



# GRACE CHURCH IN NEWARK CHORISTER PROGRAM

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Find us on the web at [www.gracechurchinnewark.org/choirschool](http://www.gracechurchinnewark.org/choirschool)

GRACE CHURCH  
IN NEWARK

SPRING - SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024

## Welcome!

The Grace Church in Newark Choristers continue to meet regularly on Tuesdays and Saturdays throughout the current academic year. We currently sing at High Mass on Sundays once a month at Grace Church under the direction of Ms. Gail Blache-Gill. We meet for weekly rehearsals in the Choir Room with Mr. Mark Trautman. Our last Sunday will be the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 2 when we will sing at the 10:30 High Mass.

Take a moment to read this newsletter and see all the great things going on with the choristers—and think about the ways you can be a part of this exciting ministry as we make music, build community, and change lives.

## About the Grace Church Choir School

The Choir School Program of Grace Church is a musical and educational outreach of Grace Church in Newark, under the leadership of Father Brent Bates, our Rector. Our program is based on the idea that all children are able to sing, given encouragement and instruction. We offer free music education and performance opportunities for youth, grade 3 through high school.

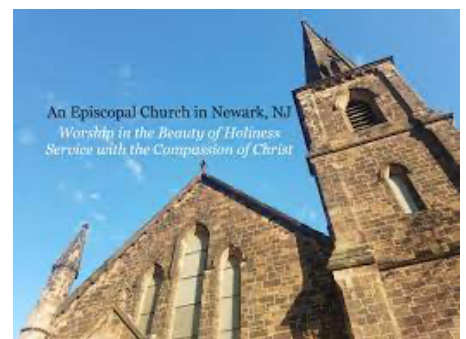
In our tuition-free program, we accept children from Newark and surrounding towns, all economic circumstances and all faith traditions—all are welcome. Choristers need not be members of Grace Church; they must only agree to rehearse and perform as scheduled. Our choristers come from a variety of communities and schools, including public schools, charter schools, and homeschooling programs. Our choristers represent a wide range of cultural communities, and from many faith traditions.

## Joining the Choir School

- Children may join at any time;
- Families may visit us for a rehearsal or service; email Mr. Trautman at [matrautman304@gmail.com](mailto:matrautman304@gmail.com) or Father Bates at [rector@gracechurchinnewark.org](mailto:rector@gracechurchinnewark.org) to arrange an informal audition and interview;
- No prior training or experience is expected or required;
- The program is offered at no cost to participating families who commit to the choir schedule;
- Children of any religious affiliation, or no affiliation, are welcome;
- Perfect attendance at rehearsals and all regularly scheduled services and concerts is expected.

## About Grace Church in Newark

The mission of Grace Church in Newark is to share God's love in the world, and particularly in Newark and beyond. As an active Episcopal Church in the Anglican-Catholic tradition, we welcome all people who enter our doors and offer an inviting place to encounter God in prayer and sacrament, liturgy and music, companionable community, and compassion toward our neighbors. We believe God is calling us to greater and more diverse membership, wider participation in ministry and leadership, better stewardship of God's creation, and a stronger resolve in challenging attitudes and structures that cause injustice. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to respond to this call in love and service and so more fully live the life of Christ.



## Spring 2024

In addition to singing on Sunday mornings, our choristers joined choirs from St. Paul's in Englewood, Grace Church in Haddonfield, Holy Spirit in Lebanon, Calvary in Summit, and St. John's in Somerville for an Evensong celebrating the Epiphany on Sunday, January 7, under the leadership of Ms. Diane Caruso, Mr. Evan Cogswell, Mr. Mark Trautman, and Ms. Giulia Utz. We joined the St. Paul's in Englewood Choir to sing Evensong on the Day of Pentecost, May 19, under the direction of Mr. Trautman and organist Dr. Andrew Moore. We have also begun to offer piano lessons again on a regular basis.

We pray *A Chorister's Prayer* at the beginning of each rehearsal. Instruction encompasses aural training, sight-reading, music theory, music history, and performance etiquette. Choristers also learn the Liturgical Year, prayers, Bible passages, and more. We name one thing that we are thankful for in our lives at the end of each rehearsal.

Through rehearsals, services, travel, and concerts, the choristers nurture lifelong friendships, experiences and memories during their time in the program, developing an extraordinary capacity for time management, leadership, and team building. These skills are profoundly important for their personal growth and transferable to their academic and professional careers.

## Fundraising

The Chorister Program has received three generous grants this year! Christ Church in Short Hills Outreach Committee awarded \$2,500; the Turrell Fund awarded \$5,000; the Marge Christie Fund of the Diocese of Newark awarded \$5,000 and ACTS/VIM awarded us \$15,000. These generous awards help us to grow and maintain our vital ministry of music, community, formation, and development for our young people, and we are most grateful!

## Summer Camp 2024

Choristers will participate in the Diocese of New Jersey Summer Choir Camp in Cape May, July 14-18. The choristers stay at Holiday House of the Girl's Friendly Society of the Diocese of Pennsylvania and rehearse and sing Evensong at the Church of the Advent. For more information, visit <https://njchoircamp.weebly.com>. Mr. Trautman will lead the Camp, and Mr. Daniel Romero will join as the organist for the week.

## Challenges Ahead: *How Can I Help?*

For many years, the Grace Church in Newark Chorister Program has worked wonders with a small budget and minimal resources. We have managed to change lives and accomplish great things for many children in the greater Newark community. Thanks to our supporters and benefactors to date, we have been able to build a sustainable and increasingly healthy program.

Will you consider contributing to our future? Checks in any amount are always welcome, and all gifts are tax-deductible. You can send your gift to Grace Church, 950 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102; earmark your check to 'Grace Church Choir School.'

*Thank you for your support of the Grace Church Choir School. Your gifts and extraordinary support continue to make a difference in the lives of our children and our community, and we are grateful indeed. Feel free to contact us at any time to find out more about how you can be a part of this important outreach.*

