



Celtic Meditations

Pentecost 23: Creation

12 November 2017 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.*

Please remember to silence all devices

Opening Musical Meditation

Te lucis ante terminum

Plainsong

Opening Meditation

That you have placed a harmony of lights in the heavens
That night is followed by day and the glowing of the moon by the glistening of the sun
Thanks be to you, O God.
That you have placed a harmony of lights in my soul
That there is gentleness and firmness of strength intuitive knowing and enlightened reasoning
Thanks be to you.
Let me be so sure of your law of harmony in all things
That I seek it in my own depths and in knowing it in my inner life
Yearn for it in the torn relationships of my world
Man and woman, black and white, sun and moon in a harmony of movement.
- J. Philip Newell, *Celtic Benediction*

Opening Hymn

Light of the world

New Celtic Tune

1 Light of the world, in grace and beau - ty,
2 Now, as we see the lights of eve - ning,
mir - ror of God's e - ter - nal face,
we raise our voice in hymns of praise;
trans - par - ent flame of love's free du - ty,
worth - y are you of end - less bless - ing,
you bring sal - va - tion to our race.
sun of our night, lamp of our days.

Evening Prayer

God our desire, whose coming we look for, but whose arrival is unexpected: Here in the darkness make us urgent to greet you, and open yourself to our longing that we may be known by you through Jesus Christ. Amen

The Reading

Matthew 25:1-13

Lector Listen now for the Word of God.

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

People Thanks be to God.

Silence

During the silence, let the reading speak to you

Reflection

Bob Marchand

Two minutes of silence follows.

Music for Meditation

Peaceful River

Celtic Tune

Affirmation from Daily Prayer for All Seasons, Church Publishing

**We believe in God, the creator of all life and beauty,
who blesses our journey.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
who lived as a friend and savior to all he met as he traveled,
and who ate and laughed, wept and celebrated with them in love.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who rides on the gentle breeze,
who strengthens our bindings, and
who offers hope eternal.
We believe in the church,
which stands open to all travelers,
and bears witness to the everlasting love of God.**

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Leader God our Savior,
All **Cleanse from our hearts all that impedes your love.**
Leader God our Savior,
All **Renew in us the desire to live in your grace.**

Leader God our Savior,
All **Fill us again with the will to persevere.**
Leader God our Savior, we bless your name and ask your healing love:
Here, the people may add particular thanksgivings and intercessions.

Leader Give us ever-grateful hearts,
All **To share your love with all and to hold all the earth in your goodness.**

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.

*From now until the end of the service, you are invited to come for light prayers and healing.
There are votive candles at the Lady Altar and at the table near the back.
Please feel free to move about as the Spirit leads you.*

Music during Prayers *Rowan Tree* *New Celtic Tune*

During the singing of the hymn, please bring your pledge card up and place it in the baptismal font

Hymn during Prayers #47 *Be thou my vision* *Celtic Tune*

The Blessing over the Commitments

God of Abundance, you have created us and invited us into the process of redeeming this world. Here we offer these simple cards, and the financial commitments they represent. These gifts represent the work of our hands, the sweat of our brow, and the passion of hearts. As we seek to follow your Son our Savior Jesus Christ and give our whole lives to your service, let these portions of who we are and what we have help us along the way. We know you have blessed us with abundance, and while we often do not see it, help us to know you better through generosity to your Church, each other, and the world around us. Bless these gifts that they may transform others through your Church, and bless them so that they may transform our lives as part of our journey to and with you. We ask this in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God. Amen.

The Peace The peace of our Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Please feel free to exchange the peace in any way you feel comfortable.

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 In the beginning, God made the world, made it and mothered it, shaped it and fathered it. All that is green, blue, deep and growing; all that is tender, firm, fragrant and curious; all that crawls, flies, swim, walks or is motionless; all that speaks, sings, cries, laughs or keeps silence; all that suffers, lacks, limps or longs for an end; the world belongs to God,

People **The earth and all its people.**

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:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread. On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying,

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

Celebrant In the same way, 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 Hear us Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing and making us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world. 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

The Invitation

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 **Generous Giver, you pour forth your extravagant bounty without measure upon your whole creation: Teach us such generosity, that the fruits of our spirits and the works of our hands may build your commonwealth of blessing. Amen.**

Concluding Hymn #56

I want to walk as a child of the light

New Celtic Tune

Concluding Blessing

Celebrant May God who called you into being welcome you home. May the Lord bless you and keep you and make his light to shine upon you this day and evermore. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace, and with the saints, rest in the heart of the Holy One.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Concluding Meditation

Sheep on the Moor

Celtic Tune

May God's blessings be upon you and all whom you love.

Participants

Celebrant	Debbie Phillips
Musicians	Debbie Phillips, flute and keyboard, Eric Wagner, guitar
Opening and Lesson	Priscilla Lemons
Reflection	Bob Marchand
Affirmation	Kathleen Tone
Prayers of the People	Kathleen Tone
Assisting at God's Table	Kathleen Tone
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.

There is a signup sheet near the healing station for those who would like to give a reflection.

No prior experience necessary; just an openness to the sacred around you.

Bowditch School Notebook Buddies

Time to get reacquainted with your notebook penpal. Debbie will have your notebooks available during coffee hour. If at all possible, please stay a while after church to write to your scholar. Debbie would like to get these back to the school as soon as possible.

We will also be hosting a Wellness Event for the scholars in the next few weeks here at Grace Church. Keep an eye out in the leaflet and in Grace Notes for more information.

Next Sunday

At the end of the 10:30 am service next week, we will process out for the dedication of the **Quinlan Memorial Garden Plaque of the Saints**. This plaque lists the names of those who are buried in our garden. We are hoping that their families will be able to join us next week.

Following the dedication, we will enjoy a potluck luncheon at 12:00 noon in Abbot Hall where we will have the drawing of 2 pledge cards for special prizes. Not to be missed!!! Please use the signup in the Lobby for the potluck.

| 2 NOVEMBER 2017

Joining in God's 'ever-rollingness'

THE RT. REV. ROB WRIGHT

There is a never-failing ever rolling-ness to God. That's what Amos said, "Let justice be like a rolling river and righteousness like a never-failing stream." (Amos 5:24)

Stewardship isn't first and foremost about money. Stewardship is first and foremost about the nature of God... never failing and ever rolling. This must be understood and lived out if you and I are to be called faithful stewards.

When we give, we are participating in the personhood of God. We are participating in what is most real in the universe — God's inexhaustibleness! We are making God real in the world by lending God our flesh through partnership.

When we give, you might say, we are rolling the dice in a game, the outcome of which we are already certain. God is love. And, loving is giving. Read along in the bible, Old or New Testament, and you will see the most stern rebukes by God through the prophets are reserved for the people who claim God but fail to enact God. Rebuke is reserved for those who would dam the flow of God's never-failing ever rolling-ness, either in word, deeds or both.

But that is not who we are. We are those who understand and incarnate God's generosity. We are the people who appreciate at a deep personal level that all we have is gift. And that anything we could offer to God is simply the act of returning resources to its author and true owner.

But not only that, there is a never-failing, ever rolling-ness to be experienced personally in this giving business. Let's call it the experience of freedom born of fidelity. Freedom too often these days is defined as the absence of restraint or regulation. This definition of freedom is little more than the idolatry of the self or the market. The freedom that we were made for is the freedom that comes from faithfulness. This freedom births spiritual maturity and a robust sense of neighborliness and common well-being.

It's no wonder that one of the 100 most influential

For reflection...

- When has giving made you feel most connected to God and God's people?
- What hinders you from trusting and replicating God's never-failing and persistent generosity?

people in the world, as I write this article, is Marie Kondo, author of "The Life-changing Magic of Tidying Up." While on the face of it her goal appears to be decluttering the world one closet and home at a time, she's teaching the world that clutter and greed are bondage.

I believe her work is deeply spiritual. I believe her work is about removing the barriers to our experience of never failing and ever rolling-ness. What hinders us in trusting and replicating God's never-failingness and ever rolling-ness? Maybe we could begin again by thinking of God's raging, persistent, goodness toward us. Maybe that could unlock the flow.



The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright is the 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, which covers north and central Georgia, and embraces 110 worshipping communities. He and his wife, Beth-Sarah Wright, have a grown daughter and four school-age children.

Charles Dickens'

A Christmas Carol

STARRING MASTER STORYTELLER
JONATHAN KRUK

FRIDAY
DECEMBER
15
8:00 PM



ONE NIGHT ONLY

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Our Prayers are offered for

Victims of natural disasters, the victims of violence, Diane Burns, Angela and Charles Williams, Cindy Rhodes, Ronald Birchmore, Edna Ashton, Eugene Lockard, Rick Marks, Helen Harris, Fred and Ingrid Fox, Jim Kilroy, Grace I., Lange Family, Felton May, Debbie Marchand, Cameron Wicker, Tom Lemons, Kathleen Tone, Rufus and Florine Felder, Christopher Patzke, Amanda Lily, Kim Shaw, Leo Murphy, P. Dennis Family, Denise Fox and Family, Sara and Dann, Pettus Hickman, Bryon English, Ruby and Al Hill, Ayo Ogunbor, 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, Kathleen Hoff, Nancy Pearce, Pezzulo Family, the Pelletiere Family, K. Joyce and Family, Joanne Ryan-Walsh, Joanne Moar, Anne Busted, Jane Stewart, Sabina Wu, Angela Carter, Rebekah Clark, and the Salem Public Schools, especially the Nathaniel Bowditch School.

If you would like to add or remove a name or concern to the prayer list, please email us at gcis1@verizon.net or use the sign up sheet located in the Lobby.

— 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
Dr. Eileen Hunt
Tom and Karen Tucker
Hugh MacKay and Joanne Moar

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