



# Celtic Evensong and Communion

## The First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday

### 31 May 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 King of the Fairies*

### Opening Meditation

“An Acrostic on the Trinity”

**T**ry me. The door is open.  
**R**each beyond my surface self,  
**I**nfuse me – so I exude you.  
**N**ame me as one of your family.  
**I** heard it said you are above and before,  
**T**ender with your wealth of grace.  
**Y**es, try me. Let’s make home together.

~ Christine Woolgar, from her blog “Faith in Grey Places”

### The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.

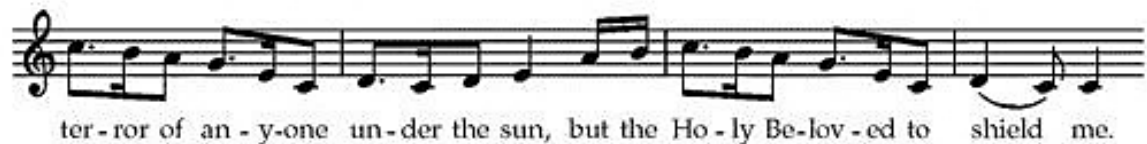
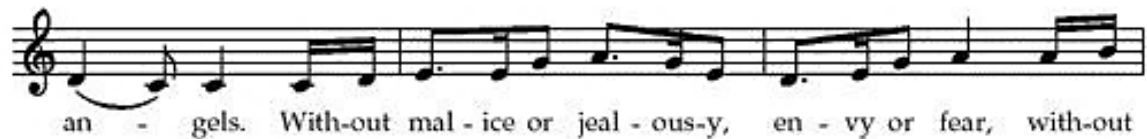
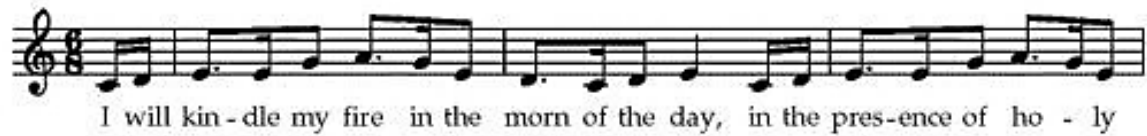
*People* **who was, and is, and is to come!**

*Officiant* Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;

*People* **that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

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

## Song to the Light



Words: *Carmine Gallucci*, alt.

Music: Mary Truly Emery © 1998 St. Hildegard's Community. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Psalm 8

- 1 O LORD our Governor, \*  
how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children \*  
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, \*  
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, \*  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? \*  
the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; \*  
you adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; \*  
you put all things under his feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen, \*  
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, \*  
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O LORD our Governor, \*  
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

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 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Musical Response

*Hector the Hero*

## The Second Lesson

**Matthew 28:16-20**

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

*Lector* For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,  
and for the Word of God within us,

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

**Anna Wilcox**

## Music after the Reflection

*The Darning of the Day*

# The Prayers

## Prayers for Ourselves and Others

*Leader:* Loving God, in our faith, we pray;  
For reconciliation between the violated and the violent,

*People:* **That we may rest in your peace.**

*Leader:* For generosity between rich and poor people everywhere,  
*People:* ***That we may share the abundance of your creation.***  
*Leader:* For the growth of love between broken peoples and nations,  
*People:* ***That we may shape our common life as your kingdom.***  
*Leader:* For mutual respect between immigrants and insiders,  
*People:* ***That we may welcome your image in all who come to us.***  
*Leader:* For protection for the weak and humility for the strong,  
*People:* ***That we may serve others as you serve us in Christ.***  
*Leader:* For all the joys and concerns of our hearts,  
*People:* ***That we may live with gladness and trust.***  
*Leader* *I invite you to now offer the prayers of your heart, either silently or aloud.*

### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Collect from *Daily Prayer from All Seasons***

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 Mechthild of Magdeburg**

Draw the souls of your people into your love, O God, that like your servant Mechthild, we may yearn to be fully yours, for you know us better than we can know ourselves; 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**

*Si Bheag Si Mhor*

### **Hymn #769 in *Wonder, Love, and Praise***

*I believe in God almighty*

**The Grace** Come to me, all of you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

## **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 truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say

### **Sanctus**

**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* Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

*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* Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

*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**

*All* **O Holy Trinity, clothe us in your love, strengthen us to live gently on this earth, give us humility to see all we encounter as precious to you, and teach us to walk with kindness and patience this hour and always. And may your blessing be amongst us and remain with us this day and evermore. Amen.**

**Blessing** God's blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

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

### **Concluding Musical Meditation**

*A Mile Down the Road*

## **Worship Leaders**

The Rev. Sarah A. Conner  
Ryan Patten, Grayson Davison, Lisa Duffy  
Ryan Patten  
Paul Massari  
Anna Wilcox  
The Rev. Kourtni Patten  
Marianne Cannon

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

## **Our Prayers are offered for**

Mary Brown, Robert Borden, Linda Abbene, Deven Manthorne, Margarette Connor, 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.

## **Permissions for livestreaming**

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Congratulations on your  
Ordination to the  
Diaconate, Kourtni!





# Join our Realm Online Community!

We are excited to announce that Grace Church is getting Realm!

Realm is an online tool to help us keep more accurate and up to date stewardship records. This will be an alternative to the PayPal button on our website and automated bill pay options. If you pledged for 2026, you will soon receive an email invitation to login to your personal Realm account and create a password (if you don't see it please check your spam folder)

Should you choose to log in, we need your help to ensure our records are up to date. We did our best, but please double-check that your contact information looks correct. Additionally, please review your pledge information and giving history for accuracy. If you notice any discrepancies or have questions, please reach out to me at [treasurer@gracechurchsalem.org](mailto:treasurer@gracechurchsalem.org)

*While we encourage you to try this new way of giving, don't worry all the old ways still work too! Thank you in advance for your patience as we learn this new tool together!*

Visit [onrealm.org](https://onrealm.org) to access our church directory, give online, and stay informed about upcoming events. Scan the QR code to get started today!



## This Week's Feast: Mechthild of Madgeburg

Mechthild of Magdeburg was one of the most original medieval mystics, and the first to write in the German language. She was a Beguine, a member of a group of women who lived in a quasi-monastic community but did not take formal vows. Instead, they pledged to be bound by the traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience only for as long as they lived in the community. Typically, Beguines lived in a communal house and supported themselves through their own work, such as nursing, weaving, embroidery, burial of the dead, and housework.

Mechthild is known to us primarily through her work *The Flowing Light of the Godhead*, which consists of seven books written over a period of thirty years. It is clear from the work that she was familiar with courtly poetry and vernacular literature, but she does not seem to have had any formal training in theology or in Latin.

Her work alternates between passionate descriptions of her love for God and scathing denunciations of many clergy and of the laxity that she perceived in the official church of her time. Because of these criticisms, her work was at times controversial. Shortly after her death, a Latin translation of her work was produced by Dominican priests, who faithfully conveyed the majority of the text, but significantly toned down both her erotic imagery and her critiques of the vices of the clergy.

Mechthild spent the last years of her life at a Cistercian convent in Helfta, whose nuns were famous for their education and scholarship. It is clear that she felt somewhat uncomfortable in this very different environment, but the sisters seem to have warmly welcomed her and protected her from anyone who criticized her work. During the last years of her life, she became blind, and so the last chapters of her book were dictated to one of the sisters of the convent.

In one famous passage of her book, she writes:

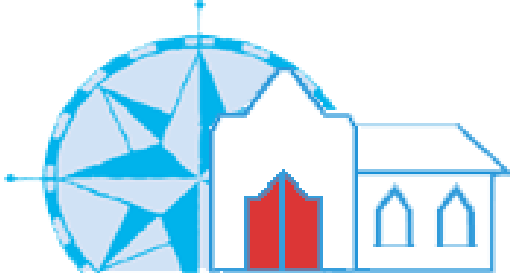
“A fish cannot drown in water,  
A bird does not fall in air.  
In the fire of creation,  
God doesn't vanish:  
The fire brightens.  
Each creature God made  
must live in its own true nature;  
How could I resist my nature,  
That lives for oneness with God?”

*From Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Church Publishing*



Statue of St. Mechthildis (Saint Mechthild),  
*photographer and location unknown.*

# 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  
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, Susan Tweed  
Caroline Watson-Felt, Holly Willis

*Senior Warden  
Junior Warden  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Members of Vestry*