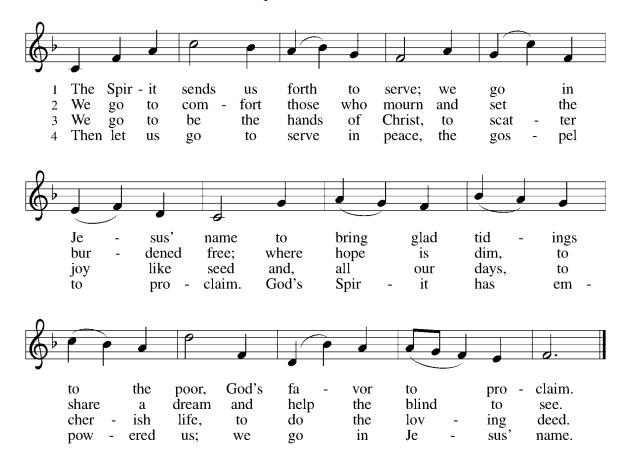
Thanks be to God.

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SENDING HYMN



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Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 6, 2022 In the Sanctuary immediately Following 10:15 am Worship Service Budget Distribution - Sunday, January 23rd, 2022 Budget Hearing - Sunday, January 30th, 2022

Events This Week - January 23 - 30, 2022

Sunday 1/23 8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge 8:45 am - Adult Sunday School 10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service Holy Communion Grace Friends Sunday School Distribution of the 2022 Budget 4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Lounge

Monday 1/24 9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 7:00 pm - AA Meeting—Social Hall

<u>Tuesday 1/25</u> 9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 6:30 pm - NA

<u>Wednesday 1/26</u> 9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 11:30 - 3:30 - Bayside Duplicate Bridge 7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall <u>Thursday 1/27</u> 9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 5:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Lounge

Friday 1/28 7:30 pm - AA Meeting—Lounge

Saturday 1/29

Sunday 1/30 8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge 8:45 am - Adult Sunday School 10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service Holy Communion Grace Friends Sunday School 2022 Budget Hearing 4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Lounge

6:00 pm - Confirmation Class @Reformation

Dedications

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Celebrating the 3rd Birthday of

Great-Grandson Maxim Royal McArdle

Given by Diana McArdle

