



Celtic Evensong and Communion

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

19 November 2023 4:00 pm

*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

The Opening Rite

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Meditation

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy,
don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty
of lives and whole towns destroyed or about
to be. We are not wise, and not very often
kind. And much can never be redeemed.
Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this
is its way of fighting back, that sometimes
something happens better than all the riches
or power in the world. It could be anything,
but very likely you notice it in the instant
when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case.
Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid
of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.

- Mary Oliver

The Invitatory and Psalm

Officiant Blessed be the One who creates all things.
People The Holy One's love is new every morning.

Light of the World *Phos hilaron*

Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
Mirror of God's eternal face,
Transparent flame of love's free duty,
You bring salvation to our race.
Now, as we see the lights of evening,
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;
Worthy are you of endless blessing,
Sun of our night, lamp of our days.

Psalm 123

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.
- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- 3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God, *
until he show us his mercy.
- 4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
- 5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

The Lessons

Listen now to the Word of God

The First Lesson

Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?' Then you ought to have invested my

money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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

Affirmation

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 Let us pray that all may live in unity, peace and concord,

***People* Lord have mercy.**

Leader Upon all who suffer from dissensions and quarrels,

***People* Christ have mercy**

Leader That all leaders strive for justice and peace,

***People* Lord, have mercy.**

Leader As we turn to the tasks before us this day,

***People* Fill us gracious Lord.**

Leader In making faithful choices, great and small,

***People* Guide us, gracious Lord.**

Leader As we seek to notice and serve those in need,

***People* Teach us, gracious Lord.**

Leader As we offer our lives to you,

***People* Hear us, gracious Lord.**

Leader With our hearts ready to serve,

***People* Accompany us, gracious Lord.**

The Collect of the Day

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Guidance

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Knowledge of Creation

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Leader I invite you to add the prayers of your hearts either silently or aloud.

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 to the Lady Altar and light a candle and kneel at the rail for prayers. Please move about as the Spirit leads you.

The Grace Christ the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Holy Communion

Celebrant The Lord is here.

People God’s spirit is with us.

Celebrant God, you made us, and the world and everything in it. All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again. He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can all be your people. And so with thanks we praise you, singing:

**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 We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them, and said:

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

Celebrant Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said:

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

Celebrant And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in him and proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus, and through this food give us strength to live as your people. Help us to care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land, we worship you in songs of everlasting praise. 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

Concluding Prayer

All Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

Blessing Live without fear; your creator has made you holy, has always protected and sustained you, and loves you like no other. Therefore, go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

Officiant May the Lord grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Concluding Musical Meditation

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Manny Faria
Paul Massari
Katie Scott
Katie Scott

Officiant
Assisting
Intercessor

Usher

Permissions for livestreaming

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Parish Prayer List

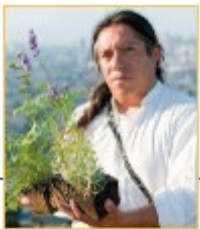
For Neal and Maureen Joyce, Arthur, Jane, Marty Siegel, Laszlo Katko, Jane Thompson, Deb Young, Cindy Rhodes, Ron, Linda Layne, Gerald Tucker, Allison Mascolo, Melissa Glassman, Max Joyce, Inga, Henry, and Lucas, Mel, Corey MacNeil, Helen Phillips and her family, Dianne, Michael Towey, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their ministries, for Ukraine; the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem, the Salem Public Schools and for an end to racism, war, anti-Semitism, gun violence and oppression. If you have prayer requests, please email prayerlist@gracechurchsalem.org by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news.

Rooted in Abundance Reflection: Practice

“It all begins with Gratitude,” says Guillermo Vasquez, the head of the Bay Area nonprofit Indigenous Permaculture. “I give thanks one, two, three times to our creators and makers for everything.” This has been the attitude and action of Indigenous Permaculture since its creation in 2002. The idea behind this project is to form partnerships with local communities and indigenous peoples as a part of the “obligation to bring in Mother Earth’s way of thinking” to all systems, Guillermo reports from a yellow flowering field of mustard, groundcover in the Bay Area’s East Bay.

“We are all connected,” he continues. “We empower low-income peoples to understand and respond directly to how food, nutrition, health, and land are intertwined.” IP is more than a food production and gardening program, although the food they produce does provide free vegetables to local food pantries and other distribution sites. Guillermo is most interested in seeing how the connection between creation and the creator are formed through partnership with the land and the cycles of the Earth. He operates with an idea of Tiguanceguité, or, working together. “Always together, never out of alignment.”

“It is all related,” he explained, “food, energy, water, community.” Whether in rural or urban environments, permaculture, also known as biointensive polyculture, is a blend of traditional farming techniques that help people grow food while conserving water, land, and energy. It is a holistic way of examining gardening and the world, a process Guillermo calls cosmovision. When we share our most sacred meal, we are giving thanks for a system rooted in an ancient abundance, blessing upon blessing. We honor the life of the created land and the many lives who have touched it, sown, reaped, and shared its increase with a hungry world.



Guillermo Vasquez is of Mayan descent and grew up in Central America. He came to the Bay Area to study Agroecology at University of California, Santa Cruz.

Rooted in Abundance

These last few weeks we have heard reflections about how people are rooted in abundance. We have considered our own faith journey rooted in the love of God. We have also heard the words of Jesus about generous love depicted in parables.

This Sunday, we are called to act upon this grace. This Sunday, we are challenged to make a thoughtful and honest pledge to support God's work here at Grace Church. This spiritual practice of pledging will open new doors of joy. It will open new ways into your heart. It will allow new generations to learn about their own identity as children of the Divine and to see the loveliness of Christ in others. It will bring reassurance to those who are anxious and fearful. It will allow our neighbors to witness to the loving purposes of God which we model in our ministries to those in any kind of need, sickness, or loneliness.

You may make this pledge in a variety of ways.

You may bring it to church and drop it in the plate.

You may mail it to Grace Church.

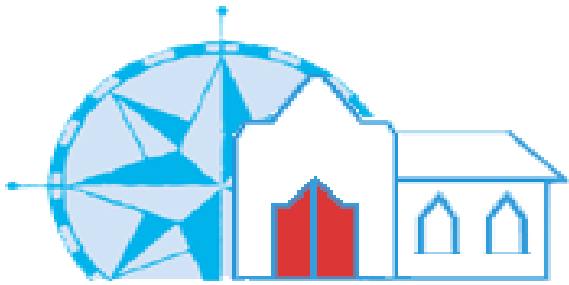
You may email stewardship@gracechurchsalem.org.

You may go on our website www.gracechurchsalem.org and click "Stewardship" on the menu bar.

However you make your pledge, know that it will make a significant impact on lives in ways you may never know. It will even impact you! For in pledging to Grace Church, you are acting on the faith and trust you have in God to nourish and sustain you all the days of your life.

Each of us is rooted in abundance in some way. Let us celebrate the many gifts present in everyone who walks through our doors. Let us also be mindful of the needs and rights of others, and of the ways we can meet some of those needs and advocate for some of those rights as a community who loves Christ.

Grace Episcopal Church



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The Mission of Grace Church is to unconditionally invite all people to join us in building a faithful Episcopal congregation that goes out into the community and through prayer, presence, and partnering improves the quality of life by bringing everyone closer to God.

— Grace Episcopal Church —

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates
The Right Reverend Carol Gallagher
The Reverend Deborah A. Phillips
The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler
The Reverend Manny Faria
The Reverend Ann Perrott
Mark N. Peterson
Tom and Karen Tucker

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Bishop Diocesan
Assistant Bishop
Rector
Assisting Clergy
Assisting Clergy
Assisting Clergy
Music Director
Property Stewards

— Vestry —

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Margaret Carter
Barbara Layne
Katie Scott
Joanne Moar
Melissa Barnes, Andrew Bishop, Marianne Cannon
Lisa Duffy, Joanna Troy, Matt VanHamersveld

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