

# Grace Notes

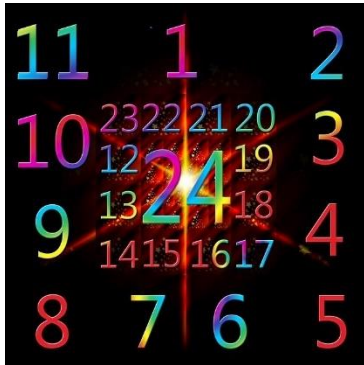
## One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 3 Number 10

December 2023

### TOGETHER CELEBRATING CHRIST & ADVENT – YUMMY!

Ahhhh, Advent!



This Sunday, we celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical year and a new liturgical season, Advent. I **love** the season of Advent! I love all the special Advent colors and symbols, the traditions, and the culmination of the season in the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas. It's an especially rich liturgical season that offers us many opportunities to calm and center our souls, especially during these turbulent times.

One of the things I like best about Advent is its confounding use of time. Advent intentionally plays with time and, in playing with time, Advent plays with us. Advent invites us, for example, to imagine that we are like our ancient Israelite forebears, living in the past, in the time *before* the fulfillment of the prophecies of God. Advent invites us to pretend that Christ's birth hasn't happened yet. And so, like the Magi and the little drummer boy, we too are journeying each week in Advent to Bethlehem, getting closer and closer to the birth of Christ, until we finally celebrate Christ's birth at Christmas. "Unto us a child is born!" we sing in Handel's *Messiah*. Advent plays with time so we can better appreciate how the Christian past relates to our Christian now.

Advent also invites us into the future. In fact, the first sense of time that Advent bends is future time. The first Sunday of Advent, for example, always invites us to remember that Christ will return some day in the future in perfect fulfillment of God's dream for creation. We begin with this appreciation of the future at the start of every liturgical year, regardless of whether we are reading St. Matthew, St. Mark, or St. Luke as our Sunday spiritual Gospel guide. Indeed, in the first weekend of Advent in every liturgical year, the Church points us to the future to remind us: Christ will come again. And the theme and invitation is always the same: were Christ to come now, are you ready? Are you happy with how you are living your life now? In what ways are you satisfied? In what ways are you dissatisfied? What are you going to do this Advent about your dissatisfactions, so you experience more satisfactions in your life? How are you going to celebrate your satisfactions in a more intentional, mindful way that makes a daily difference in your sense of personal gratitude?

Past, present, and future—Advent is always playing with all three, simultaneously, like a musician playing multiple cords on an organ, so that we can grow and find comfort in even the darkest of the winter days.

One poet who wrestled with darkness, with wintry days, and with the meaning of Christ's birth for the past, present, and future times was the Irish poet William Butler Yeats (1865-1939). His poem, "The Second Coming," feels eerily prescient and worthy of an Advent reflection:

The Second Coming by William Butler Yeats

Turning and turning in the widening gyre  
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;  
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.  
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out  
When a vast image out of *Spiritus Mundi*  
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert  
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,  
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,  
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it  
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.  
The darkness drops again; but now I know  
That twenty centuries of stony sleep  
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,  
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,  
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

Here's another great poem for your Advent consideration from the American poet W. H. Auden (1907-1973). This snippet comes from his long poem, "A Christmas Oratorio," and is also worth snacking on at some point during your 2023 Advent pilgrimage:

He is the Way.  
Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;  
You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.

He is the Truth.  
Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;  
You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.

He is the Life.  
Love Him in the World of the Flesh;  
And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy.

It's Advent, Beloved. Thanks be to God!

I don't know about you, but I need Advent. Especially this year, given the state of our society and the world. I need Advent's themes, its pageantry, its hopefulness, its symbols, its challenges—I need it all. And so does our world.

I heartily welcome and invite you to embrace Advent 2023 deeply. The Church, using Auden's phrase, does not "lack conviction." Advent, the Church declares, has the power to renew, to reconfigure, and to transform lives. But it can't do it without you. Put yourself in the path of Advent to personally experience the healing and the transformation.

Heading into this Advent season, we have worked hard to provide a cornucopia of liturgical and service opportunities this December to feed and sustain your soul, wherever you may find yourself this year. This includes both embracing the old and creating something new at Grace. See the schedule of December and Advent activities included in this newsletter for specifics. It includes a special liturgy for those grieving (A Quieter Advent service), the very special service of Lessons and Carols, and two Christmas Eve services. As always: invite family, neighbors, and friends. It's free and open to all.

I close with one of my favorite poems, written by one of the great Muslim poets and spiritual masters, Jalāl al-Dīn Muḥammad Rūmī (1207-1273). This poem perfectly embodies the spirit, invitation, and hopefulness of Advent:

Come, come  
Whoever you are:  
Wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving.

Come,  
Even if you have broken your vow  
One thousand times.  
Come yet again.

Come.

Come.

It's Advent, Beloved. Thanks be to God!

With love and prayers,

Fr. Hal+



### CONGRATULATIONS TO LYDIA JUNG!

Lydia is Suji's daughter and a violinist and is part of the New York State Music Association's special Symphony Orchestra! Suji will be in Rochester on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the concert.



## OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

December 3	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Advent 1
December 7	7:00 PM	Evening Grace Meditative Service (Trinity Campus)	
December 10	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Advent 2
December 10	4:00 PM	A Quieter Advent (St. Paul's Campus)	Advent 2
December 17	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Advent 3
December 17	4:00 PM	A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (Trinity Campus)	
December 21	7:00 PM	Evening Grace Meditative Service (Trinity Campus)	
December 24	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Advent 4
December 24	5:00 PM	Family Christmas Eve Service (St. Paul's Campus)	Christmas Eve
December 24	7:30 AM	First Mass of Christmas (Trinity Campus)	Christmas Eve
December 31	10:30 AM	Morning Prayer (Trinity Campus)	Christmas 1

All Sunday services are live streamed to our YouTube channel. And you can also find them there and on our Facebook page after the service is over. The links are:

YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP1qGAuJlIxWU8Z\\_ucCKEGA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP1qGAuJlIxWU8Z_ucCKEGA)

Grace's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/graceossining/>

## EVENING GRACE



Evening Grace is a new bi-weekly lay-led spiritual service based on quiet meditation and alternate forms of worship including movement, chanting, walking meditation, etc. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month.

Our November gatherings will be on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00–8:00 PM at our Trinity campus. We hope you can join us!

Questions? Contact us at [eveninggrace@graceossining.org](mailto:eveninggrace@graceossining.org).



### DEACON'S MESSAGE: A WORD A DAY

As we come into the season of Advent, we are called to make time for quiet reflection. Every year, as I enter this season of preparation, I make more time for prayer, and for witnessing the world around me.

To that end, I participate in an online Advent Calendar. I invite you to join me. For each day of Advent, Forward Movement publishes a word, along with an image. There is also a short reflection on the word that can be accessed via their podcast, or on their website.

Such daily words assist my prayer life and contemplation. Each day I focus on the Advent Word of the day, pray, and either look for an appropriate photo in my camera roll, or take a new one. Participating in this Advent Word experience is like a combined *Lectio* and *Visio Divina*—divine word and divine image.

Then I post to social media—typically to Facebook and Instagram. I also use the hashtags #adventword and the actual word (for example #spirit) to make my posts easy to search. Everyone is encouraged to do the same.

Searching for those hashtags online yields so many great perspectives. This daily practice helps me get ready for the new life that comes with Christmas.

To sign up, click here <https://adventword.org/sign-up-adventword/>.

For more information on Forward Movement, click here [forwardmovement.org](https://forwardmovement.org). Forward Movement is a ministry of the Episcopal Church.

Blessings,

Jean Marie



### VESTRY REPORT

Grace has indeed moved forward—a lot—in two years. Thank you to all for your hard work and support. And there is much to be done and more to be thankful for.

- Grace welcomes Open Door to the educational wing of our St. Paul campus. Their team moved in mid-November and are busy as elves preparing for the Christmas season, and we are grateful to have them renting space. Did you know they are celebrating their 50th year?
- The Lantern Shop is clearing inventory and we are grateful for the many years of shopping, service, and events held up on the hill. Thank you, Karen and all the Lantern Shop Ladies.
- The Old Mill Singers Winter Concert is Saturday, December 2nd, and Sunday, December 3rd, at Clearview School, 480 Albany Post Road. We are grateful to have them sharing their joyful noise in our parish hall. Please consider attending their concert and "get in the mood..."
- Our organ had a "breathing" problem and Grace is working on getting it up and running in time for Lessons and Carols. Thanks, Kate, for shepherding this revitalization project along with the vendor, electrician, and tuner, and we're all ears for good and joyful news.
- Grace's Loaves & Fish team will be serving guests, Saturday, December 9th. Thanks, Alison, for leading the team this year. You'll be great! Greeters, servers, cooks, cleaners, all are welcome to share our community.

Check the rest of *Grace Notes* and the calendar for upcoming events. Thanks to our administrators and all our committees.

Advent is upon us, and we prepare and await the birth of Jesus. Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

Wardens: Darryl Moy (2024) [darryl.moy@gmail.com](mailto:darryl.moy@gmail.com)  
Cecilia Quintero (2025) [cquintero1506@gmail.com](mailto:cquintero1506@gmail.com)

Vestry Members: Sarah Davis (2025) [songbird0606@outlook.com](mailto:songbird0606@outlook.com)  
Kellie Ishmael (2024) [kellieishmael@gmail.com](mailto:kellieishmael@gmail.com)  
Milton Kerr (2024) [mkdj46@yahoo.com](mailto:mkdj46@yahoo.com)  
Maribeth Osgood (2025) [mosgood@optonline.net](mailto:mosgood@optonline.net)  
Jo Ann McGrath (2026), [mcgrathinator@gmail.com](mailto:mcgrathinator@gmail.com)  
Kate Pendzuk (2026) [treasurergraceossining@gmail.com](mailto:treasurergraceossining@gmail.com)





## LOAVES AND FISH

### DINNER SERVED BY GRACE WITH GRACE!

Grace is hosting a meal on Saturday night, December 9<sup>th</sup>. The typical schedule starts at 4:30 PM with set-up and meal prep. Doors open at 5:00 for guests, clean up starts at 6:00 and we're out the door about 6:30 PM.

This year the Grace Loaves and Fishes team includes Linnet Baker, Jean Bonito, Alison Ford, Jo McGrath, Mark and Sue Monroe, Cha and Darryl Moy, Elfreda Okyne, Ed Shultz, and Bev Vaillancourt. We welcome anyone willing to cook, serve, clean up, or donate. Contact me via email ([alisonford@msn.com](mailto:alisonford@msn.com)), or call me at 914-772-3905. Join us as we offer hospitality to our friends and neighbors. You'll be glad you did.

Alison Ford, coordinator

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## MILTON KERR RECEIVED HIS BA!! CONGRATULATIONS!!!





old mill singers  
present

# Holiday Beats with Treats

Directed by Nell Macdonald

The Julie Harris Theater

Clearview School

480 Albany Post Road

Briarcliff Manor, NY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 7PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 3PM

2023

Adults \$20 / Seniors \$15

Kids 12 & Under - \$5

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






# *A Festival of Wine Lessons & Carols*

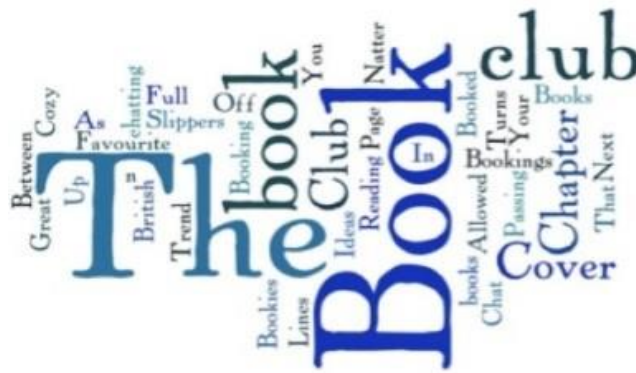
Featuring the combined choirs of  
ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Briarcliff Manor  
&  
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Ossining

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 4PM**  
**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, TRINITY CAMPUS**  
**7 SOUTH HIGHLAND AVENUE**  
**OSSINING, NY 10562**



All are welcome! Free admission.  
Holiday reception to follow in Parish Hall.

For more info: (914) 941-6627  
[churchoffice@graceossining.org](mailto:churchoffice@graceossining.org)



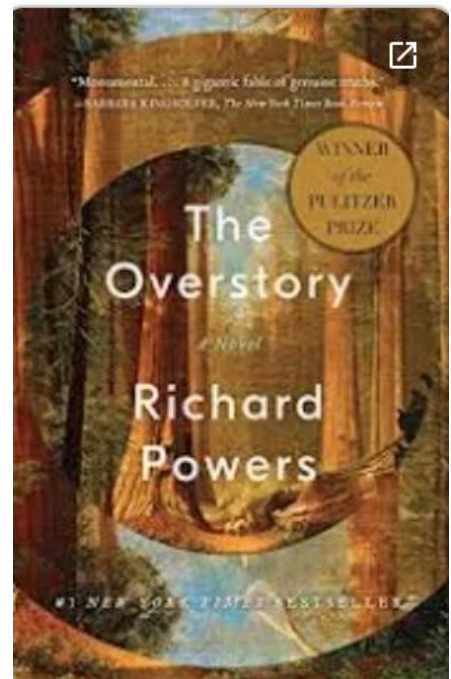
OUR NEXT BOOK IS THE NOVEL  
*THE OVERSTORY* BY RICHARD POWERS!

This Pulitzer Prize winning book by the bestselling author Richard Powers examines the lives of nine characters who all share a profound connection with nature. Their personal link to the environment eventually inspires them to dedicate their time, talent, and energies to saving trees. Given the Grace Mission statement and the global weather/environmental related events of 2023, this sounds like a perfect choice for TBC to read next!

The Kirkus Book review:

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/richard-powers/the-overstory/>

**This novel will be scheduled during our annual  
 TBC Champagne Toast Gathering  
 in January 2024. Date: TBD**



Please feel free to forward to anyone who would be interested!

Contact Cecilia via e-mail: [cquintero1506@gmail.com](mailto:cquintero1506@gmail.com)





## AS IF TO DEMONSTRATE AN ECLIPSE

by Billy Collins

I pick an orange from a wicker basket  
and place it on the table  
to represent the sun.  
Then down at the other end  
a blue and white marble  
becomes the earth  
and nearby I lay the little moon of an aspirin.

I get a glass from a cabinet,  
open a bottle of wine,  
then I sit in a ladder-back chair,  
a benevolent god presiding  
over a miniature creation myth,  
and I begin to sing  
a homemade canticle of thanks  
for this perfect little arrangement,  
for not making the earth too hot or cold  
not making it spin too fast or slow

so that the grove of orange trees  
and the owl become possible,  
not to mention the rolling wave,  
the play of clouds, geese in flight,  
and the Z of lightning on a dark lake.

Then I fill my glass again  
and give thanks for the trout,  
the oak, and the yellow feather,  
singing the room full of shadows,  
as sun and earth and moon  
circle one another in their impeccable orbits  
and I get more and more cockeyed with gratitude.

—A poem sent to us by Julie Gross

# December

## DECEMBER EVENTS

- 2 Hospitality Committee (11:00 AM, Trinity Campus)
- 7 Evening Grace (7:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 9 Grace in Grief (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 9 Free Toy Distribution (4:00 PM, Trinity Sanctuary)
- 9 Grace serves at Loaves and Fish (5:00 PM, Trinity's Potter Hall)
- 10 A Quieter Advent service (4:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 13 Vestry Meeting (7:00 PM, location TBD)
- 17 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (4:00 PM, Trinity Campus)
- 21 Evening Grace (7:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 23 Grace in Grief (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 24 Family Christmas Eve Service (5:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 24 First Mass of Christmas (7:30 PM, Trinity Campus)
- 31 Fifth Sunday (10:30 AM, Morning Prayer, Trinity Campus)

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Diahann C. Malcolm	1	Jan Greene	17
Zoe Grace Parker	3	Janet Robertson	20
Alexander Sergey Mahlau	10	Carissa Paige Wagner	20
Christopher D. Boswell	11	Sue Bayliss	23
Kathryn Brocchi	11	Stephen Okyne	24
Elfreda Okyne	12	Lisa Marie Liberti	25
Joan Holsten	13	Janet L. Hughes	27
Jonathan Moser	13	Jo Ann McGrath	28
Karen Pasieka	14	Craig Peter Rowe	28

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Christine and John Schuler	2
Carolyn Black and Arthur Hightower	28



### **CLERGY**

The Rev. Hal Roark, Priest-in-Charge  
The Rev. Jean Marie Angelo, Deacon

### **VESTRY**

Darryl Moy, Warden	Cecilia Quintero, Warden
Jo Ann McGrath, Clerk	
Kate Pendzuk, Treasurer	
Sarah Davis	Milton Kerr
Kellie Ishmael	Maribeth Osgood

### **STAFF**

Tina Farrell and Tamsen Hernández, Parish Administrators  
Suji Jung, Music Director  
Katherine Pendzuk, Verger  
Anthony Sena, Sexton, St. Paul's Campus  
Pablo Montoya, Sexton, Trinity Campus

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To love God is a call to action. Strengthened by prayer, worship, and study,  
Grace Church embraces and serves all people, the earth, and every living thing.