



Celtic Evensong and Communion

The Third Sunday in Lent

08 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

Opening Meditation

Each one of us journeys alone to this world
and it is our nature to seek out belonging.
Each of us carries a unique world within our hearts.
Each soul is a different shape.
No one feels your life as you do;
no one experiences things the way you do.
Your life is a totally unique story
and only you really know it from within.
No one knows what your experience is like.
The experience of each of us is opaque
and inaccessible to outsiders.
Yet no individual is sealed off or hermetically self-enclosed.
Though each soul is individual and unique,
by its very nature the soul cannot cut itself off from the world.
The deepest nature of the soul is relationship.

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

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 95

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

3 For the LORD is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the LORD our Maker.

7 For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

8 Harden not your hearts,

as your forebears did in the wilderness, *

at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,

when they tempted me.

9 They put me to the test, *

though they had seen my works.

10 Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *

"This people are wayward in their hearts;

they do not know my ways."

11 So I swore in my wrath, *

"They shall not enter into my rest."

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

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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

Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

The Second Lesson

John 4:5-32

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

Marianne Cannon

Music after the Reflection

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

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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 Perpetua and Felicity

O God, the King of Saints, who strengthened your servants Perpetua, Felicity, and their companions to make a good confession and to encourage one another in the time of trial: Grant that we who cherish their blessed memory may share their pure and steadfast faith, and win with them the palm of victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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

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

— Worship Leaders —

The Rev. Sarah A. Conner
Ryan Patten, Grayson Davison, Lisa Duffy
Ryan Patten
Paul Massari
Marianne Cannon
Joanna Troy
Christine Reichert

Presider
Musicians
Opening
Lector
Reflection
Prayers
Usher

Our Prayers are offered for

Mary Brown, 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 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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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.

~ Peggy Carter



***By the end of epiphany our
true love gives to thee,***

200

Band-aids

25

Packages of wipes

60

Bars of Soap

24

Dental floss

53

Toothbrushes

15

Winter hats

47

Chapsticks

12

Deodorants

40

**Tubes of
toothpaste**

3

Pairs of gloves

29

Pairs of socks

**And over 100 individual
servings of food!**

The church school would like to thank all who helped gather the listed necessities along with tissues, shaving items, feminine products, hand cream, and ponchos. All items have been given to our neighbors at lifebridge as our expression of love, and were received with gratitude and grace.



**Faithfully,
Melissa Barnes**

UPCOMING Events

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.

- March 5: Ibn 'Arabi, Sufi mystic
- March 12: ETTY HILLESUM, a mystic in the Holocaust
- March 19: John O'Donohue, contemporary Celtic mystic
- March 26: Melangell, ancient Celtic mystic

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.

Antiracism Team News

Monday, March 9th – All are welcome to attend the monthly meeting of the antiracism team at 9:00 a.m. You may also want to come for Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m.

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

Holy Week and Easter at Grace

Palm Sunday – March 29

- 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Blessing of the Palms
and Reading of the Passion Gospel
4:00 p.m. Blessing of the Palms and Reading of the
Passion Gospel

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 p.m. Choral Eucharist with Stripping of the Altar

April 3 – Good Friday

- 7:00 p.m. Proper Liturgy of the Day, Passion Gospel,
and Veneration of the Cross

April 4 – Easter Eve

- 7:00 p.m. Choral Eucharist with Lighting of the
Paschal Candle, Renewal of Baptismal
Vows, and Prayers from the Celtic
Tradition

April 5 – Easter Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. Festal Choral Eucharist

This Week's Feast: Perpetua and Felicity



Saints Perpetua and Felicity, early Christian martyrs of Carthage (d. 203)

Vibia Perpetua, born in 181, was a young widow, mother of an infant, and owner of several slaves, including Felicity and Revocatus. With two other young Carthaginians, Secundulus and Saturninus, they were all catechumens preparing together for baptism.

Early in the third century, Emperor Septimius Severus decreed that all persons should sacrifice to the emperor. Many Christians, confessing faith in the one Lord Jesus Christ, believed that they could not do this. Perpetua, Felicity, and the other catechumens were arrested and held in prison under miserable conditions. At the public hearing before the proconsul, Perpetua refused even the entreaties of her aged father. Pointing to a water pot, she asked him, “See that pot lying there? Can you call it by any other name than what it is?” Her father answered, “Of course not.” Perpetua responded, “Neither can I call myself by any name other than what I am—a Christian.”

Felicity was eight months pregnant at the time they were arrested. Because pregnant women could not be executed, she was anxious lest the others be executed apart from her, while she would be condemned to die at another time alone. Two days before the scheduled execution, however, she gave birth to a baby girl, who was adopted and raised by an anonymous Christian woman in Carthage.

A document that is attributed to Perpetua recounts the visions that she had while in prison. One was of a ladder to heaven, which she climbed to reach a large garden; another was of her brother who had died when young of a dreadful disease, but was now well and drinking the water of life; the last was of herself as a warrior battling the devil and defeating him to win entrance to the gate of life. “And I awoke, understanding that I should fight, not with beasts, but with the Devil.”

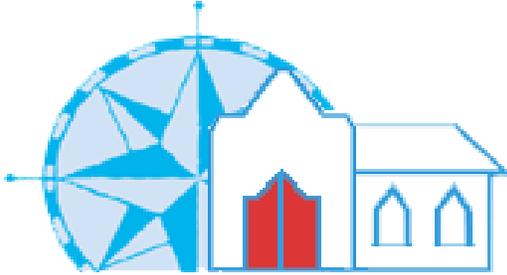
On March 7, 203, Perpetua and Felicity, encouraging one another to bear bravely whatever pain they might suffer, were sent to the arena to be mangled by a leopard, a boar, a bear, and a savage cow. Perpetua and Felicity, tossed by the cow, were bruised and disheveled, but Perpetua, “lost in spirit and ecstasy,” hardly knew that anything had happened. To her companions she cried, “Stand fast in the faith and love one another. And do not let what we suffer be a stumbling block to you.”

Eventually, both Perpetua and Felicity were put to death by a stroke of a sword through the throat. The soldier who struck Perpetua was inept. His first blow merely pierced her throat between the bones. She shrieked with pain, then aided the man to guide the sword properly. The report of her death concludes, “Perhaps so great a woman, feared by the unclean spirit, could not have been killed unless she so willed it.” *From Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Church Publishing*



Jean Leclerc, “Martyrdom of St. Perpetua and St. Felicitas in the foreground with martyr friends.” Courtesy of Europeana, CC BY-SA 3.0

Grace Episcopal Church



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

*E-mail: office@gracechurchsalem.org
Web: 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
Jenny Connors

*Presiding Bishop
Bishop Diocesan
Interim Priest
Assisting Clergy
Assisting Clergy
Music Director
Property Stewards
Parish Administrator*

— 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*