

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

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The Reverend Julia Dunbar, Priest (priest@gracechurchoxford.org)

The Reverend Audrey Cronin, Deacon

Music Ministry: Glynne Levesque

Vestry/Lay Leaders: Mimi Royston (Sr. Warden), Russell Rheault (Jr. Warden), Barbara Hanc (Clerk), Bob Torteson (Treasurer), George Krueger, Sharron Gillies, John McLaughlin & Carol Uppgard

Betty Blodgett, Newsletter Editor
Dale Gonyea, Office Administrator
Linda Starr, Director, Pre-school



Participating in Today's Service:

Russell Rheault, Maria Gurriere, Kathy Ossene (A/V Team), Betty Blodgett (Greeter), Betty Blodgett (Eucharistic Minister), VOLUNTEER (Crucifer), Barbara Hanc (Lector), VESTRY & VOLUNTEERS (Counters), Carol Uppgard, Coffee Hour Coordinator

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 2023

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Oxford



Welcome to Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. We're glad you are here! All are invited to receive Communion at Christ's Table. The Worship service/Mass is projected on the screen. Our Book of Common Prayer (BCP) contains all prayers & services. Hymns are in the hymnal blue book (H).

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Processional Hymn: #72 (H) *"Hark! The Glad Sound!"*, (v1-3)

Blessing of the Wreath

God of love, may this wreath and its light remind us that Jesus came to save us from our sin. Bless this wreath and all who gather around it as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas. Come, Lord Jesus, bring hope, faith, joy, love, and life to our world. **Amen.**

Prayers for Lighting the Advent Wreath

First Week of Advent: Hope, a Purple Candle

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. **Amen.**

The Gloria: (SUNG)

Collect for First Sunday in Advent p211 (BCP)

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

1st Reading: **Isaiah 64:1-9**

Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18 p702-703 (BCP)

Epistle: **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Sequence Hymn: #61 (H) *"Sleepers, Wake!"* (v1-2)

The Gospel: **Mark 13:24-37**

Sequence: #61 (H) (v3)

Sermon The Reverend Julia Dunbar

The Nicene Creed p358 (BCP)

Prayers of the People Form III p387 (BCP)

(In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for **The Church of North India (United)**. In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for **St.**

Mark's, Worcester; Non-parochial priests & deacons; Church Video & Film; Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Confession of Sin p360 (BCP)

The Peace p360 (BCP)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (see bottom of page)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Hymn: #59 (H) *"Hark! a Thrilling Voice"*, (v1-3)

Doxology: #380 (H) *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"* (v3)

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A p361 (BCP)

The Lord's Prayer p364 (BCP)

The Breaking of the Bread

INVITATION TO ALL TO RECEIVE COMMUNION

Distribution of Communion

Communion Hymn: #60 (H) *"Creator of the Stars"*, (v1-3)

Post Communion Prayer p365 (BCP)

Recessional Hymn: #57 (H) *"Lo! He Comes"*, (v1-3)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Christmas Flower forms: in honor, thanksgiving or in memory of...please complete & return by December 17.*
- *No Fall Fair mtg today, Budget mtg with Bob today after service.*
- *December 10th, Vestry meeting following the service.*
- *The Living Nativity will be Dec 9th & 10th, 4pm and 5:30pm at the Mesa Farm, 67 Muschopauge Rd., Rutland, MA. (508-886-6898).*
- *December 24th-10:30am-Fourth Sunday of Advent-Morning Prayer. 4:00pm-Christmas Eve Eucharist with Choir.*
- *Please don't forget stuffing for the Food Shelf Christmas Bags. We also need: tea, coffee, canned pasta and canned meat (no tuna). Also, we need stocking stuffer items for the kids at the food shelf. Small toys, dolls, books, puzzles, etc. Thank you!*
- *Choir practice following the service and a brief coffee break. Please see Glynne if you are interested and enjoy singing!*