

Grace-filled Voices

November 25, 2014

by Fr. Joe Rees

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
and His courts with praise!
Give thanks to Him, bless His Name!”
Psalm 100:4

The Thanksgiving week is here and people are already traveling to loved ones for the joy of being together and celebrating the abundant blessings that not only this land affords us but our great God has given us. He gives all these provisions for our welfare, sustenance, health and happiness. A great name for God in the past was used more often—Providence. A great city in Rhode Island was named for Him. Many today might not know the word because it's not often used. Our God is our Provider. He blesses us with all things necessary for our lives. He brings us gifts that we absolutely need—food & water—but also our clothing, shelters, protection from evil and enemies (thank you military and veterans). He provides transportation, jobs, community helps like hospitals, doctors, nurses, etc. He replenishes us with energy in the night hours and gives us peace. He gives us children to brighten our days and grandchildren to see our lives enter into the future.

He leaves His Spirit in us as we believe in Jesus His Son, and gifts us with many spiritual gifts that blend in beauty with the community of the faithful. Our God is compassionate and loving and merciful to us even when we have flaunted His Presence and Providence in our lives and reneged on our covenant to honor Him, sinning in His sight, rebellious to Him and our communi-

ties. Yet His forgiveness is ever near to us if only we might remember His true Caring Nature, correct our waywardness by coming home to Him, and enjoy His incomparable gifts of love to renew and strengthen us in our journey. He brings us healing in our minds and spirits, generating healing within our souls and bodies. He is a mighty God who engages us in a life of redemption and value and meaning that overcomes our innate struggles against the world, the flesh, and the devil. Our Lord God gives us the most precious gift of all in His Son our Savior Jesus, the Christ, who came to set us free from the tyranny of our own corrupted selves. In Christ, we have the ultimate gift of eternal life, a life with God through the gate of His Son when all we need to is say “yes” to Him who bids us come. Oh the greatness of our Providence who gives us so many wonderful gifts including the joy of His love which will never fade away. His promise is to be with us always, even to the end of the age. He is our companion and guide, our light in the darkness, our captain and our King. Jesus is the transformer of our sorrows into the joyful reality of jewels of His life embedded into our thankful crowns cast before His throne. He adopts us as His brothers and sisters of an eternal family that will gather around the feasting table of heaven to give an ultimate glory to Him that guarantees us as inheritors of His Kingdom! Truly, we all have so very much for which to be thankful!

Therefore, “Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him,

bless His Name!" And come, gather together at His Church (wherever that may be) to give our Providence God thanks and all the glory due His Name! I'll see you on Thanksgiving Day at 10:00am for our service of Eucharist (giving thanks) to our Providence. Our fellowship is open to all who want to come. Come and give the Lord your heartfelt thanks and stay for a wonderful gathering of Christ's love, celebrating

with turkey and all the fixings. God bless each of you, wherever you may be, in your remembering to give thanks to the Lord God Almighty.

Love in Christ,
Fr. Joe

Advent Lessons & Carols

Join us on Sunday, December 7th at 2:00 p.m. for a time of singing familiar songs and hearing Scripture readings of the season. It's a great way to help us remember the "Reason for the Season"

Book Club Coming

Beginning Monday, December 1st at 11:30 a.m. and continuing on the first Monday of each month. The first book "Killing Patton" by Bill O'Reilly. The group will decide if they want to go to lunch after the meeting.

Saturday Morning, December 6

Hour of Power Prayer in the Sanctuary

9:30 a.m.

Come pray for the church, our communities and the world.

Wednesday Mornings at 10:00

Join us for a service of
Holy Eucharist at Grace

The **7:30 a.m. Spoken Service** For those who want a quiet worship experience come to the spoken service at Grace at 7:30 a.m. on Sundays. We know there are people who are unable to come to the 9:30 service.

Senior Women's Bible Study

Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Anglican. They are working their way through the entire Bible. All Senior Women are invited to join. Call the church office for more information.

This Week at Grace

November 25—December 2, 2014

Tues. November 25

11:30 a.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. "How Should We Then Live?"

Wed. November 26

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service in chapel
3:30 p.m. No Staff Meeting

Thurs. November 27

Happy Thanksgiving!

10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Service
Noon Family Thanksgiving Dinner

Fri. November 28

Church office closed
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer in chapel

Sat. November 29

8:00 a.m. No Men's Fellowship

Sun. November 30 (1st Sunday in Advent)

7:30 a.m. Spoken Eucharist Service
9:15 a.m. Nursery opens

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service
9:30 a.m. Children's Church
11:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Mon. December 1

Tues. December 2

9:00 a.m. Stewardship Committee meets
11:30 a.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. "How Should We Then Live?"

Coming up

December 7th—Lessons & Carols at 2:00 p.m.

**Grace Anglican Church
760-730-9900**

**www.graceanglicanchurch.com
churchoffice@graceanglicanchurch.com**

Bible Readings for November 30, 2014

Isaiah 64:109a
Psalm 80:1-7
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Mark 13:24-37

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year B)

Sunday Servers

November 30, 2014	First Advent	
First Reader	Isaiah 64:1-9a	Dick Phelps
Psalm Reader	Psalm 80:1-7	Jean Hawk
Second Reader	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Linnie Phelps
Intercessor		Bill Laitinen
Lay Euch. Ministers		Myrna & John Lipnicke
Acolytes		Bill Laitinen
Welcomers		Paula Sholly, Myrna Lipnicke
Ushers		Dick Sholly, Ray Seibold
Vestry Person of Day		Linnie Phelps
Healing Ministers		Kay & Alfred Focke
		Cline Handy & Helen Reid