



Celtic Evensong and Communion

The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

8 February 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 Meditation

Prayer helps us to belong more fully in our own lives.
Ingeborg Bachmann said, "It takes so long to learn
to take your place in your own life."
The more we come to recognize
the subtle adjacencies in our lives,
the more easily they can enter our belonging.
The more we recognize the neglected
and unseen dimensions of our lives,
the more enriched and balanced we become.
It takes a lifetime's work to belong fully in your life.
It is almost as if each event, encounter, and experience
is a pathway to be explored and lived....
Each day we voyage outwards,
and at evening our souls bring home
what we have suffered, learned, and created....
Each day your soul weaves your life together.

~ John O'Donohue, from *Eternal Echoes*, p. 208

A Prayer for the Turning of Hearts

**Most Holy God, in the midst of this season of new life, we confess:
We have resisted the light of your love;
we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us;
and we have not treasured the gifts of others around us.
We stand in need of your love.
Holy Father, make us holy. Holy Jesus, make us holy. Holy Spirit, make us holy.
Holy God, make us whole. Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

And the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

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

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

Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of

**Creation, as it was in the beginning, is now and will
be for ever. Amen.**

Song to the Light



Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
Mirror of God's eternal face,
Transparent flame of love's free duty,
You bring salvation to our race.

Now, as we see the lights of evening,
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;
Worthy are you of endless blessing,
Sun of our night, lamp of our days.

Psalms 112:1-9

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

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

The Lessons and Reflection

Listen now to the Word of God

The First Lesson

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

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

Thanks be to God.

The Second Lesson

Matthew 5:13-20

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Christine Reichert

Affirmation

As children of God, we affirm:

That God, who is Love, created all and called it good,
that God is present with all of creation,
and that, in darkness and in light, God is faithful;
therefore we, too, seek to be faithful.

That Jesus came to show us Love with a human face,
that he taught justice and reconciliation and suffered on our behalf,
and that through his faithful example, he embodies hope;
therefore we, too, seek to be people of justice, reconciliation, and hope.

That the Holy Spirit guides and accompanies us,
that this same Spirit offers wisdom and discernment,
and that, when we are open, the Spirit can always find a way;
therefore we, seek to be people filled with God's Spirit:
discerning, loving, and transforming our world. Amen.

The Prayers

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Let us pray that all may live in unity, peace, and concord.

Lord, have mercy.

Upon all who suffer from dissensions and quarrels,

Christ, have mercy.

That all leaders strive for justice and peace.

Lord, have mercy.

For our deepest and most holy longings we pray:

Renew us, O God.

For all who wander, who hunger, who thirst:

Renew us as people of service and compassion.

For this planet, our home:

Renew our will to be healers of creation.

For this and every nation:

Renew in all people the will for good and the longing for peace.

For those whom we hold in our hearts:

Here, the people may add their intercessions or thanksgivings either silently or aloud.

Bless these and all creation with your goodness,

and renew our trust in your love. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Bakhita (Josephine Margaret Bakhita)

O God of Love, who delivered your servant Josephine Margaret Bakhita from the bondage of slavery to the true freedom of your service; Grant to the wounded your healing grace in mind, body, and spirit and to your church the zeal to combat exploitation and slavery in all its forms; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.*

The Grace

O holy Wisdom: Fill us this day with joy, understanding, and grace, that we may tell out the wonder of your love; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is our joy and delight to give you thanks and praise, Emmanuel, God with us. We give you thanks and praise for you hallowing of human flesh. We rejoice at your light which shines out of darkness and enlightens all who seek you. We praise you that you brought forth new life in the family of Mary and Joseph as you do today from all who faithfully await the fulfillment of your word. We praise you that you were known first by poor shepherds and wise seekers as you are known today by the poor and outcast. We rejoice with the angels at your promise of peace for those who trust in you. We rejoice that the extraordinary is given birth in the ordinary places of life. So with the angels who sing “Glory” and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we sing together,

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant We bless you for Jesus, born of the Spirit’s love and a woman’s body and blood. We bless you for Jesus who shows us how to live the fullness of our humanity and thus become one with you. We remember Jesus who laughed and wept and felt tiredness and fear; who praise Mary when she anointed him for death and blessed a woman of the city who washed his feet with tears. We remember Jesus who touched lepers and the sick and feasted with tax collectors and sinners. We remember Christ who lives on in all who courageously and faithfully bring forth the light of your love in earth’s darkest places. We remember Jesus who, on the night before he died, shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to them saying:

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

Celebrant After supper he took a cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying:

All **“This is my life-blood, given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant So we proclaim the mystery of faith:
All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant O God who is known to us in human flesh, send your Holy Spirit on us and on these material things of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and we may be the body of Christ, food and life for the world. We ask these things through Christ, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be glory now and forever

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

The Invitation

Celebrant This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
You who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

Communion

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us, and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

Blessing

May this new night of rest repair the wear of time, restore your vision of a deeper light, heal the wounds of disappointments, and restore youth of heart for the adventure that awaits you tomorrow. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

— Worship Leaders —

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

Presider
Musicians
Opening
Lector
Reflection
Prayers
Usher

Our Prayers are offered for

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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Epiphany Gifts for Our Neighbors

Our church school children recognize that gifts appear in many different ways. Please help us collect any of the following items during the Epiphany season, to be given in love to our neighbors who are in great need, with the intention of giving the gift of comfort and joy.



Please bring any of these suggested gifts to church during Epiphany; they will then be donated to Lifebridge. The collection will conclude on Sunday, February 15th .

~ Melissa Barnes

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| • Bar Soap | • Gloves | • Packets of Tuna |
| • Personal Wipes | • Hats | • Packets of Chicken |
| • Toothpaste | • Rain Ponchos | • Protein bars |
| • Toothbrushes | • New socks | • Fruit cups in juice |
| • Toothbrush covers | • New underwear | • Individual PB servings |
| • Dental floss | | |
| • Hand cream | | |
| • Chapstick | | |

UPCOMING Events



Antiracism Team Meeting February 15th

A regular monthly antiracism forum will be held this year, with the theme of building a beloved community. **Our second forum will be offered on Sunday, February 15th** following the Celtic service.

SAVE THE DATES FOR *Lenten Learning*



JOURNEYING WITH THE MYSTICS



Five Thursdays starting February 26th
In-person at Grace from 7:00p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Cliff Cutler will lead an exploration of the mystics to enhance each participants capacity for their own spirituality, and to awaken wonder in daily life.

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EPISCOPAL 101



Four Tuesdays starting February 24th
On Zoom from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
(with one in-person session after each service on
Sunday, March 22nd)

Sarah Conner will lead an introduction to the Episcopal Church for those who are new to it or want to learn more. The class will also prepare adults for baptism, confirmation, or reception into the Episcopal Church.

Please let Sarah know in advance if you d like to participate.

Ash Wednesday

February 18th



Children's Service

5:30 pm

This brief 20-30 minute service is for children and their families. We'll learn about where the ashes come from, what the season of Lent is all about, and receive the imposition of ashes. Enter by the parish house door.

Choral Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm

We will observe the Liturgy for Ash Wednesday with imposition of ashes, homily, and music sung by our choir.

This Week's Feast: Bakhita (Josephine Margaret Bakhita)

Josephine Margaret Bakhita was born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan. At the age of seven, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. The girl was so traumatized by the experience that she was unable to remember her name. Bakhita means “fortunate one”—a name given to her by the same slave raiders who forcefully removed her from her family and village. Even as a child, she said that she experienced God in her heart without ever having been evangelized. She said, “Seeing the sun, the moon and the stars, I said to myself: Who could be the Master of these beautiful things? And I felt a great desire to see him, to know him and to pay him homage.”

Although technically illegal, the entire Sudan region in the late nineteenth century was a raiding ground for various groups of armed slave traders. Enslaved for twelve years, she endured untold hardship and suffering. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to the Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan. After he gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli, she went with him and his family to Italy, where she worked as a nanny for their young daughter, Mimmina. Accompanying the girl to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, Josephine found herself drawn to Christianity. She was baptized as Josephine in 1890.

The hardships in her life meant that Josephine did not easily express her joy. But she often expressed the joy she experienced through Christ at the font where she was baptized, kissing it and saying: “Here I became one of the daughters of God!”

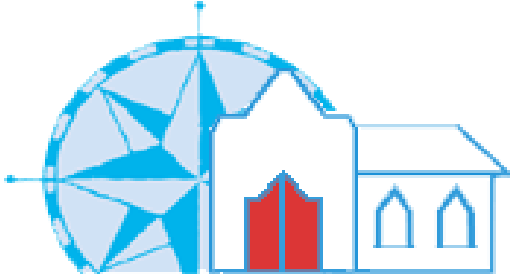
Josephine entered religious life in 1896 as a Canossian Daughter of Charity. In 1902, she went to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she served her religious community. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and by the local citizens. By the end of her life, Josephine was renowned across Italy for her loving, spiritual wisdom.

Josephine knew the reality of being a slave, an immigrant, and a spiritual seeker. Even today, countless children, women, and men continue to be victimized and trafficked into slavery. Josephine serves as an inspiration to those who work to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights. Not only is she a model of resistance, Josephine also reminds us of our obligation to strive against the evil and injustice of human trafficking and uphold the dignity of every human person. *From Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Church Publishing*



Photograph of Saint Josephine Margaret Bakhita (1869–1947), Daughters of Charity of Canossa sister. Public domain image sourced from Wikimedia Commons (originally from Vatican press/photo archive)

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

Presiding Bishop

The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth

Bishop Diocesan

The Reverend Sarah A. Conner

Interim Priest

The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler

Assisting Clergy

The Reverend Manny Faria

Assisting Clergy

Mark N. Peterson

Music Director

Tom and Karen Tucker

Property Stewards

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten

Senior Warden

Lisa Duffy

Junior Warden

Joanna Troy

Clerk

Katie Scott

Treasurer

Javy Awan, Kai Freyleue, Christine Reichert,

Members of Vestry

Susan Tweed, Caroline Watson-Felt, Holly Willis