



Celtic Evensong and Communion

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

26 October 2025 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

A Blessing

Blessed be the longing that brought you here
and that quickens your soul with wonder.
May you have the courage to befriend your eternal longing.
May you enjoy the critical and creative companionship
of the question "Who am I?"
and may it brighten your longing.
May a secret Providence guide your thought and shelter your feeling.
May your mind inhabit your life with the same sureness
with which your body belongs to the world.
May the sense of something absent enlarge your life.
May your soul be as free as the ever-new waves of the sea.
May you succumb to the danger of growth.
May you live in the neighbourhood of wonder.
May you belong to love with the wildness of Dance.
May you know that you are ever embraced in the kind circle of God.

~ John O'Donohue, from *Eternal Echoes*, p. 50

Confession

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

A Prayer for the Turning of Hearts

Gracious Lord, whenever we err, fill our hearts with your love.
When we wound or are wounded, fill our hearts with your love.
When tempted to judge, fill our hearts with your love.
Wherever there is hurt, loss, or despair, fill our world with your love.

The Invitatory and Psalter

To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.
Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.
Glory to the Holy Trinity, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Song to the Light



1 Light of the world, in the grace and beau - ty,
2 Now, as we see in the lights of eve - ning,
mir - ror of God's e - ter - nal face,
we raise our voice in hymns of praise;
trans - par - ent flame of love's free du - ty,
worth - y are you of end - less bless - ing,
you bring sal - va - tion to our race.
sun of our night, lamp of our days.

Words: Paul Gibson, *Enriching our Worship 1*, © 1998 The Church Pension Fund.
Music: Morrison, George Emblom, © 2002 George Emblom.
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Psalms 65

- 1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
- 2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come,
because of their transgressions.
- 3 Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you will blot them out.

- 4 Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there!
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.
- 5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.
- 6 You make fast the mountains by your power;
they are girded about with might.
- 7 You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the clamor of the peoples.
- 8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth with tremble at
your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.
- 9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.
- 10 You prepare the grain,
for so you provide for the earth.
- 11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
- 12 You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- 13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.
- 14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

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

Joel 2:23-32

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be

put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

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

Musical Response

The Second Lesson Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

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

Mary Kay Klein

Music after the Reflection

Affirmation

We believe in God,
the creator of all life and beauty,
who blesses our journey.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
who lived as a friend and savior
to all he met as he traveled,
and who ate and laughed, wept, and celebrated with them in love.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who rides on the gentle breeze,
who strengthens our bindings,
and who offers hope eternal.
We believe in the church,
which stands open to all travelers,
and bears witness to the everlasting love of God. Amen.

The Prayers

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Loving God, in our faith, we pray:

For reconciliation between the violated and the violent,

That we may rest in your peace.

For generosity between rich and poor people everywhere,

That we may share the abundance of your creation.

For the growth of love between broken peoples and nations,

That we may shape our common life as your kingdom.

For mutual respect between immigrants and insiders,

That we may welcome your image in all who come to us.

For protection for the weak and humility for the strong,

That we may serve others as you serve us in Christ.

For all the joys and concerns of our hearts,

That we may live with gladness and trust.

I invite you to now offer the prayers of your heart, either silently or aloud.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Rest

Gracious God, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. **Amen.**

A Collect for Alfred

O God, who called your servant Alfred to an earthly throne that he might advance your heavenly kingdom and gave him zeal for your church and love for your people: Grant that we, inspired by his example and prayers, may remain steadfast in the work you have given us to do for the building up of your reign of love; 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

Hymn #383, The Hymnal 1982

Fairest Lord Jesus

The Grace

God of faithful surprises, throughout the ages you have made known your love and power in unexpected ways and places: May we daily perceive the joy and wonder of your abiding presence and offer our lives in gratitude for our redemption. **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 right to praise you, for you are the One from whom we came and the One to whom we will return. You conceived the universe, wove the world together and hold all life in your hand. You watch us waking and sleeping, you keep every tear we shed, you hear every prayer we make, you know both our best and our worst, and you will not let us go. So with angels and archangels, with the saints from long ago, with our loved ones who are gathered round your heavenly table, we praise you as we say,

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 Blessed is he who was born among us, who grew up without privilege or status, who walked the way to heaven through the back streets of this world, who told the deepest truths in ordinary language, who touched, healed, blessed, and disturbed without fear or favor, who showed inclusive love to all in its unconditional glory. For all of this, he was crucified, died, and was buried, and for all of us, he rose again, and yet, though high in heaven, is present with us here and now.

Among friends gathered around a table, Jesus took bread; and when he had blessed it, he broke it and gave it to them saying,

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

Celebrant As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

All **“This is my blood, poured out in love 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 God beyond holiness, as we do what Jesus once did, let your Spirit move among us to settle on this bread and this wine that they become for us the body and blood of Christ. And let that same Spirit stir our souls so that as we share this sacrament, we may recognize our Lord and receive him that he may be in us and we in him for ever. With him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be to you, O God, all honor and glory forever.

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

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

May the stillness of God be yours this night, that you may sleep in peace.
May the awareness of the angels be yours this night, that you may be alert to unseen mysteries.
May the life of Christ be yours this night, that you may be kindled in love.
And may the blessing of the Holy Trinity be with you 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
Kathleen Tone
Ryan Patten, Grayson Davison, Lisa Duffy
Paul Massari
Mary Kay Klein
Joanna Troy
Katie Scott

Presider
Opening
Musicians
Lector
Reflection
Prayers
Usher

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Our Prayers are offered for

Margaret Connor, Liev Manck, Barbara Dwyer, Lilyann, Margarette Connor, 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.

UPCOMING Events

Hats O.F.F.

To Warm Heads (and Hearts)



Outreach: Grace Church parishioners, their families, and friends have knitted or crocheted many beautiful children's hats to donate to various organizations that support children in Salem and beyond. We plan to donate roughly 300 hats before Winter sets in.

Fundraiser: Hats can be sponsored at \$10/hat. The hats are given to the children and the \$10 donations support Grace Church and its mission. Hats can be supported by using the donation button on the Grace Church website, www.gracechurchsalem.org. If you donate online, be sure to send an email to fundraising@gracechurchsalem.org so that the donation will be attributed to the Hats O.F.F. campaign.

Fellowship: Come hang out with us knitters on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. No need to be a member of Grace Church or even to know how to knit.

We are having a blast!



240th Annual Convention of the
Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Hope to which we are Called

"May the eyes of your heart be enlightened so you may know the hope to which God has called you." - Ephesians 1:18

Everyone is Welcome at Diocesan Convention Workshops

Our annual diocesan convention takes place on **Friday, November 14th and Saturday, November 15th** at the Marriott in Burlington. The Saturday session is when the required business of convention takes place, and also includes an address by Bishop Whitworth – Laura Beasley- Topliffe, Joanne Moar, and I will represent Grace as your delegates at this session.

The Friday afternoon session runs from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is open to everyone. This afternoon session is free (though you must register), and you can choose to attend two of the following workshops:

- Stewardship Fundamentals for Small and Medium-Sized Parishes
- Exploring Anglican Identity
- Exploring Invite, Welcome, Connect
- Keys to Faith Formation
- We Stand with the Vulnerable: Supporting Immigrants
- Stronger Together: Building Collaborative Parishes
- Managing Church Property for Mission
- Building Support with LGBTQIA+ Youth & Adults

Wishing that I could attend all of them, I've registered for "Stewardship Fundamentals for Small and Medium-Sized Parishes" and "Managing Church Property for Mission." If you'd like to attend the workshops, or for more information, go to www.diomass.org.

~ Sarah



PARKING IN OCTOBER

Parking restrictions will be in effect bet
October 2nd – November 2nd



Resident-only parking is in effect **weekends from noon to 7 AM** and **weekdays from 5 PM to 7 AM**.

Sunday morning services are not affected.

For **Celtic Service, Choir Rehearsals** and other church-related gatherings, parking in the restricted areas will be allowed, but you must display a **pink dash placard**. You can receive a parking pass from an Usher or from Parish Administrator, Jenny Connors.

This Week's Feast: Alfred

Alfred, alone of all English rulers, has been called “the Great,” because of his courage and Christian virtues. Born in 849 at Wantage, the youngest of five sons of King Aethelwulf, Alfred spent his life in a time of “battle, murder, and sudden death” during the Viking invasions and settlement in Britain. He was deeply impressed when, on a visit to Rome at the age of four, he was blessed by Pope Leo IV, and two years later, when he witnessed the marriage of Aethelwulf to a young princess of the Frankish court. Following his father’s death and the short reigns of his brothers, Alfred became King in 871.

In heroic battles and by stratagems against the Danes, Alfred halted the tide of their invasion and secured control of the southern, and part of the midland, regions of England. After a decisive victory in 878 at Edington over the Danish leader Guthrum, he persuaded his foe to accept baptism.

A man of deep piety, Alfred’s leadership in battle and administration was grounded by his faith. His biographer Asser wrote of his commitment to a life of prayer influenced by monasticism. “He learned the daily course, that is, the celebrations of the Hours, and after that certain psalms and many prayers, gathered together in one book for the sake of prayer, which he carried around with him everywhere on his person by day and night, just as we have seen, inseparable from himself, in all of the doings of this present life.”

In his later years, Alfred sought to repair the damage that the Viking invasions had inflicted upon culture and learning, especially among the parish clergy. With the help of scholars from Wales and the European continent, he supervised translations into English of important classics of theology and history, including works by Gregory the Great, Augustine of Hippo, and Bede. In one of them he commented: “He seems to me a very foolish man, and very wretched, who will not increase his understanding while he is in the world, and ever wish and long to reach that endless life where all shall be made clear.”

Alfred died on October 26, 899, and was buried in Winchester. *From Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Church Publishing*



Portrait of Alfred the Great

From ancient coin, engraving & publishing (1800s).

Source: britishheritage.com

Grace Episcopal Church



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The Mission of Grace Church is to unconditionally invite all people to join us in building a faithful Episcopal congregation that goes out into the community and through prayer, presence, and partnering improves the quality of life by bringing everyone closer to God.

— Grace Episcopal Church —

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe	<i>Presiding Bishop</i>
The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth	<i>Bishop Diocesan</i>
The Reverend Sarah A. Conner	<i>Interim Priest</i>
The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler	<i>Assisting Clergy</i>
The Reverend Manny Faria	<i>Assisting Clergy</i>
Mark N. Peterson	<i>Music Director</i>
Tom and Karen Tucker	<i>Property Stewards</i>

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten	<i>Senior Warden</i>
Lisa Duffy	<i>Junior Warden</i>
Joanna Troy	<i>Clerk</i>
Melissa Barnes	<i>Treasurer</i>
Javy Awan, Marianne Cannon, Kai Freyleue, Joanne Moar, Susan Tweed, Holly Willis	<i>Members of Vestry</i>