



Celtic Meditations:

Easter VII: The Ascension of our Lord

May 13, 2018 5:00 pm

We are so happy you are here.

*We come from many places to be together for a little while.
Each of us brings our own experience and traditions to this gathering.*

So here in this place, let us take time together to encounter the holy.

Opening Music Meditation

Shenandoah

New Celtic Tune

Opening Meditation

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
As earth became a part of Heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted
He took us with him to the heart of things
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we our selves become his clouds of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light,
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed

- Malcolm Guite (Ascension Sonnet)

Please stand and join in the singing of the hymn

Opening Hymn in *Hymnal 1982 #213*

Come away to the skies

New Celtic Tune

Evening Prayer

Teach us, Loving God, not to hold on to life too tightly. Teach us to hold it lightly, not carelessly, but lightly, easily. Teach us to take it as a gift, to enjoy and cherish while we have it, and to let it go gracefully and thankfully when the time comes. The gift is great, but the Giver is greater still. You, O God, are the Giver, and in you is the life that never dies. Amen.

Please be seated.

The Reading

Luke 24:44-53

Listen now to the Word of God.

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Lector For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, and for the Word of God within us.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Kathleen Tone

Two minutes of silence follows.

Music for Meditation

Mist on the Mountain

Celtic Tune

Prayers

Leader God of extravagant love,

People **Transform us with the freedom of forgiveness.**

People may confess either silently or aloud or consider those whom they now forgive for past injuries.

Leader God of unbounded, sacrificial love,

People **Teach us to give of ourselves in joyful service.**

People may now offer intercessions for those in need or any kind of trouble.

Leader God whose love persists even in the darkest hour,

People **Deepen our faith, renew our spirits and strengthen our confidence in you that we may truly learn to walk in self-giving love.**

Leader Jesus, alongside your suffering you also bear our wounds. We offer you all the grief and worries we carry at this hour: may they be transformed by your love. Amen.

Leader Jesus says, "Come to me you who are troubled and I will give you rest." So come, you who are broken in body or in spirit, you who are torn by relationships and doubt, you who feel deeply within yourselves the divisions of the world. Come, for Jesus invites us to bring our brokenness.

Light Prayers

From now until the end of the service, you are invited to come to the Lady Altar and light a candle and kneel at the rail for prayers.

The laying on of hands is also offered at the healing station near the door at the back of the Chapel.

Please feel free to move about as the Spirit leads you.

Music during Prayers

Ashokan Farwell

New Celtic Tune

Hymn during Prayers *Hymnal 1982 #383* *Fairest Lord Jesus*

German Tune

The Grace

God of faithful surprises, throughout the ages you have made known your love and power in unexpected ways and places: May we daily perceive the joy and wonder of your abiding presence and offer our lives in gratitude for our redemption. **Amen**

The Peace

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom. You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, seasons of life and death.

With saints and ancestors, with the seas and earth and sky, with animals and birds, with our friends and those unknown to us, with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

Sanctus #67

Celebrant We praise you that in Jesus you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity. We give thanks for his life-giving love, for his healing touch, for his vulnerability and for his gentleness. Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and gave it to them saying:

All **“This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it and gave it to them saying:

All **“This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant Holy and gracious God, present with us now, send in kindness your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. As we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. With him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be to you, O God, all honor and glory forever.
AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.
 It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.
 So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
 You who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,
 you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.
 Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
 It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

Communion

*All are invited to come and feast at God's table.
 You may receive the bread in your hand, and if you wish, drink from the cup.*

Concluding Prayer

All Jesus, you revealed yourself to the world so that all people might look to you and be saved:
 May we, who have received you as you are revealed in the breaking of bread, know the whole
 ness you bring. Be our light in the darkness that we may not stumble, and lift us up again if
 we fall; and may we bring this light into the world. Amen.

Concluding Hymn

Come with our Lord arise

Celtic Tune

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Come, let us with our Lord a - rise, our Lord, who made both
 2. This is the day the Lord has made, that all may see his
 3. Then let us ren - der him his own, with sol - emn prayer ap -

earth and skies; who died to save the world he made, and
 love dis - played, may feel his res - ur - rec - tion's power, and
 preach his throne, with meek - ness hear the gos - pel word, with

rose tri - um - phant from the dead; he rose, the Prince of life and
 rise a - gain, to fall no more, in per - fect righ - teous - ness re -
 thanks his dy - ing love re - cord, our joy - ful hearts and voic - es

peace, and stamped the day for - ev - er his.
 newed, and filled with all the life of God.
 raise, and fill his courts with songs of praise.

Concluding Blessing

Celebrant

May the awareness of the angels be yours this night, that you may be alert to unseen mysteries. And may the life of Christ be yours this night, that you may be kindled in love. May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Celebrant

Go forth in the light of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Concluding Meditation

The Harp that Once through Tara's Halls

Celtic Tune

*May God's blessings be upon you and all whom you love.
Please leave quietly.*

Participants

Celebrant	The Reverend Debbie Phillips
Musicians	Ryan Patten, Eric Wagner, Debbie Phillips
Opening and Lesson	Priscilla Lemons
Reflection	Kathleen Tone
Prayers	Eric Wagner
Assisting at Communion	Deb Marchand
Greeter	Bob Marchand

*If you would like to be a part of this sacred time, we welcome readers, musicians, greeters and those to assist with setup, the healing station and communion.
Please see anyone of the participants listed above if interested.*

Gifts: Everyone is welcome to “come as you are” to our services, especially the Celtic Service. However, if you would like to make a gift tonight, there is a basket on your way out. If you would like to make a pledge, (a commitment for the year), please take a pledge card found on the table at the door, fill it out and place it in the plate. Any amount to support this important ministry is greatly appreciated.

Our Prayers are offered for

The peaceful repose of the souls of Fred Fox, Ruby Hill and Ayo Ogunbor; for Connie White, Cheryl McDonough, Natalie Ann Young, Carmine Maimone, Lenny Cawley, Christine Lally, James Ashton, Gary Young, Kristen and Family, Barbara Hawlena, Helen Watson-Felt, Cindy Rhodes, Ronald Birchmore, Edna Ashton, Eugene and Gerry Lockard, Diane Rowand Burns, Rick Marks, Helen Harris, The Fox Family, Jim Kilroy, Grace I., Lange Family, Felton May, Tom Lemons, Kathleen Tone, Rufus and Florine Felder, Christopher Patzke, Kim Shaw, Leo Murphy, P. Dennis Family, Denise Fox and Family, Sara, Pettus Hickman, Bryon English, Ruby Hill's Family, Faith Aroko's Family, Jane and David Knight, Alexandra D., Gerry and Barbara Porter, Kathy Crotty, Giffy Russell, G. Oliver Papps, David Latinik, Helen Rice; Sr. Jane SFN, The Madden Family, David, Joe L'Heureux, George and Sue Erickson, Pauline Grady, Tom, Pauline Zwicker, Vivien Forbes, Suzanne MacNeil, Karen Tucker, Sally Coleman, Don, Jeanne Parler, Frank, Jeff Bowie, Elisabeth Thomas, Cindy Carr, Ross Dolloff, Fran Nalipinski, The Tache Family, Blair and family, Jeff and family, John Mason, Susan Warren, Camilo Notario, Jr., Esmunda Notario, Tom D., Stephen Duff, Rick Rizoli, Ashley Galvin, Mary K., the Castiello Children, Linda and Patrick Grant, Glenn Murer, Carpenter Family, Patricia McDuffe, Rachel Davis, Dr. Elizabeth Prout, Albert Engelken, Harry Davis, The ADAPT protesters, Kori Rodriguez, Mary Manning, Pat Carr, Love, Nate, Phoebe and family, Andrew Rossi, Joanna Morse, Virginia Steadman, Lisa J., Nancy Moore, Sarah Fialho, Patrick O'Donoghue, Eric, Kathleen Hoff, Nancy Pearce, Pezzulo Family, the Pelletiere Family, K. Joyce and Family, Joanne Ryan-Walsh, Anne Busteed, Angela Carter, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, the North Shore Mission Hub, and the Salem Public Schools, especially the seventh grade scholars and the staff that care for them at the Nathaniel Bowditch School.

Visitor Information

Welcome to those of you here for the first time.

All are welcome by God to the heavenly banquet. The Episcopal Church offers the sacraments to anyone baptized in any denomination who, through prayer and thoughtful consideration, desires them. Please come to the communion rail to receive the bread and wine, whether you are an Episcopalian or not, or to receive a blessing.

We are a self-supporting congregation. Everyone is welcome to “come as you are” to our services, especially the Celtic Service. However, if you would like to make a gift tonight, there is a basket on your way out. If you would like to make a pledge, (a commitment for the year), please take a pledge card found on the table at the door, fill it out and place it in the plate. Any amount to support this important ministry is greatly appreciated. Today's collection will support our ministries to the community.

Gluten free? The bread offered at the Celtic service is gluten-free, baked by the priest.

Debbie, the priest, will be available after the service to answer any questions you might have. Please let her know how your thoughts about tonight's service.

We ask that you sign the guestbook at the entrance of the church.

If you want more information, our web address is www.gracechurchsalem.org. Our weekly newsletter, called Grace Notes can also be found there. If you wish to receive the newsletter, simply go to the website, open Grace Notes and subscribe.

We hope you find the service meaningful and the community's hospitality inviting.

Thank you for praying with us today.



Evensong upon the Eve of Pentecost

Magnificat Boston
Louise Munding, Director

Orlando Gibbons "Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis"
Iann Quinn "Preces and Responses"
Anthem: "Cantate Domino canticum novum"
Heinrich Schutz

*Refreshments to follow
All are invited*

**Saturday, May 19
4 o'clock in the afternoon**

Grace Episcopal Church
385 Essex Street, Salem, Massachusetts
The Reverend Debbie Phillips, Rector



Find Yourself at Grace Church

— **Grace Episcopal Church** —

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry
The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates
The Right Reverend Gayle E. Harris
The Reverend Deborah A. Phillips
Tom and Karen Tucker
Hugh MacKay and Joanne Moar

*Presiding Bishop
Bishop Diocesan
Bishop Suffragan
Rector
Property Stewards
Vergers*

— *Vestry* —

Tom Gaither
Joanne Moar
Peggy Carter Willand
Mathew Antonello

*Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Clerk
Treasurer*

Michelle Aroko, Jonathan Bailly, Melissa Barnes,
Jane Eskeland, Christopher Patzke, Jason Stonehouse

Members of Vestry