

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH  
*Joyfully Proclaiming in Word and Action  
the Hope in Jesus Christ that is Within Us*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021**  
**THE FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN, DEACON & MARTYR**



THE BOOK OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICES (BAS)  
HOLY EUCHARIST  
THE REV. DAVID HYATT, CELEBRANT & PREACHER

Announcements

Voluntary            Noel Etranger                            Louis Claude Daquin

Opening Hymn      Good King Wenceslas                #145

**THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

The Grace

Celebrant    The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**People      And also with you.**

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

Celebrant    Almighty God,

**All            to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**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.**

Glory to God

Celebrant    Glory to God in the highest,

**All            and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you  
for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**COLLECT FOR ST. STEPHEN**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us grace, O Lord, that like Stephen we may learn to love even our enemies and seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Celebrant Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### The First Reading

Christine Gentles

Reader: A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF JEREMIAH

At the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came from the LORD: Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD's house and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD; speak to them all the words that I command you; do not hold back a word. It may be that they will listen, all of them and will turn from their evil way, that I may change my mind about the disaster that I intend to bring on them because of their evil doings. You shall say to them: Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you and to heed the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently—though you have not heeded— then I will make this house like Shiloh and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth. The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?'" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "It is the LORD who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore amend your ways and your doings and obey the voice of the LORD your God and the LORD will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. But as for me, here I am in your hands.

Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15

Reader      The Word of the Lord.

**People      Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 31:1-7, 16**

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,

for you are my crag and my stronghold;

for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,

for you are my tower of strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me,

O Lord, O God of truth.

I hate those who cling to worthless idols and I put my trust in the Lord.

I will rejoice and be glad because of your mercy;

for you have seen my affliction; you know my distress.

Make your face to shine upon your servant and

in your loving-kindness save me.”

## The Epistle

Reader: A READING FROM ACTS

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." And all who sat in the council looked intently at him and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?" And Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels and yet you have not kept it." When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died. Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51c-60

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

*All Stand for the Gospel*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**The Gospel Reading**

Reader The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**People Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. The Lament over Jerusalem "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'" Matt 23:34-39

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

Rev. David

### **The Apostles' Creed**

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**All 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 to the dead. 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.**

Prayers of The People

Renee Anderson

Leader In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, "**Lord, grant us peace.**"

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by The angel, hear us, O Lord.

**All Lord, grant us peace.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**



By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

We pray for our Bishop, Todd, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark, National Indigenous Archbishop and Marinez, Bishop of Amazonia and for all the clergy and people.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

We especially pray today for: Grace; Michael; Bella; Pat; Jo; Bob; Marnie; Roy; Marguerite; Bud; Ruth; Elizabeth; Mary Lee; Donna & Family. We pray for those in our Parish Cycle of Prayer this week: Chris, Tracy, Duncan & Miriam Levett; Ron & Doreen Levett; Velma Locke; Rod & Karen Loker; Elizabeth Lowe; John & Linda Lucek.

You are invited in a moment of quiet to name, either silently or aloud, those whom you know to be in need of Christ's healing, comfort, strength or guidance. Lord, encourage those who are oppressed; defend the widows; deliver the captives; heal the sick; strengthen all who are in tribulation, necessity or distress. And remember, O Lord, those whom we have forgotten.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the peace of Christ and those whose faith is known to God alone.

O gracious Father, who sent not your Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved: Fulfil the good tidings of your angel and bring great joy to all people through the nativity of him who is the Prince of Peace; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be glory in the highest, now and for evermore.

**Amen.**

And we remember especially all those in whose memory the Christmas Poinsettias have been placed in the church.

### **The Confession and Absolution**

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

Celebrant Most merciful God,  
**All 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 neighbours 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.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People** Amen.

### **The Peace**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

## **THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS**

#### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Celebrant Refuge of those who trust in you, we give thanks for the witness of Stephen. Accept our offering this day and grant your peace and consolation to those who suffer for your truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer # 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

**People** We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth;  
you are glorified in the assembly of your saints.  
All your martyrs bless you and praise you, confessing before the  
powers of this world the great name of your only Son.  
Therefore we join our voices with theirs and with all who have  
served you in every age, to proclaim the glory of your name.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and  
sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name

All **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.**

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love  
you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be  
your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets;  
and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.  
For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the  
Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.  
In him, you have delivered us from evil and made us worthy to  
stand before you.  
In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,  
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.  
On the night he was handed over to suffering and death,  
a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to  
his disciples 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them 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." Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All**            **we remember his death,**  
**we proclaim his resurrection,**  
**we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant    and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ and make them new and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church and the author of our salvation; by whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

**All**            **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Celebrant    And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**All**            **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, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Celebrant We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.  
**All God here among us, light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

**INVITATION**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.  
**People Thanks be to God.**

**The Communion**

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.  
The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.  
**Amen.**

<b>Communion Hymns</b>	<b>'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime</b>	<b>#146</b>
	<b>What Child is This</b>	<b>#135</b>

*All Stand*

**Prayer After Communion:**

Celebrant Merciful God, we have been gathered at the table of your Son.  
Hear our prayer for all our sisters and brothers in faith who  
suffer for truth, justice, and freedom. Strengthen their witness  
and keep them, with us, under the protection of your wings.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.  
**All Amen.**

### **THE DOXOLOGY**

Celebrant Glory to God,

**All** whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING**

Celebrant May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Leader Go in peace, rejoicing in the birth of the Christ Child.

**All** Thanks be to God.

**Closing Hymn**      **Good Christians All, Rejoice**      **#153**

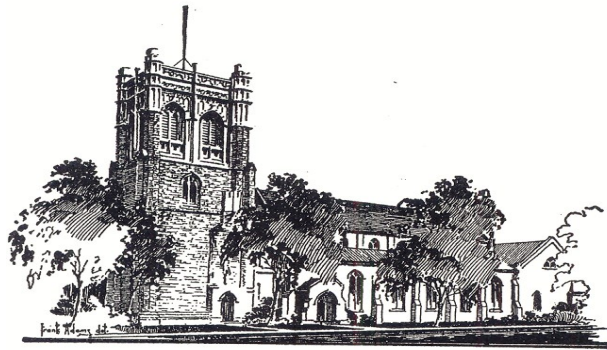
Voluntary              Noel ~ Grand Jeu et Duo              Louis Claude Daquin

If you would like to make a donation to the Window Restoration project in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one, please email [admin@graceanglicanbrantford.ca](mailto:admin@graceanglicanbrantford.ca)

### **PREPARING FOR JANUARY 2ND**

Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-2

*Welcome to historic Grace Church. Greetings in the name of Christ!  
We are a fully accessible, child friendly community.*



4 Pearl Street, Brantford, ON N3T3N4  
Church Office 519.752.6814  
F/B: Grace Anglican Church, Brantford  
Email: [gracesecretary@kwic.com](mailto:gracesecretary@kwic.com)  
Web: [graceanglicanbrantford.ca](http://graceanglicanbrantford.ca)

Clergy: The Rev. Paul E. Silcox, Rector  
The Rev. David Hyatt, Assistant Curate  
The Rev. Alex Morris, Honorary Assistant

Mr. Roger Bayley, Interim Musician  
Mr. Murray Clarke, Musician

People's Wardens: Hilary Bowring, Dorothy DeVille  
Rector's Wardens: Chris Levett, Nicholas Greer



For pastoral emergencies call  
The Reverend Paul Silcox 519.212.2844;  
[pesilcox@gmail.com](mailto:pesilcox@gmail.com)

