

Celtic Evensong and Communion

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8 November 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

A church that doesn't provoke any crisis,
A Gospel that doesn't unsettle,
A word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin,
A word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society around it?
What Gospel is that?
Very nice, pious considerations that don't bother anyone;
That's the way many would like preaching to be.
Yet does such a Gospel light the world we live in?
The Gospel of Christ is courageous;
it is the "good news" of him who came to transform
And take away the world's sin.
-Oscar Romero

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.
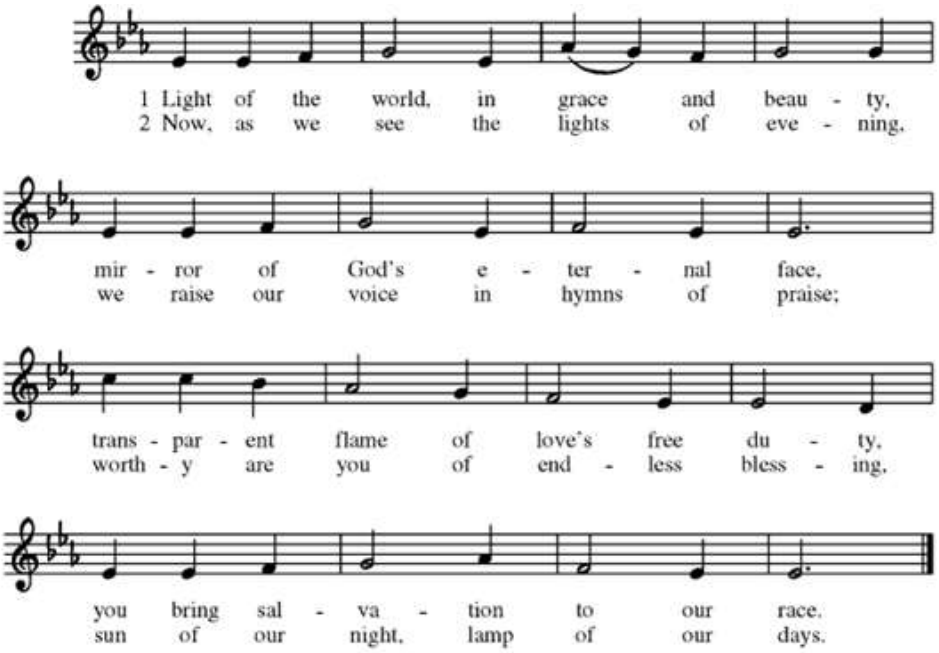
Assurance of Pardon

Loving God, have mercy on us, forgive us for forgetting to love, and renew our ability to give and receive love in all that we do. Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.
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



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Music: *Morrison,* George Emblom, © 2002 George Emblom.
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Psalm 70 *Deus, in adjutorium*

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
O Lord, make haste to help me.
2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.
4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the Lord!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.
6 You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O Lord, do not tarry.

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

The Lessons and Reflection

Listen now to the Word of God.

The First Lesson **Wisdom 6:12–16**

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

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

Musical Response

The Second Lesson **Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

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

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.
Come, Lord, into our hearts,
and fill them with love.
Come, Lord, into our minds,
and fill them with peace.
Come, Lord, to all who are suffering in any way,
and fill us with your hope and healing.

I invite you to add the prayers of your hearts either silently or aloud. *Silence.*

Let us pray.
God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in my eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be in my end and at my departing. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect from Iona Abbey

Gracious God, increase our hope, dispel our apathy; inspire our imagination, and deepen our commitment until we become the signs of your kingdom for which we and others pray. **Amen.**

A Collect from *Daily Prayers for All Seasons*

God our desire, whose coming we look for, but whose arrival is unexpected: Here in the darkness make us urgent to greet you, and open yourself to our longing, that we may be known by you through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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 #68 in The Hymnal 1982 *Rejoice, rejoice believers*

The Grace

God, you sent your Son into the world that we might live through him: Grant us grace to love one another as he first loved us and know the fullness of joy. **Amen.**

The Peace

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.

God, you made us, and the world, and everything in it. All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You send Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again. He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can all be your people. And so with thanks we praise you, singing:
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 are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and have thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them, and said:
"This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me."

Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said:
"This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me."

And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in him and proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus, and through this food give us strength to live as your people. Help us to care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land, we worship you in songs of everlasting praise. 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. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

The Invitation

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

Live without fear; your creator has made you holy, has always protected and sustained you; and loves you as a mother. Therefore, go in peace to follow the good road, and may God's blessing be with you always. **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. Manny Faria	*Celebrant*
Kathleen Tone	*Opening*
Ryan Patten and Lisa Duffy	*Musicians*
Kathleen Tone	*Lector*
Matthew Connor	*Reflection*
Ryan Patten	*Prayers*
Joanna Troy	*Usher*

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Our Prayers are offered for

Karen and Tom Tucker, Mary Born, Robert Borden, Linda Abbene, Deven Manthorne, Margarette Connor, Reny Sparapani, 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 Revered 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.

Join our Realm Online Community!

Visit onrealm.org to access our church directory, give online, and stay informed about upcoming events. Scan the QR code to get started today! If you notice any discrepancies or have questions, please reach out to Katie at treasurer@gracechurchsalem.org.

Announcements

Hats O.F.F. to Warm Heads (and Hearts)

- **Outreach:** Grace Church parishioners and friends have knitted over 200 beautiful children's hats to donate to organizations that support Salem children (e.g., Salem Public School nurses).
- **Fundraiser:** Hats can be sponsored at $10/hat. The hats go to children and the donations support Grace Church. Hats can be sponsored by direct donation after Sunday services (cash or tap), by check to Grace Church, or through Realm (choose "Hats O.F.F." fund).
- **Fellowship:** Come hang out with us knitters on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. No need to know how to knit. We teach knitting. Or just come to chat. We are having a blast!

— 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 E. Clifford Cutler	*Assisting Clergy*
The Reverend Manny Faria	*Assisting Clergy*
Mark N. Peterson	*Music Director*
Tom and Karen Tucker	*Property Stewards*
Eliza Jane Seastone	*Parish Administrator*
— *Vestry* —	
Ryan Patten	*Senior Warden*
Lisa Duffy	*Junior Warden*
Joanna Troy	*Clerk*
Katie Scott	*Treasurer*
Javy Awan, Kai Freyleue, Susan Tweed, Caroline Watson-Felt, Holly Willis	*Members of Vestry*

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.