



Celtic Evensong and Communion

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany: Commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

18 January 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

Ubi caritas

Opening Meditation

But though I was initially disappointed at being categorized as an extremist,
as I continued to think about the matter

I gradually gained a measure of satisfaction from the label.

Was not Jesus an extremist for love: "Love your enemies,
bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you,
and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

Was not Amos an extremist for justice: "Let justice roll down like waters
and righteousness like an ever flowing stream."

Was not Paul an extremist for the Christian gospel:
"I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."

Was not Martin Luther an extremist:
"Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise, so help me God."

And John Bunyan: "I will stay in jail to the end of my days
before I make a butchery of my conscience."

And Abraham Lincoln: "This nation cannot survive half slave and half free."

And Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these truths to be self evident,
that all men are created equal...."

So the question is not whether we will be extremists,
but what kind of extremists we will be.

Will we be extremists for hate or for love?

Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice
or for the extension of justice?

In that dramatic scene on Calvary's hill three men were crucified.

We must never forget that all three were crucified for the same crime –
the crime of extremism. Two were extremists for immorality,
and thus fell below their environment.

The other, Jesus Christ, was an extremist for love, truth and goodness,
and thereby rose above his environment.

Perhaps...the nation and the world are in dire need of creative extremists.

~ The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

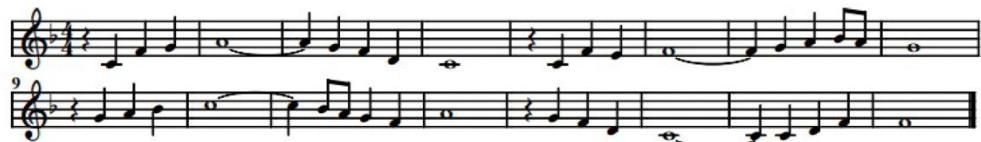
A Prayer for the Turning of Hearts

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 40:1-12

1 I waited patiently upon the LORD; *
 he stooped to me and heard my cry.
2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; *
 he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.
3 He put a new song in my mouth,
 a song of praise to our God; *
 many shall see, and stand in awe,
 and put their trust in the LORD.
4 Happy are they who trust in the LORD! *
 they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

5 Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!

 how great your wonders and your plans for us! *

 there is none who can be compared with you.

6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! *

 but they are more than I can count.

7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure *

 (you have given me ears to hear you);

8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, *

 and so I said, "Behold, I come.

9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: *

 'I love to do your will, O my God;

 your law is deep in my heart.'"

10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; *

 behold, I did not restrain my lips;

 and that, O LORD, you know.

11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;

 I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; *

 I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

12 You are the LORD;

 do not withhold your compassion from me; *

 let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

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

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength--he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

Eamonn an Chnoic

The Second Lesson

John 1:29-42

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I

myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

Christine Reichert

Music after the Reflection

Skibbereen

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 God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for 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 Martin Luther King, Jr., Pastor and Martyr

Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may strive to secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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

Foggy Dew

Hymn #583 in *The Hymnal 1982*

O holy city seen of John

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

All **“This is my life-blood, 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:
“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

Boolavogue

— Worship Leaders —

The Rev. Sarah A. Conner	<i>Presider</i>
Ryan Patten, Grayson Davison, Lisa Duffy	<i>Musicians</i>
Ryan Patten	<i>Opening</i>
Paul Massari	<i>Lector</i>
Christine Reichert	<i>Reflection</i>
Joanna Troy	<i>Prayers</i>
Katie Scott	<i>Usher</i>

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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.

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



Antiracism Team Meeting February 15th

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

Annual Meeting on February 1st at 5:00 p.m. with Chili Cookoff

On Sunday, February 1st, Grace will hold its Annual Meeting at 5:00 p.m. in Abbot Hall. Our chili cookoff will provide a delicious meal for those in attendance!

Annual reports are due in the church office no later than Wednesday, January 21st, so that the Annual Report may be prepared in time for the meeting. Please be sure to submit your report to office@gracechurchsalem.org as a Word file.

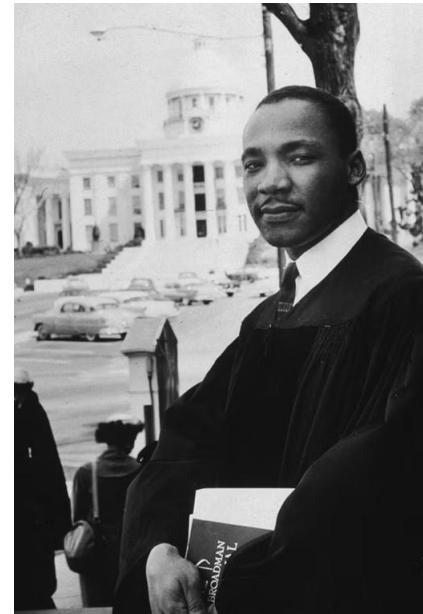
This Week's Feast: Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta. As the son and grandson of Baptist preachers, he was steeped in the Black Church tradition. Following graduation from Morehouse College in 1948, King entered Crozer Theological Seminary, having been ordained the previous year into the ministry of the National Baptist Church. He graduated from Crozer in 1951 and received a doctorate in theology from Boston University in 1955.

In 1954, King became pastor of a church in Montgomery, Alabama. There, Black indignation at inhumane treatment on segregated buses culminated in December 1955, in the arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat to a white man. King was catapulted into national prominence as the leader of the Montgomery bus boycott. He became increasingly the articulate prophet, who could not only rally the Black masses, but could also move the consciences of Whites.

King founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to spearhead non-violent mass demonstrations against racism. Many confrontations followed, most notably in Birmingham and Selma, Alabama, and in Chicago. King's campaigns were instrumental to the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, 1965, and 1968. King then turned his attention to economic empowerment of the poor and to opposition to the Vietnam War, contending that racism, poverty, and militarism were interrelated. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his commitment to non-violent social change.

King lived in constant danger: his home was dynamited, he was almost fatally stabbed, and he was harassed by death threats. He was even jailed thirty times; but through it all he was sustained by his deep faith. In 1957, he received, late at night, a vicious telephone threat. Alone in his kitchen he wept and prayed. He relates that he heard the Lord speaking to him and saying, "Martin Luther, stand up for righteousness, stand up for justice," and promising never to leave him alone—"No, never alone." King refers to his vision as his "MountainTop Experience."

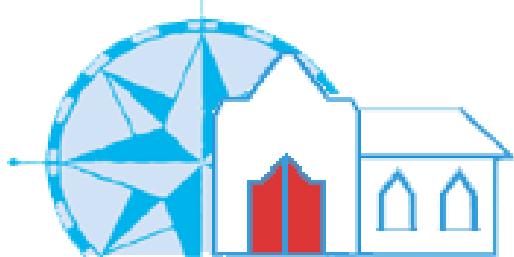


Martin Luther King Jr. at the March on Washington, 1963.
Wikimedia Commons

After preaching at Washington Cathedral on March 31, 1968, King went to Memphis in support of sanitation workers in their struggle for better wages. There, he proclaimed that he had been "to the mountaintop" and had seen "the Promised Land," and that he knew that one day he and his people would be "free at last." On the following day, April 4, he was cut down by an assassin's bullet.

From Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Church Publishing

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