



# Celtic Evensong and Communion

## The Second Sunday in Lent

01 March 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

*The Dark Island*

#### Opening Meditation

To be born is an incredible event, a great disturbance.  
You are cast out;  
    thrown from the cave into the light.  
It is interesting that your first moment of experience  
    is a moment of disturbance.  
In its abrupt dislocation,  
    birth already holds the echo of death.  
The rhythm of this moment prefigures  
    the subsequent rhythm of your life:  
    parting and coming together.  
There can be no union without separation,  
    no return without parting.  
No belonging is permanent.  
To live a creative and truthful life,  
    it is vital to learn the art of being separate  
    and the generosity of uniting.

~ John O'Donohue, from *Eternal Echoes*, p. 23.

#### The Confession

**Lord Jesus, you come into our lives when we are least prepared for you. As you enfolded your betrayers so embrace us who struggle to love. Reconcile us with our sisters and brothers, and, for the sake of your love, forgive us all our sins.**

#### The Absolution

As far as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is Christ's loving response to those who are humble; so far does the Spirit's enduring strength uphold those who face the darkness within. As parents are concerned for their children, God comes to those who reach out in faith. Out Lord Jesus Christ, who offered himself for us, forgives our sins by the grace of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## The Invitatory and Psalter

Renew and strengthen us, eternal God,

**as we prepare for resurrection.**

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 (*to Erhalt uns, Herr*)

**O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone.**

**Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you his holy Son.**

**Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.**

**Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, life-giving Lord;**

**Wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.**

## Psalm 121

**1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \***

**from where is my help to come?**

**2 My help comes from the LORD, \***

**the maker of heaven and earth.**

**3 He will not let your foot be moved \***

**and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.**

**4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \***

**shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

**5 The LORD himself watches over you; \***

**the LORD is your shade at your right hand,**

**6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \***

**nor the moon by night.**

**7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \***

**it is he who shall keep you safe.**

**8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \***

**from this time forth for evermore.**

**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

**Genesis 12:1-4a**

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Second Lesson****John 3:1-17**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'"

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***Carolyn's Welcome***The Prayers****Prayers for Ourselves and Others**

We pray for all who work through the power of Christ, serving the needs of the poor and healing the wounds of injustice, division, and materialism in our society. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the elderly, the sick, and the lonely among us: that they may receive comfort, companionship, and care from those around them. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that those who have been persecuted or seriously wronged by others may experience warmth and love with Christ, and be able to forgive those who have hurt them. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that when we are discouraged, we may find strength in the signs of a loving and faithful God in those around us, and the joy of the Holy Spirit within us. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whom we love but no longer see; those who have gone beyond the veil of this mortal life, that their souls and the souls of all the departed may rest in peace. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who have asked for our prayers and for those who have no one to pray for them.

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

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

## The Collect of the Day

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, 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 David of Wales

Almighty God, who called your servant David to be a faithful and wise steward of your mysteries for the people of Wales: Mercifully grant that, following his purity of life and zeal for the Gospel of Christ, we may, with him, praise you both here on earth and also in your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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

*The Blarney Pilgrim*

## Hymn #147 in *The Hymnal 1982*

*Now let us all with one accord*

## The Grace

See that ye be at peace among yourselves, and love one another. Follow the example of good men and women of old, and God will comfort you and help you, both in this world and in the world which is to come. **Amen.**

## 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.**

It is right to thank you and praise you, giver of life, beloved of the poor and forgotten. We praise you for the prophets who in spite of persecution spoke your challenging word. We praise you that in Christ you chose to be born in a stable and revealed to poor shepherds. We praise you for Mary, the first witness of the resurrection; and for all the women and men who have been trusted and empowered by you. With all the unremembered, outcast, with the poor and needy, with the trusting and hopeful in all the ages, we praise you saying:

**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 praise you for Jesus Christ, born of peasant parents, friend of lepers and tax collectors, who chose a life given up for others. On the night before he died, he shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them saying:

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

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

**This is my life-blood poured out for you. Do this to remember me.**

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Come now Holy Spirit of God; come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that in sharing this feast we may become the body of Christ. Break down walls of selfishness and fear and bring us all to the new age in which none go hungry and all are fed. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory now and 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**

**God of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May joy and nothing less find you on the way.  
May you be blessed and a blessing.  
May light guide you, and countless others, on the way home.  
And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

### **Dismissal**

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

### **Concluding Musical Meditation**

*The Star of Munster*

## — Worship Leaders —

The Rev. Sarah A. Conner  
Ryan Patten, Grayson Davison, Lisa Duffy  
Ryan Patten  
Paul Massari  
Paul Massari  
Kourtni Patten  
Christine Reichert

*Presider*  
*Musicians*  
*Opening*  
*Lector*  
*Reflection*  
*Prayers*  
*Usher*

### **Our Prayers are offered for**

Robert Borden, Linda Abbene, 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](mailto: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.

### **Permissions for livestreaming**

Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license A-401113, from St James Music Press with license number 7273, and from RiteSong. All other music used in this service is in the Public Domain.



# Knitting News

Red Hats: Some Episcopalians are knitting or crocheting red hats in opposition to the aggressive actions of federal agents in Minnesota. For more information, visit this web address: <https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2026/02/06/episcopalians-among-knitters-crocheters-making-melt-the-ice-red-hats/>.

Also, here is a link to the pattern. <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/melt-the-ice-hat>.

If you are interested in your own red hat and don't know how to knit, join the knitting group on **Tuesday evenings (7 - 8:30 PM)**. Among other forms of knitting, we teach loom knitting which can be learned in a single evening or two. If you let us know in advance, we will be sure to have the necessary supplies.

If you are eager for a red hat but can't come on Tuesday evenings, there are some extra hats in the back of the church. There is no charge, but we ask that you consider a donation to the Diocese's Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund. <https://www.diomass.org/give-now>.

If there are no hats left, speak to a member of the Knitting Group.

~ *Deann Carter*

## UPCOMING Events



### Antiracism Team Forum March 15<sup>th</sup>

The Antiracism Team will offer its next forum on Sunday, March 15 after the 10:00 a.m. service, toward the end of coffee hour.

# Lenten Learning

## Journeying with the Mystics

*offered by Cliff*

Meets in person at Grace for five Thursdays  
starting February 26th

Each session begins at 7:00 p.m. and concludes by 8:00 p.m.

Every meeting includes an 8-minute presentation of a mystic followed by discussion. The course's purpose is not to make you an expert on the mystics presented, but to utilize these mystics to enhance each participant's capacity for their own spirituality, to awaken wonder and enchantment in daily life.

Mystics to be presented may include John of Dalyatha (called John the Sheikh by Arab Christians); the Muslim mystic Ibn 'Arabi; Cynthia Bourgeault; Henri Nouwen; Catherine of Siena; John O'Donohue; the Celtic saint Non of Wales; and the spiritual motherhood of Catherine de Hueck Doherty. Participants can suggest mystics and even, if desired, offer a presentation.

## Episcopal 101

*offered by Sarah*

This class serves as an introduction to the Episcopal Church for those who are new to it, or as a refresher for those who have been in the church for a while. It also prepares adults for baptism, confirmation, or reception into the Episcopal Church. We'll meet via Zoom on four Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and on one Sunday after church, according to the schedule below:

- Tuesday, February 24th: The Nicene Creed
- Tuesday, March 3rd: How the Episcopal Church is Governed
- Tuesday, March 10th : The Book of Common Prayer
- Tuesday, March 17th: The Eucharist
- Sunday, March 22nd: A Guided Tour of the Church (*in person, offered after both services*)

***Please let Sarah know in advance if you'd like to participate so I can send you the Zoom link. And please let me know, too, if you want to take the class in order to prepare for baptism, confirmation, or reception.***

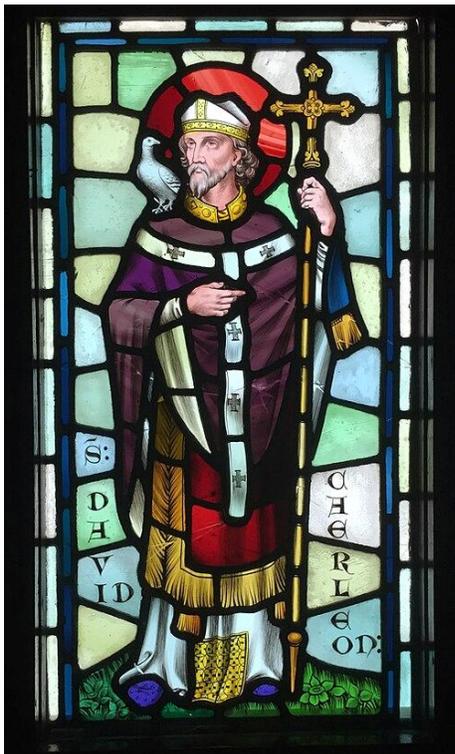
## This Week's Feast: David of Wales

Despite the overwhelming victory of the pagan Angles, Saxons, and Jutes in the fifth century, one part of Britain continued in the ways of Christianity—Wales, the land west of the Wye River.

David was born around the year 500 in Menevia. Little is known of his early life, but, while still fairly young, he founded a monastery near Menevia and became its abbot. He is said to have been strict in governing of his own monastery, yet loving in his treatment and correction of wrongdoers. He required monks to pull ploughs themselves rather than relying on animal labor, and to spend every evening in spiritual reading and writing. No personal possessions were permitted, and to even say “my book” or “my robe” were offenses, since monks had only the use of those things, not the possession of them. One of his nicknames, “the Waterman,” may indicate that he allowed the monks in his care to drink only water at meals instead of the customary wine or mead.

David's strongest desire was to study and meditate in the quiet of his monastery, but he was virtually dragged to an assembly of bishops called to combat the heresy of Pelagianism. Once there, David proved to be so eloquent and learned that Archbishop Dubricius chose him as his own successor as Primate of Wales. In time, David founded eleven other monasteries in Wales and made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

A scholar, a competent administrator, and a man of moderation, David filled the offices he held with distinction. He became a leader and guardian of the Christian faith in Wales. Eventually, he moved the center of episcopal government to Menevia, which is still an episcopal city, now called Ty-Dewi (House of David). *From Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Church Publishing*



*Stained glass depiction of Saint David, designed by William Burges, at Castell Coch, Cardiff.*



*St Davids Cathedral in Pembrokeshire, Wales, the historic episcopal center established on the site of Saint David's monastery at Menevia.*

**Credit:** Photo by Manfred Heyde, Wikimedia Commons, Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike (CC BY-SA).

# Suggestions for Keeping a Holy Lent



## Pray

*Prayer is our conversation with God, spoken and unspoken; to pray is to place ourselves in God's presence. Some ways to pray:*

- Attend church each Sunday in Lent.
- Attend an Ash Wednesday service and as many of the Holy Week services as you can.
- Say grace before meals.
- Pray one of the Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families from the prayer book (these are shortened forms of the Daily Office; you can find them at [missionstclare.com](http://missionstclare.com)).
- Set aside 5-10 minutes each day to sit quietly in God's presence.

## Fast

*To fast is to refrain from something for a time so that we clear space for a greater awareness of God. The absence of something can help us return our focus to God. Some ways to fast:*

- Refrain from – or reduce your consumption of – meat, sugar, or caffeine, etc. Then, at Easter, make a donation to The Salem Pantry or another local hunger-relief organization.
- Fast from noise; schedule some time for silence each day, preferably at the same time so it's part of your routine.
- Do a “digital fast” – schedule time in which you do not use your digital devices. You might commit to a digital fast each evening, or for a day or two each week, etc.

## Read

*Spiritual reading can help recenter us and return our attention to our spiritual life. It also gives us something to reflect on throughout the day. Here are some suggestions:*

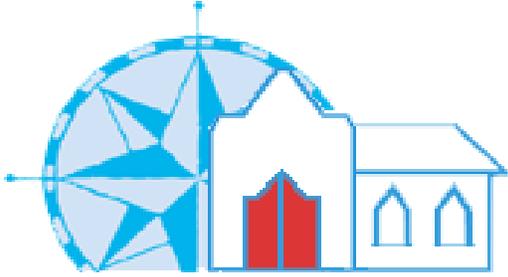
- Read one of the gospels all the way through, a chapter each day. You might try reading Matthew's gospel, since our Sunday gospel readings this year are mostly taken from Matthew.
- Read one or two psalms each day.
- Do some spiritual reading (e.g., a book of Lenten devotions; *Forward Day by Day*; a book on prayer or the spiritual life).
- Go to [episcopalrelief.org/lent](http://episcopalrelief.org/lent) and sign up to receive a daily Lenten email from Episcopal Relief & Development, focused on the holy habits of prayer, worship, and engagement with Scripture.
- Reading can include taking a class – consider attending one of the classes offered at Grace during Lent: “Journeying with the Mystics” and “Episcopal 101,” as well as the monthly forum offered by our antiracism team on March 15.

## Serve

*Thomas Merton wrote, “Action is the stream, and contemplation is the spring.” Our life of prayer and worship flows naturally into service to others. Here are some ways to consider serving:*

- Spend some time reflecting on your gifts and skills, and who might need them.
- If you're seeking ways to volunteer, consider a local organization that helps people in need, such as Lifebridge, The Salem Pantry, etc.
- Make a donation to our diocese's [Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund](#).
- Explore [Episcopal City Mission's Emergent Action Network](#) to find resources for immigration and racial justice.

# Grace Episcopal Church



385 Essex Street  
Salem, Massachusetts 01970  
(978) 744-2796

*E-mail: [office@gracechurchsalem.org](mailto:office@gracechurchsalem.org)  
Web: [www.gracechurchsalem.org](http://www.gracechurchsalem.org)*

*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*

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe

The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth

The Reverend Sarah A. Conner

The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler

The Reverend Manny Faria

Mark N. Peterson

Tom and Karen Tucker

*Presiding Bishop*

*Bishop Diocesan*

*Interim Priest*

*Assisting Clergy*

*Assisting Clergy*

*Music Director*

*Property Stewards*

### — Vestry —

Ryan Patten

Lisa Duffy

Joanna Troy

Katie Scott

Javy Awan, Kai Freyleue, Christine Reichert,

Susan Tweed, Caroline Watson-Felt, Holly Willis

*Senior Warden*

*Junior Warden*

*Clerk*

*Treasurer*

*Members of Vestry*