



Celtic Evensong and Communion

The Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

18 October 2026 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

Opening Musical Meditation

Opening Meditation

Lord God, we praise you for those riches of our creation that we will never see:
For stars whose light will never reach the earth;
For species of living things that were born,
that flourished and perished before humankind appeared in the world;
For patterns and colors in the flowers, which only insect eyes are able to see;
For strange, high music that humans can never hear.
Lord God, you see everything that you have made and behold that it is very good.

- Anonymous

Confession

**Most loving God, we confess that we have not loved in thought, word, or deed.
We have not loved you or our neighbors or ourselves. We are sorry.
Remind us that you love us unconditionally and help us to rest in your love.**

Assurance of Pardon

Loving God, have mercy on us, forgive us for forgetting to love, and renew our ability to give and receive love in all that we do. Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.
Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.
Glory to the Holy Trinity, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Song to the Light

1 Light of the world, in grace and beau - ty,
2 Now, as we see in 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.

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Psalm 96:1-9 *Cantate Domino*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
 - 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
 - 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
 - 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
 - 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
 - 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
 - 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
 - 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
 - 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- Glory to the Holy Trinity, as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever, Amen.

The Lessons and Reflection

Listen now to the Word of God.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him - and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

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

Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

The Second Lesson

Matthew 22:15-22

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Kasai Dear

Music after the 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. Amen.

The Prayers

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

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

Lord have mercy.

Upon all who suffer from dissensions and quarrels,

Christ have mercy.

That all leaders strive for justice and peace,

Lord, have mercy.

Come, Lord, into our hearts,
and fill them with love.

Come, Lord, into our minds,
and fill them with peace.

Come, Lord, to all who are suffering in any way,
and fill us with your hope and healing.

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

Let us pray.

God be in my head and in my understanding.

God be in my eyes and in my looking.

God be in my mouth and in my speaking.

God be in my heart and in my thinking.

God be in my end and at my departing. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect from Iona Abbey

Gracious God, increase our hope, dispel our apathy; inspire our imagination, and deepen our commitment until we become the signs of your kingdom for which we and others pray. **Amen.**

A Collect from *Daily Prayers for All Seasons*

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.**

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.*

There is a healing space at the back of the Lady Chapel for you.

Please move about as the Spirit leads you.

Music during Prayers

Hymn #480 in The Hymnal 1982

When Jesus left his Father’s throne

The Grace

God, you sent your Son into the world that we might live through him: Grant us grace to love one another as he first loved us and know the fullness of joy. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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 send 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.

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:

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

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

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

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:

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

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

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

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 as a mother. Therefore, go in peace to follow the good road, and may God's blessing be with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

May the Lord grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.

Thanks be to God.

Concluding Musical Meditation

— Worship Leaders —

The Rev. Manny Faria
Kathleen Tone
Ryan Patten and Lisa Duffy
Kathleen Tone
Kasai Dear
Marianne Cannon
Kathleen Tone

Celebrant
Opening
Musicians
Lector
Reflection
Prayers
Usher

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Our Prayers are offered for

Karen and Tom Tucker, Mary Born, Robert Borden, Linda Abbene, Deven Manthorne, Margarette Connor, Reny Sparapani, Gary Young, Amy, Paul, Heather and Prescott, Ariana, Sheridan, Javy, Faith Aroko and family, Jesse Hurst and family, Maureen Joyce, Arthur, Deb Young, Cindy Rhodes, Ron, Allison Mascolo, Melissa Glassman, Max Joyce, Marc Britt, those battling cancer, Mel, Corey MacNeil, Dianne, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Priscilla Lemons, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and family, for the peaceful repose of the soul of Smadar and all victims of war, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their ministries, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem, the Salem Public Schools, and for an end to racism, war, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, gun violence, and oppression. In thanksgiving, we pray for the ministry of the Revered Debbie Phillips and her husband, Eric Wagner, this community of faith, for God's grace and forgiveness, for those with the courage to stand up to tyranny, for creation, for the diversity of people, and for all the blessings of this life.

If you have additions or deletions to the prayer list, please email prayerlist@gracechurchsalem.org by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news.

Announcements

Join our Realm Online Community!

Visit onrealm.org to access our church directory, give online, and stay informed about upcoming events. Scan the QR code to get started today! If you notice any discrepancies or have questions, please reach out to Katie at treasurer@gracechurchsalem.org.



Halloween Parking

Parking in front of the church is restricted from September 15 until November 1 (Monday through Friday, 5pm–7am, and Saturday and Sunday, 12pm–7am). Sunday morning services will not be affected. For the Celtic Service and weekday evening events, there will be dashboard parking passes available.

Rector Search Committee Nominations

It is time to assemble our Rector Search Committee!

Here is the process:

- Every parishioner will, please, submit *one* nomination form either for themselves or to nominate someone else. If you are nominating someone else, please make sure that they are willing to serve on the committee.
- You can fill out a form online at the link below or print a physical copy and return it to a warden or in the offering plate. Please make sure your physical form is in a sealed envelope labeled "nomination." Paper forms will also be available in the back of the church.
- **Forms are due by the end of the day, TODAY.**
- The Vestry will discuss the nominations at their meeting on October 19, and the Search Committee will be announced soon after. The Search Committee will be commissioned at a service in November.

In considering your nomination, please remember: to be on the committee, one must possess spiritual maturity, the ability to work collaboratively, the ability to listen openly and thoughtfully to others, and the ability to represent the interests of the entire parish rather than any particular group or viewpoint. The candidate will be expected to attend regular weekly in-person meetings. They will need to complete readings and studies on their own time outside of meetings. They will need to commit to strict and total confidentiality throughout the search process. They must be reliable, dedicated, and have a willingness to fulfill the responsibilities of this ministry.

An online form can be found in this week's e-newsletter. You can get a paper form from an usher. And don't forget: forms are due **TODAY!**

— Grace Episcopal Church —

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe
The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth

*Presiding Bishop
Bishop Diocesan*

The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler
The Reverend Manny Faria
Mark N. Peterson
Tom and Karen Tucker
Eliza Jane Seastone

*Assisting Clergy
Assisting Clergy
Music Director
Property Stewards
Parish Administrator*

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten
Lisa Duffy
Joanna Troy
Katie Scott
Javy Awan, Kai Freyleue, Susan Tweed,
Caroline Watson-Felt, Holly Willis

*Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Clerk
Treasurer
Members of Vestry*



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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.