

Celtic Evensong and Communion

The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

1 February 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

[The Sermon on the Mount] is not addressed to individuals
but to the community that Jesus begins....

It is the constitution of a people.

You cannot live by the demands of the sermon on your own,
but that is the point.

The demands of the sermon are designed to make us
depend on God and one another....

The sermon...is not a list of requirements,
but rather a description of the life of a people
gathered by and around Jesus.

To be saved is to be so gathered....

No one is asked to go out and try to be
poor in spirit or to mourn or to be meek.

Rather, Jesus is indicating that given the reality of the kingdom
we should not be surprised to find among those who follow him
those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, those who are meek.

~ Stanley Hauerwas, from *Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible: Matthew*, p. 61.

A Prayer for the Turning of Hearts

Most Holy God, in the midst of this season of new life, we confess:

We have resisted the light of your love;

we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us;

and we have not treasured the gifts of others around us.

We stand in need of your love.

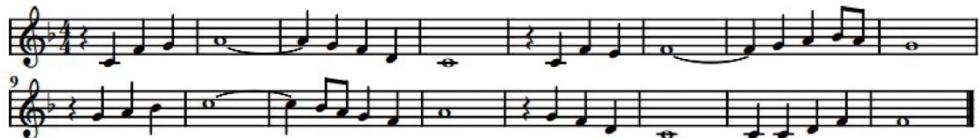
Holy Father, make us holy. Holy Jesus, make us holy. Holy Spirit, make us holy.

Holy God, make us whole. Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Arise, shine, for your light has come.
And the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
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 Source, Wisdom, and Breath of
Creation, as it was in the beginning, is now and will
be for ever. Amen.

Song to the Light



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 15

- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
 who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
 who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
 he does no evil to his friend; *
 he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
 but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
 and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
 nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things *
 shall never be overthrown.

Glory to the Holy Trinity, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons and Reflection

Listen now to the Word of God

The First Lesson

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

The Second Lesson

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

Paul Massari

Music after the Reflection

Affirmation

As children of God, we affirm:

**That God, who is Love, created all and called it good,
that God is present with all of creation,
and that, in darkness and in light, God is faithful;
therefore we, too, seek to be faithful.**

**That Jesus came to show us Love with a human face,
that he taught justice and reconciliation and suffered on our behalf,
and that through his faithful example, he embodies hope;
therefore we, too, seek to be people of justice, reconciliation, and hope.**

That the Holy Spirit guides and accompanies us,

that this same Spirit offers wisdom and discernment,
and that, when we are open, the Spirit can always find a way;
therefore we, seek to be people filled with God's Spirit:
discerning, loving, and transforming our world. 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.

For our deepest and most holy longings we pray:

Renew us, O God.

For all who wander, who hunger, who thirst:

Renew us as people of service and compassion.

For this planet, our home:

Renew our will to be healers of creation.

For this and every nation:

Renew in all people the will for good and the longing for peace.

For those whom we hold in our hearts:

Here, the people may add their intercessions or thanksgivings either silently or aloud.

Bless these and all creation with your goodness,

and renew our trust in your love. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Brigid of Kildare

O God, whose servant Brigid, kindled with the flame of your love, became a shining light in your church: Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline, and walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **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.

*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 #593 in *The Hymnal 1982*

Lord, make us servants of your peace

The Grace

O holy Wisdom: Fill us this day with joy, understanding, and grace, that we may tell out the wonder of your love; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

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 It is our joy and delight to give you thanks and praise, Emmanuel, God with us. We give you thanks and praise for you hallowing of human flesh. We rejoice at your light which shines out of darkness and enlightens all who seek you. We praise you that you brought forth new life in the family of Mary and Joseph as you do today from all who faithfully await the fulfillment of your word. We praise you that you were known first by poor shepherds and wise seekers as you are known today by the poor and outcast. We rejoice with the angels at your promise of peace for those who trust in you. We rejoice that the extraordinary is given birth in the ordinary places of life.

So with the angels who sing “Glory” and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we sing together,

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 We bless you for Jesus, born of the Spirit’s love and a woman’s body and blood. We bless you for Jesus who shows us how to live the fullness of our humanity and thus become one with you. We remember Jesus who laughed and wept and felt tiredness and fear; who praise Mary when she anointed him for death and blessed a woman of the city who washed his feet with tears. We remember Jesus who touched lepers and the sick and feasted with tax collectors and sinners. We remember Christ who lives on in all who courageously and faithfully bring forth the light of your love in earth’s darkest places.

We remember Jesus who, on the night before he died, shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to them saying:

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

Celebrant After supper he took a cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying:

All **“This is my life-blood, given 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 O God who is known to us in human flesh, send your Holy Spirit on us and on these material things of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and we may be the body of Christ, food and life for the world. We ask these things through Christ, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be glory now and forever

All **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

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

May this new night of rest repair the wear of time, restore your vision of a deeper light, heal the wounds of disappointments, and restore youth of heart for the adventure that awaits you tomorrow. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain 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. Sarah A. Conner

Presider

Ryan Patten, Grayson Davison, Lisa Duffy

Musicians

Ryan Patten

Opening

Paul Massari

Lector

Paul Massari

Reflection

Marianne Cannon

Prayers

Joanna Troy

Usher

Our Prayers are offered for

Linda Abbene, Mickey, Deven Manthorne, Margaret Connor, Chuck Manck, Barbara Dwyer, Lilyann, John Gilbo, Vance Gilbert, Reny Sparapani, Laurel, 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 Reverend 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. The Parish Prayer List is read aloud each Wednesday at Morning Prayer.

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Epiphany Gifts for Our Neighbors

Our church school children recognize that gifts appear in many different ways. Please help us collect any of the following items during the Epiphany season, to be given in love to our neighbors who are in great need, with the intention of giving the gift of comfort and joy.



Please bring any of these suggested gifts to church during Epiphany; they will then be donated to Lifebridge. The collection will conclude on Sunday, February 15th .

~ Melissa Barnes

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| • Bar Soap | • Gloves | • Packets of Tuna |
| • Personal Wipes | • Hats | • Packets of Chicken |
| • Toothpaste | • Rain Ponchos | • Protein bars |
| • Toothbrushes | • New socks | • Fruit cups in juice |
| • Toothbrush covers | • New underwear | • Individual PB servings |
| • Dental floss | | |
| • Hand cream | | |
| • Chapstick | | |

WARRANT FOR PARISH MEETING

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF GRACE CHURCH IN SALEM will be called to order on **Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 5:00 pm** for the following purposes:

- To receive the annual reports of the Parish.
- To present a budget for 2026.
- To elect the following officers of the Parish:

Two Wardens (1 year)
Two Vestry persons (3 years)
Treasurer (1 year)
Clerk (1 year)
2 Delegates of Convention (1 year)
1 Alternate Delegate to Convention (1 year)
Up to 5 Delegates to North Shore Deanery (1 year)

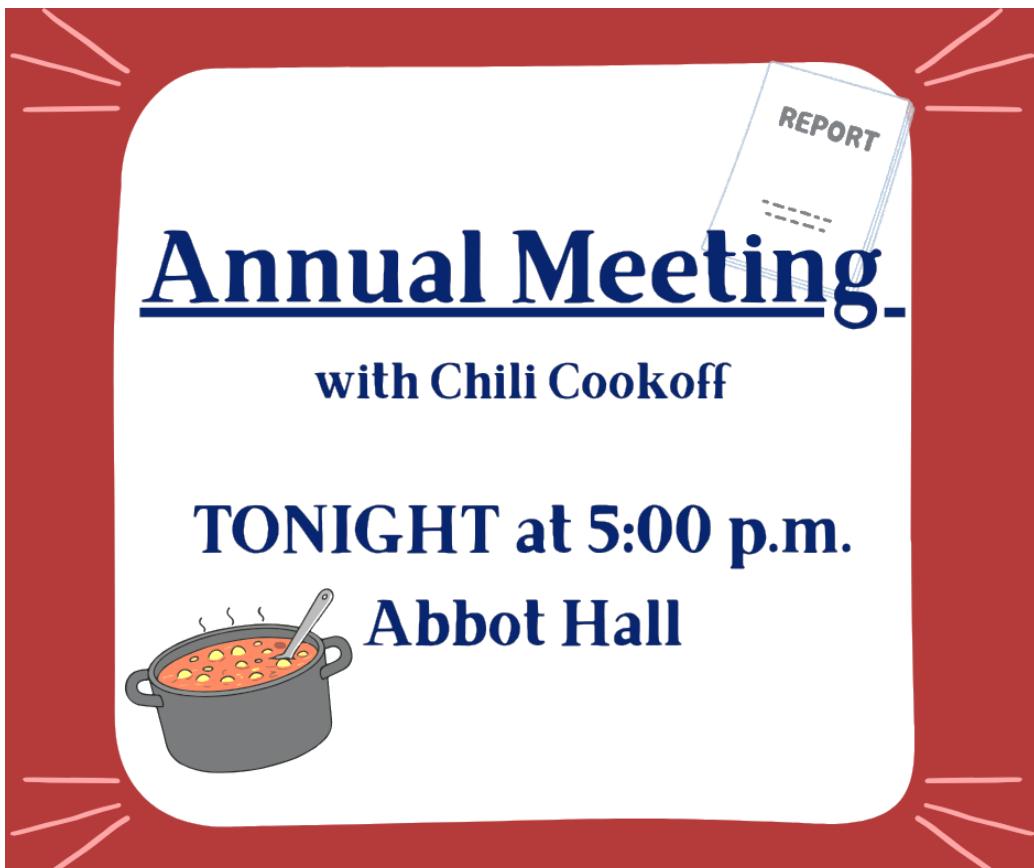
- To consider ways to live into our mission.

Everyone is invited to the meeting. Only members will be allowed to vote. A member is anyone who regularly attends Sunday worship, financially supports the parish through a pledge and participates in the life of the community. Everyone present, however, is welcome to participate in the discussion.

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.

Please join us in our mission.

UPCOMING Events



Annual Meeting
with Chili Cookoff

TONIGHT at 5:00 p.m.
Abbot Hall





Antiracism Team
Meeting February 15th

Our second forum will be offered on Sunday, February 15th following the Celtic service.

SAVE THE DATES FOR
Lenten Learning

Details to come!

JOURNEYING WITH THE MYSTICS



Five Thursdays starting February 26th
In-person at Grace from 7:00p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Cliff Cutler will lead an exploration of the mystics to enhance each participant's capacity for their own spirituality, and to awaken wonder in daily life.

* * * * *

EPISCOPAL 101



Four Tuesdays starting February 24th
On Zoom from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
(with one in-person session after each service on
Sunday, March 22nd)

Sarah Conner will lead an introduction to the Episcopal Church for those who are new to it or want to learn more. The class will also prepare adults for baptism, confirmation, or reception into the Episcopal Church.

Please let Sarah know in advance if you'd like to participate.

This Week's Feast: Brigid of Kildare

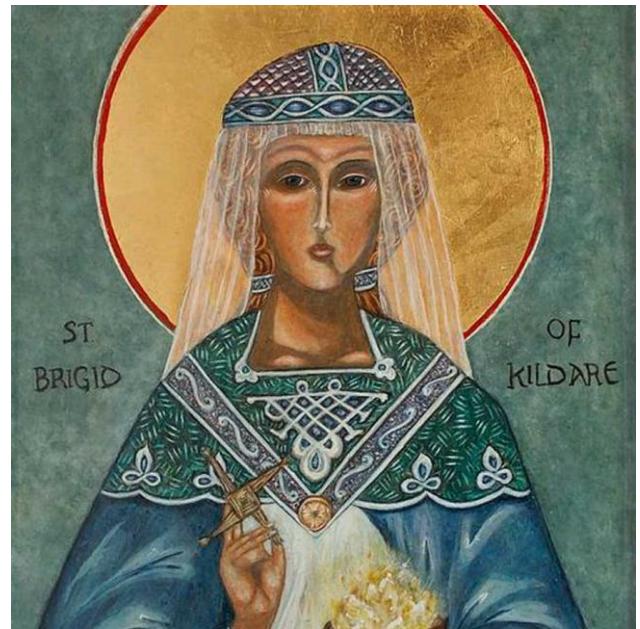
Along with Patrick, Brigid is one of the most beloved Irish saints. She was born into slavery in the middle of the fifth century, the daughter of a local chieftain and one of his slaves. Her father, Dubhthach, was the poet laureate of King Loeghaire and a pagan, but her mother, Brocca, was a Christian.

Even as a young girl, Brigid was notorious for giving away all of the family's food and goods in order to feed and assist the poor. Enraged, her father tried to sell her to the king of Leinster, but even while the two men were negotiating her price, she took her father's jeweled sword and gave it to a beggar so that he could sell it to feed his family. The king was impressed with her compassion and resourcefulness, and offered Dubhthach his own jeweled sword as a replacement, telling him to give his daughter her freedom.

Gathering a group of women around her, Brigid founded a monastery in 470 at Kildare, a place whose name meant "Church of the Oak." This was the first monastic community for women in Ireland. To secure the sacraments, Brigid persuaded the anchorite Conlaed to receive ordination as a bishop and to bring his community of monks to Kildare, thus establishing a double monastery for both men and women. She also founded a renowned scriptorium and center for manuscript illumination at the monastic community.

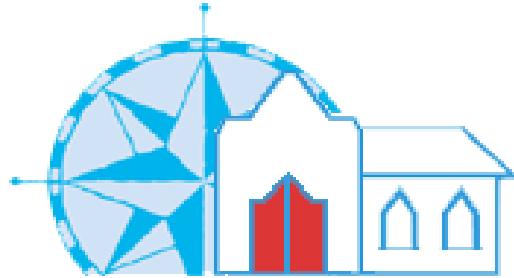
Brigid actively participated in leadership and in policy-making decisions, not only within her own monastic federation but also within the councils and synods of the Irish church. She died around 523 at Kildare. Her remains are said to have been re-interred with those of Patrick at Downpatrick in the ninth century.

From Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Church Publishing



Detail of a stained glass window in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Macon, Georgia. Photo: Octave 444 / Wikipedia

Grace Episcopal Church



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— Grace Episcopal Church —

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe

Presiding Bishop

The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth

Bishop Diocesan

The Reverend Sarah A. Conner

Interim Priest

The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler

Assisting Clergy

The Reverend Manny Faria

Assisting Clergy

Mark N. Peterson

Music Director

Tom and Karen Tucker

Property Stewards

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten

Senior Warden

Lisa Duffy

Junior Warden

Joanna Troy

Clerk

Katie Scott

Treasurer

Javy Awan, Marianne Cannon, Kai Freyleue,

Members of Vestry

Joanne Moar, Susan Tweed, Holly Willis