



Celtic Evensong and Communion

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

28 April 2024 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 Call

Opening Meditation

And you, high eternal Trinity,
acted as if you were drunk with love,
infatuated with your creature.
When you saw that this tree could bear no fruit
but the fruit of death
because it was cut off from you who are life,
you came to its rescue
with the same love
with which you had created it:
you engrafted your divinity
into the dead tree of our humanity.
O sweet tender engrafting!
You, sweetness itself,
stooped to join yourself
with our bitterness.

- Catherine of Siena 1347-1380
The Prayers of Catherine of Siena, ed. Suzanne Noffke

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Alleluia! Come to us, O risen Lord,
People and enliven us with your eternal love. Alleluia!
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. Alleluia.

Song to the Light

I will kin - dle my fire in the morn of the day, in the pres - ence of ho - ly
an - gels. With - out mal - ice or jeal - ous - y, en - vy or fear, with - out
ter - ror of an - y - one un - der the sun, but the Ho - ly Be - lov - ed to shield me.
O Ho - ly one, kin - dle thou here in my heart, a flame of pure love to my
neigh - bor, to my foe, to my friend, to my kin - dred all, to the
brave, to the knave, to the thrall. O child of the love - li - est Ma - ry, from the
low - li - est thing, to the Ho - ly Name, the be - lov - ed of all.

Words: *Carmine Galelica*, alt.

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

Psalm 22:24-30

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

**30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.**

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

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

The Roman Tree

The Second Lesson

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

Debbie Phillips

Music after the Reflection

The Dark Island

The Prayers

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Leader: I open my heart to Christ in the stranger,
People: **To Christ in the face of colleague and friend.**
Leader: I open my heart to the one who is wounded,
People: **To Christ in the hungry, the lonely, the homeless.**
Leader: I open my heart to the one who has hurt me,
People: **To Christ in the faces of sinner and foe.**
Leader: I open my heart to those who are outcast,
People: **To Christ in the broken, the prisoner, the poor.**
Leader: I open my heart to all who are searching,
People: **To Christ in the world God's generous gift.**

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

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*

Holy One, you planted us by living water, that we might be rooted in righteousness. You call us to be holy as you are holy. Assured of your love, help us cast aside all fear, so that we may love our neighbors as ourselves. **Amen.**

A Collect for Catherine of Siena

Almighty and everlasting God, who kindled the flame of your love in the heart of your servant Catherine of Siena: Grant unto us the same strength of conviction and power of love that, as we rejoice in her triumph, we may profit by her example; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

Music during Prayers

The Dunmore Lasses

Hymn #765 in *Wonder, Love, and Praise* *O blessed spring*

The Grace In Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
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 O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom. You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, seasons of life and death. With saints and ancestors, with the seas and earth and sky, with animals and birds, with our friends and those unknown to us, with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

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 We praise you that in Jesus you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity. We give thanks for his life-giving love, for his healing touch, for his vulnerability and for his gentleness. Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and gave it to them saying:

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

Celebrant So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it and gave it to them saying:

***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 Holy and gracious God, present with us now, send in kindness your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus., As we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. 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

All **Living God, in this sacrament we have shared in your eternal kingdom. May we who taste this mystery forever serve you in faith, hope, and love. Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. 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

The Green Branch

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Deborah Phillips
Ryan, Patten, Debbie Phillips
Paul Massari
Debbie Phillips
Eric Wagner
Katie Scott

Officiant
Musicians
Assisting
Reflection
Prayers
Usher

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Parish Prayer List

For the Diocese of Massachusetts as we search for our next Bishop Diocesan, for those battling cancer, especially Faith's friend and the Princess of Wales, Heather and Prescott,, Ariana, Sheridan, Faith Aroko and Family, Jesse Hurst and Family, Angela Williams, Neal and Maureen Joyce, Arthur, Jane Thompson, Deb Young, Cindy Rhodes, Ron, Gerald Tucker, Allison Mascolo, Melissa Glassman, Max Joyce, Inga, Henry, and Lucas, Mel, Corey MacNeil, Dianne, Michael Towey, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their ministries, Palestinian Families, for Ukraine and Haiti; the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem, the Salem Public Schools and for an end to racism, war, anti-Semitism, gun violence and oppression. In thanksgiving for the baptism of Jack Thomas Duffy and the Social Committee at Grace Church. If you have prayer requests, please email prayerlist@gracechurchsalem.org by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news.

This Week's Saint: Catherine of Siena



Catherine Benincasa, born in 1347, was the youngest (one of my sources says the 23rd) of twenty-five children of a wealthy dyer of Sienna (or Siena). At the age of six, she had a vision of Christ in glory, surrounded by His saints. From that time on, she spent most of her time in prayer and meditation, over the opposition of her parents, who wanted her to be more like the average girl of her social class. Eventually they gave in, and at the age of sixteen she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic (First Order = friars, Second Order = nuns, Third Order = laypersons), where she became a nurse, caring for patients with leprosy and advanced cancer whom other nurses disliked to treat.

She began to acquire a reputation as a person of insight and sound judgement, and many persons from all walks of life sought her spiritual advice, both in person and by letter. (We have a book containing about four hundred letters from her to bishops, kings, scholars, merchants, and obscure peasants.) She persuaded many priests who were living in luxury to give away their goods and to live simply.

In her day, the popes, officially Bishops of Rome, had been living for about seventy years, not at Rome but at Avignon in France, where they were under the political control of the King of France (the Avignon Papacy, sometimes called the Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy, began when Philip the Fair, King of France, captured Rome and the Pope in 1303). Catherine visited Avignon in 1376 and told Pope Gregory XI that he had no business to live away from Rome. He heeded her advice, and moved to Rome. She then acted as his ambassador to Florence, and was able to reconcile a quarrel between the Pope and the leaders of that city. She then retired to Siena, where she wrote a book called the *Dialog*, an account of her visions and other spiritual experiences, with advice on cultivating a life of prayer.

After Gregory's death in 1378, the Cardinals, mostly French, elected an Italian Pope, Urban VI, who on attaining office turned out to be arrogant and abrasive and tyrannical, and perhaps to have other faults as well. The Cardinals met again elsewhere, declared that the first election had been under duress from the Roman mob and therefore invalid, and elected a new Pope, Clement VII, who established his residence at Avignon. Catherine worked tirelessly, both to persuade Urban to mend his ways (her letters to him are respectful but severe and uncompromising -- as one historian has said, she perfected the art of kissing the Pope's feet while simultaneously twisting his arm), and to persuade others that the peace and unity of the Church required the recognition of Urban as lawful Pope. Despite her efforts, the Papal Schism continued until 1417. It greatly weakened the prestige of the Bishops of Rome, and thus helped to pave the way for the Protestant Reformation a century later.

Catherine is known (1) as a mystic, a contemplative who devoted herself to prayer, (2) as a humanitarian, a nurse who undertook to alleviate the suffering of the poor and the sick; (3) as an activist, a renewer of Church and society, who took a strong stand on the issues affecting society in her day, and who never hesitated (in the old Quaker phrase) "to speak truth to power"; (4) as an adviser and counselor, with a wide range of interests, who always made time for troubled and uncertain persons who told her their problems -- large and trivial, religious and secular. - by James Kiefer

This Week at Grace Church

- Today:** Choir Rehearsal at 9:15 am
Holy Eucharist and Baptism at 10:00 am
Coffee at 11:00 am
Social Committee Meeting at 3:00 pm
Celtic Evensong and Communion at 4:00 pm
Kitchen Fellowship at 5:00 pm
- Monday:** **Rector at Clergy Conference**
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem 2:00 pm—6:00 pm
- Tuesday:** **Rector at Clergy Conference**
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem 2:00 pm—6:00 pm
Knitting Group 7:00 pm—8:00 pm
- Wednesday:** Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem 2:00 pm—6:00 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm— 6:00 pm (on Zoom)
Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
- Thursday:** Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem 2:00 pm—6:00 pm
- Friday:** Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem 2:00 pm—6:00 pm
- Saturday:** Music Together 10:00 am—12:00 pm
Drop off for plants for plant sale
- Sunday:** Choir Rehearsal at 9:15 am
Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am
Coffee at 11:00 am
Sacred space for Gaza at 11:00 pm
Celtic Evensong and Communion at 4:00 pm
Sacred space for Gaza at 4:45 pm
Kitchen Fellowship at 5:00 pm

Bishop Candidates' Meet and Greets

The Transition Committee, of which our own Kourtnei Patten is a member, has announced the scheduling of a series of open meetings around the diocese May 7-11, giving the people of the diocese an opportunity to meet and learn more about the nominees for election as the diocese's 17th bishop diocesan. All in the diocesan community are invited to attend, particularly those who are voting members of the Special Electing Convention to be held on Saturday, May 18 at Trinity Church in Boston.

The meet-and-greet gatherings will be held on:

Tuesday, May 7 at All Saints' Parish, Ashmont in Dorchester, 7-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8 at St. Mary's Church in Barnstable, 10-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 8 at St. Thomas's Church in Taunton, 7-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 9 at Christ Church in Needham, 2-3:30 p.m.

Friday, May 10 at Christ Church in Andover, 7-8:30 p.m. (with childcare)

Saturday, May 11 on Zoom, 10:30 a.m.-noon (with special Zoom rooms for youth and young adults, as well as for all others).

Additionally, there will be a "Coffee & Conversations with Clergy, Postulants and Candidates" session on Thursday, May 9, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at St. Paul's Church in Dedham.

Information about Zoom access and other details will be posted at www.diomass.org/bishop-search/meet-greets as they become available.

A Prayer for the Bishop Election

Loving and Living God, as we seek a bishop for the Diocese of Massachusetts, we also seek you. Help us to listen deeply as you speak through the people of our diocese; through our parishes, missions, ministries and institutions; through our neighborhoods, towns and cities; through our past and our present; through word and sacrament.

When we are distracted by other voices, other tasks, other pressures, call us back to you. Give us courage, vision and an ability to see past the surface of things. May we be patient and compassionate, trusting always in your mercy and goodness to us and to all that you have made.

We pray this in the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, one God. Amen.

News from the Anti-Racism Team

Here are some upcoming events from the Anti-Racism Committee:

Next Sunday after each service, some sacred time will be set aside for people to share their feelings about the situation in Gaza. As a faith community, we offer a safe and confidential place for us to let others know what is on our hearts and to simply listen, receive and honor those feelings. Although we may not all agree, we all love one another and respect another's dignity and heartfelt cries. The meditation, "how do you find your footing?" by Cliff Cutler will lead us in our prayerful offering.

We are curating a bibliography of anti-racism resources to be available on our website. We invite you to begin to consider any works you feel would benefit others striving to become more snit-racist.

June 19th is Juneteenth, Emancipation or Freedom Day. On June 16th, we will observe this event with a special service at the 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, a craft activity at 3:00 pm, and a special Evensong at 4:00 pm. More information will follow about the craft event, which is a joint venture between the Social Committee and Anti-Racism Team.

Around the Diocese

The **Massachusetts Episcopal Network for the Poor People's Campaign** invites participation in upcoming online conversations:

- "Open House" on Wednesday, May 1, 7-8:30 p.m., to celebrate the March 2 assembly at the State House in Boston, go over what the Poor People's Campaign is about and The Episcopal Church's connection to it, discuss upcoming ways to get involved (voter registration efforts and the June 15 assembly in Washington, D.C.) and make connections with others involved in social justice advocacy.
- Book discussion on Monday, May 20, 7-8:15 p.m., about Poverty, by America by Matthew Desmond. Although reading the book is encouraged, it is not required. Anyone who wants to learn more about the causes of poverty and the Poor People's Campaign is welcome to attend.

E-mail MAPPCEN@gmail.com with questions or to be added to the e-mail list to receive a monthly newsletter and periodic updates.

All are welcome to join for "**Challenges and Promises of Asian and Asian American Christians,**" with the Rev. Dr. Jim Kodera, presenter, on Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Church of Our Saviour in Brookline. The gathering is being organized by the Asian Pacific Islander American Episcopalians of the diocese. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. RSVPs and questions are welcome to Grace Knowles at booker04@msn.com.

Welcome spring

Our Annual Plant Sale will be on Saturday May 11th this year. This is always a fun event and the fundraising committee is counting on you all to help make it happen. Please let us know how you plan to participate by returning a form or emailing us at fundraising@gracechurchsaalem.org. We would like to have all donations by Saturday May 4th to allow us time to sort, repot and buy supplemental plants as needed for the sale. We would also like to have volunteers to help with set up, break down and sales on May 11th. Please contact one of us or send an email and we will sign you up. Thank you for your support. - Peggy, Melissa, Joanne, and Kourtnei

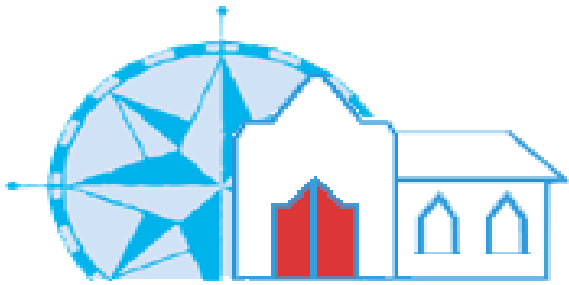


4th Annual Plant Sale

*Take a stroll in plant heaven...
hundreds of plants to choose from
herbs, vegetables and flowers*

**SATURDAY MAY 11th
9 - 12
GRACE CHURCH SALEM
385 ESSEX STREET**

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 Michael B. Curry
The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates
The Right Reverend Carol Gallagher
The Reverend Deborah A. Phillips
The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler
The Reverend Manny Faria
The Reverend Ann Perrott
Mark N. Peterson
Tom and Karen Tucker

Presiding Bishop
Bishop Diocesan
Assistant Bishop
Rector
Assisting Clergy
Assisting Clergy
Assisting Clergy
Music Director
Property Stewards

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten
Barbara Layne
Lisa Duffy
Joanne Moar

Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Clerk
Treasurer

Melissa Barnes, Marianne Cannon, Joanna Troy
Susan Tweed, Matt VanHamersveld, Holly Willis

Members of Vestry