

**TWAG**  
**This Week At Grace**  
**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**4110 S. Ridgewood Ave.**  
**Port Orange, FL 32127**  
**386-767-3583**

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 16 – January 22, 2022

Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11; Psalm 36:5-10 [The Lectionary Page](#)

**Sunday:** Birthdays: Bob Amara, Mary Lynn Hastings  
8:00 am **HOLY EUCHARIST**  
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 am **HOLY EUCHARIST - also livestreamed**  
10:30 am Children's Sunday School

**Monday:**  
6:00 pm Vestry Meeting

**Tuesday:** Birthdays: Hugh Carter

**Wednesday:** Birthdays: Nicholas Cheremsak  
5:00 pm 10:30 am Prayer & Praise Ensemble Rehearsal  
6:00 pm **PRAYER AND PRAISE SERVICE – also livestreamed**

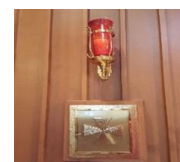
**Thursday:** Birthdays:  
11:00 am 8 am Choir Practice

**Saturday:**  
10:00 am DOK Monthly Meeting



We have Sundays available for Altar Flower memorials which is a time-honored tradition at Grace. There is a sign-up book in the Narthex or call church office.

The Ambry candle is given to the glory of God for Peace and Healing in the World.





## WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND PRAISE SERVICE

This is a great weekly service to join in person or watch on Facebook Live.

**Fr. Gary Jackson** provided the homily this week. If you did not get a chance to view it live, the service remains on Facebook for your viewing or use the link on our website.



## DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA COVID-19 GUIDELINES effective January 5, 2022

- The Diocese is once again requiring mandatory facemasks at all services regardless of vaccination status. This is due to the recent high Covid transmission rates in the Diocese and will remain in place until the county falls below 10 % new case positivity.
- In an abundance of caution, all food and beverage service are suspended.
- Social distancing has proven to be less effective as a preventive measure than previously thought. There will be no mandatory distances set for indoor services.
- Private communions will be discontinued for the time being to protect the recipients, the lay Eucharistic visitors, and the clergy.
- At the exchange of peace there should be no physical contact.

<https://cfdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/covid-guidelines-CFL-01052022.pdf>



## **131<sup>st</sup> GRACE CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 23**

Due to the new COVID guidelines, we will conduct our January 23 Annual General Meeting in the same format as last year.

There will now be our usual 8:00 am and 10:30 am services and an abbreviated Annual Meetings will be conducted at both services.

No brunch will be served.

Annual Meetings are an important part of the Episcopalian tradition. Every year the parish holds an annual meeting to share with parishioners a recap of the prior year and a look at the year ahead.



## GRACEWAY CAFÉ NEEDS HOSTS!

We are suspending the resumption of Graceway Café for the duration of the current Covid transmission spike.

We are still looking for hosts once we can resume our fellowship Coffee Hour between services. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you or your ministry group would like to volunteer to “host” Graceway Café for one Sunday a month for a 3- month period.

This is a terrific way to get publicity for your ministry or a good fellowship project for any small group of parishioners.

Please bring donuts, pastry, casserole etc. for 25 people. Coffee will be provided but will need to be made (*it is easy, we will show you how to do it*). The Café donation jar usually covers the cost of food.

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## WELCOME 10:30 SUNDAY SERVICE PIANIST RICHARD COBB

We are pleased to announce that Richard Cobb has joined our 10:30 service musical family as Pianist.

Richard has extensive experience, having taken piano lessons as a child and started playing in prayer and worship services as a teenager.

He grew up in Fernandina Beach and played in churches in Jacksonville before moving to this area in 2003 where he has also played in several churches.

Richard is Senior Director of Sales for a plastic manufacturer. He has been married for 16 years and has 12-year-old twin girls and a 15-year-old daughter. Please make him feel welcome when you see him at the 10:30 service.

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**CONTACTING FR. GARY JACKSON-** During his time with us as Priest-In-Charge, he is available to parishioners at the church office on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please call the church office at 386 767-3583 if you would like to meet with him for any reason at all. He can also be reached by email at [rector@egracepo.org](mailto:rector@egracepo.org) and his cell phone at 863-512-9325.



Grace Church is thankful and blessed to have Fr. Gary help fulfill our Pastoral Care needs and share with us his personal ministry from God : “tell them how much I love them.”

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### LETTER OF THANKS FROM CHILDS ACADEMY

*Carol and the outreach committee, we are so blessed!*

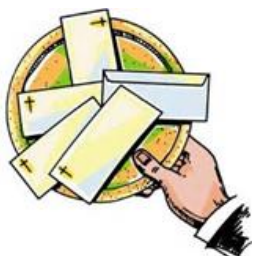
*The Chiles Academy would love to thank everyone who has supported The Chiles Academy during this past year, whether through donations on St. Nicholas Day, through sharing of information about our program, and through ongoing prayer and support for our students and families.*

*A very happy New Year!!*

*Sheryl Bell*

*Family Care Coordinator  
The Chiles Academy, Inc.*

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### 2022 PLEDGE ENVELOPES AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

Pick up your 2022 pledge envelopes in the narthex.

If you do not see your name and would like Pledge Envelopes, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



## QUARANTINE GUIDELINES from Diocese of Central Florida

- If you are in close contact for 15 minutes or more with person X who tests positive, you should remain quarantined for 5 days from person X's positive test. If you are exposed to someone who tested positive, you should be tested on the 5th day after your exposure.
- If your test is negative- you may resume your normal activities.
- If your test is positive- you must quarantine for 5 additional days, and remain masked for the next additional 5 days.
- If you tested positive for Covid, there is no need to be tested again for at least 3 months. You may continue to test positive for 90 days even though you are not contagious.
- If you are in a crowded outdoor settings and in close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated, you should remain masked.
- If you have a condition or taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may not be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. You should continue to take all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing a wellfitted mask, until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.
- If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from all variants and prevent possibly spreading Covid to others, please wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission. (ALL counties in the Diocese of Central Florida are in high transmission areas!)

## A Prayer During This Pandemic

Filled With Life

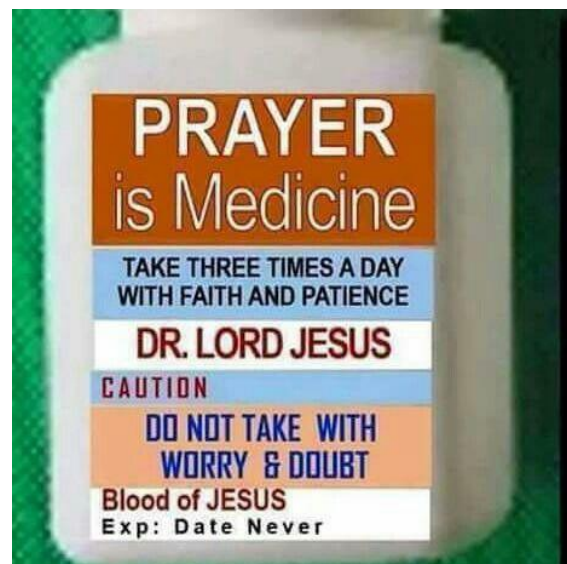
I come to you, O great One, seeking renewal of my weary and worried spirit. Let me rest in you for a while and feel you surrounding me in safety and love. Then let that rest in you call forth new strength in me.

For others who are weary, I pray for comfort and peace. For others who are worried, I pray for solace and reassurance. For the desperate, I pray for relief and hope. Help us all set our priorities differently, so you come before all other demands in our lives. Only then, we know, O God, may we be filled with your life once again for the fullest living on this earth, even during days of darkness.

Hear my prayers and grant me your peace, in the name of Jesus, O Lord. Amen.



LET US REMAIN STEADFAST AND FAITHFUL  
IN OUR PRAYERS  
FOR THE HEALING OF THE WORLD







WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON, START AT:

[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

Amazon will donate 0.5% to Grace Church for all qualified purchases at no extra cost to you!

**SELECT GRACE CHURCH ONCE AS YOUR CHARITY, THEN SHOP & DONATE AT THE SAME TIME! THANK YOU.**



"We are the Church of Open Arms. We are a community that celebrates Jesus. We are disciples committed to growth: in membership, in outreach, and in stewardship. We glorify God and empower people for service.

*Our Mission Statement:*

*"Grace church welcomes all who seek to know, love and share Jesus."*

#### HUM Food Pantry Needs :

**Canned Fruit Pasta Sauce Toilet Paper**

*Donations may be left in the narthex or brought to the pantry here at Grace on Mon. Wed. and Fri. between 9:00am and 11:00am.*

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#### Grace Church Pet Food Pantry Needs:

**Dry or Wet Cat & Dog Food  
Dog/Cat Treats  
Gallon Ziploc Slider Style Bags**

*For monetary donations, make checks out to "Grace Episcopal Church" with "Pet Food Pantry" on the memo line.*

**Thank you from the Outreach Ministry.  
Your generosity is greatly appreciated!**

## **Good News Daily**

**Volume XXII**

**January 16-22, 2022**

**Number 3**

### **Sunday, January 16**

Ephesians 4:1-16 *Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (v.3 NRSV)*

The last fifty years in church have been a real time of division and struggle. It seems to me that we spend a lot of time announcing who is “wrong” to our being “right”! I look at people during coffee hour. There always seem to be two small groups of people huddled together at opposite ends of the room, glaring at one another other. It’s truly tragic and sad!

Paul teaches us that our baptisms have bound us together. We’re bound together so organically that he calls us the Body of Christ! Then what on earth are we doing glaring at each other, wishing that the “those” people on the other side of the room would disappear forever?

I believe if we we’d walk to the opposite side of the room, greet our brothers and sisters with a smile, saying to them, “I miss you!”, we’d see the Holy Spirit at work, moving us together to start again toward unity.

Genesis 7:1-10, 17-23; Psalms 148, 149, 150; Mark 3:7-19

### **Monday, January 17**

Hebrews 4:14—5:6 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are... (v.15a)*

I believe that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14) to share the experience of human life, not as a keen observer, but as a participant! That has been the most exciting, comforting and healing truth in my adult life.

I’m a USMC veteran of the Vietnam War. I’ve spent almost 30 years of my life working with other Vietnam veterans to help them deal with the spiritual issues and moral injury that are the lasting result of their combat experience.

Over and over again, they’ve told me, “God can’t ever forgive me!” I tell them, “That’s not true! What this sentence of Scripture seeks to tell us is that God in Jesus Christ was right there with us, really sharing the fear, anger, and violence of the horrors of combat. God understands exactly. Through that shared experience, God will and has already forgiven us.”

The next time you feel that God will never understand the testing you’ve experienced, don’t turn to despair. Let Jesus embrace you with love—because he does understand exactly!

Genesis 8:6-22; Psalm 25; John 2:23—3:15

### **Tuesday, January 18**

Psalms 26 *Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and mind. (v.2)*

I do a daily devotion that leads me to recite most of the Psalms aloud over the course of several weeks. I confess that I cannot read Psalm 26 aloud, especially the verse above. Psalm 26 has a tone of self-righteousness that hurts my heart and soul.

Frankly, having God test my heart and mind, telling me what God finds as God “tries me” would be a painful experience, because I know that a lot of what God will find in me will be darkness, self-centeredness, and failure to trust God.

I've been blessed to have a Trappist monk for a spiritual guide for forty years. Whenever I shared with him some of what I've discovered deep within me, he has always said the same thing. "Good! The beginning of a deeper walk with God is discovering and knowing the real truth about yourself. Once you've started acknowledging that, you can begin learning to trust how deeply God loves you!"

Genesis 9:1-17; Psalm 28; Hebrews 5:7-14; John 3:16-21

### **Wednesday, January 19**

John 3:22-36 *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.* (v.36a)

I often find myself believing that eternal life is a reward given for a life of participating in an obstacle course of rule following and righteous behavior. Actually, belief in Jesus Christ is the only requirement for obtaining eternal life. What we are called to do is to follow the Holy Spirit's lead in living out eternal life in everyday life. This requires trusting the truth of what the above verse states is actually true for me, and all of us. God, the Holy Spirit, who dwells within our hearts and souls, knows more about us than we can ever know about ourselves. Therefore, we have to learn to listen to the Spirit's prompting.

What's difficult for me is that I have to keep myself from believing that I'm actually in control of my transformation into becoming an icon of Christ. This is actually harder work than rule following and righteous behavior! The gift of eternal life has already been given to us. Our spiritual life is living into the already given gift we have received.

Genesis 9:18-29; Psalm 38; Hebrews 6:1-12

### **Thursday, January 20**

Hebrews 6:13-20 *Where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered* (v.20)

One of the great truths of our Christian Faith is that forty days after the Resurrection, Jesus Christ ascended to the Father. Slicing through all the technical theology, what that means is our human nature (which is part of Jesus Christ) went along to dwell with the Father. Put another way, the separation between God and humanity no longer exists. That's incredibly wonderful news!

Because we are baptized into union with Jesus Christ, because Jesus Christ has taken our humanity into inseparable union with God, we are always with God, and God is always with us. I know this truth, but I still spend time trying to figure out how to connect with a distant God. The fact is that God is right there with all of us.

God loves us. God wants to have a deeply personal relationship with each of us. If you want God's attention and help, just start talking! God is there waiting with amazing loving kindness and gentle power. Amen! Alleluia!

Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 37:1-18; John 4:1-15

### **Friday, January 21**

Psalm 31 *You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me.* (v.3)

A few months ago, I was driving my friend Tom home after a church meeting. He was very quiet throughout the ride. Finally, he said, "John, I want to tell you something."

He took a deep breath and said, "John, I'm afraid of God! I read all those stories in the Bible about God being angry, and punishing and even killing people, because they sinned! I've



done my share of breaking the Ten Commandments. I'm scared that someday God is going to punish me!"

I responded, "Tom, the whole point of the Good News of Jesus Christ is that God loves all of us. Jesus came among us, died, and rose from the dead so that sins could be forgiven and we could have a new relationship with God no matter how often we ask—a permanent relationship of love, hope, forgiveness, and healing. I told him I was betting my life that what I'd just said is true for all of us! We can trust God not to hurt us!

Genesis 11:27—12:8; Hebrews 7:1-17; John 4:16-26

### **Saturday, January 22**

*Hebrews 7:18-28 Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (v.25)*

As I listen to people talk about salvation, I often hear them talk about salvation in a conditional way. They say that Jesus saves us, but we can lose our salvation because we sin. Those statements bother my soul—because I don't believe that salvation is conditional. I believe salvation comes to us in the new birth through the water and indwelling of the Holy Spirit than comes to us in Baptism.

The Prayer Book my Christian Tradition uses states, "The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble." One of the promises people make at their Baptism is this: "Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?" Those preparing to be baptized respond, "I will with God's help."

Part of the gifts of Baptism is that we are incorporated into the way into the forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ. I believe Salvation isn't conditional. Saved is saved! The love of God for us isn't conditional. I trust this with all my heart and soul!

Genesis 12:9—13:1; Psalms 30, 32; John 4:27-43

***by John Fergusson***

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