



Celtic Evensong and Communion

The Third Sunday of Easter

19 April 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

Flow gently sweet aften

Opening Meditation

Emmaus 2

*Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe
All that the prophets have spoken:
Ought not Christ to have suffered these things,
And to enter into his glory? (Luke 24:25-26)*

We thought that everything was lost and gone,
Disaster on disaster overtook us
The night we left our Jesus all alone
And we were scattered, and our faith forsook us.
But oh that foul Friday proved far worse,
For we had hoped that he had been the one,
Till crucifixion proved he was a curse,
And on the cross our hopes were all undone.

*Oh foolish foolish heart why do you grieve?
Here is good news and comfort to your soul:
Open your mind to scripture and believe
He bore the curse for you to make you whole
The living God was numbered with the dead
That He might bring you Life in broken bread.*

~ Malcolm Guite, from "Two Sonnets for the Road to Emmaus"

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

The musical score is written on seven staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and slurs. The lyrics are printed below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "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."

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low - li - est thing, to the Ho - ly Name, the be - lov - ed of all.

Words: *Carmine Gadelica*, alt.

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

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
- 10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the LORD'S house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

The Lessons and Reflection

Listen now to the Word of God

The First Lesson

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

Flatwater Fran

The Second Lesson

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed

and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

Music after the Reflection

Leaving Lismore

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.**

The Collect of the Day

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect from *Daily Prayer for all Seasons*

Loving God, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive in our world, our church and our hearts. Renew and strengthen us in the risen life we share in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

A Collect for Alphege

Lord Jesus Christ, who willingly walked the way of the cross: Strengthen your church through the example and prayers of your servant Alphege to hold fast to the path of discipleship; for with the Father and Holy Spirit you live and reign, 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

Clergy’s Lamentation

Hymn #192 in *The Hymnal 1982*

This joyful Eastertide

The Grace

In Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
Amen.

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

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.

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:

Holy, holy, holy, 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 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:

This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.

So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it and gave it to them saying:
“This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me.”

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

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

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

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

Concluding Musical Meditation

Mrs. Maxwell’s First Air

— Worship Leaders —

The Rev. Sarah A. Conner
Ryan Patten, Grayson Davison, Lisa Duffy
Kathleen Tone
Paul Massari
Christine Reichert
Joanna Troy
Katie Scott

Presider
Musicians
Opening
Lector
Reflection
Prayers
Usher

Our Prayers are offered for

Mary Brown, 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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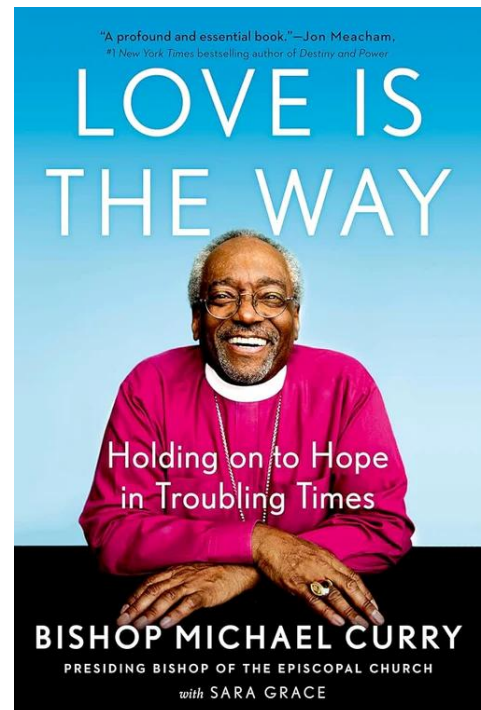
UPCOMING Events



Antiracism Team Forum **TODAY!**

Grace's antiracism team will offer its next forum **TONIGHT at 5:00 p.m.**, after the Celtic service.

We'll continue our conversation about Bishop Michael Curry's book *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*.



All are welcome!

Grace Church
Annual Plant Sale
Saturday, May 16
9am - 12pm

Grace Episcopal Church
385 Essex Street, Salem MA
www.gracechurchsalem.org
fundraising@gracechurchsalem.org

If you would like to participate, please complete a Donation Sign-Up Form. Forms are available:

- As an *online fillable form* and as a *downloadable PDF* found on the home page of our website gracechurchsalem.org
- As printed copies located at the back of the church

We would like to have all donations by **May 9th** 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 16th. Financial contributions towards the fundraiser are also appreciated. Please contact one of us or send an email at fundraising@gracechurchsalem.org if you are able to volunteer and we will sign you up.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to the committee for more information about making donations, how to contribute, or with any other questions you may have.

Thank you for your support.

- Peggy, Melissa, and Joanne



We are excited to announce that Grace Church is now accepting gifts via *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

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!



This Week's Feast: Alphege

Born in 954, Alphege (or Aelfheah) gave his witness in the troubled time of the second wave of Scandinavian invasion and settlement in England. After serving as a monk at Deerhurst, and then as Abbot of Bath, he became, in 984, through Archbishop Dunstan's influence, Bishop of Winchester. He was instrumental in bringing the Norse King Olaf Tryggvason, only recently baptized, to King Aethelred in 994 to make his peace and to be confirmed at Andover.

Transferred to Canterbury in 1005, Alphege was captured by the Danes in 1011. He refused to allow a personal ransom to be collected from his already over-burdened people. Seven months later he was brutally murdered, despite the Viking commander Thorkell's effort to save him by offering all his possessions except his ship for the Archbishop's life.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle relates that the Danes were "much stirred against the bishop, because he would not promise them any fee, and forbade that any man should give anything for him. They were also much drunken . . . and took the bishop, and led him to their hustings, on the eve of the Saturday after Easter . . . and then they shamefully killed him. They overwhelmed him with bones and horns of oxen; and one of them smote him with an axe-iron on the head; so that he sunk downwards with the blow. And his holy blood fell on the earth, whilst his sacred soul was sent to the realm of God."

From Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Church Publishing

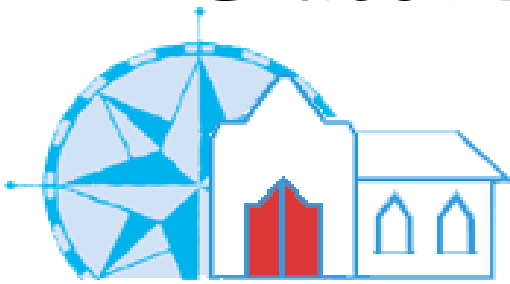


*"Saint Alphege – Archbishop of Canterbury."
Newman Ministry.*



An 1868 statue on the West Front of Salisbury Cathedral by James Redfern, showing Ælfheah holding the stones used in his martyrdom.

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>
Jenny Connors	<i>Parish Administrator</i>

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten	<i>Senior Warden</i>
Lisa Duffy	<i>Junior Warden</i>
Joanna Troy	<i>Clerk</i>
Katie Scott	<i>Treasurer</i>
Javy Awan, Kai Freyleue, Christine Reichert, Susan Tweed, Caroline Watson-Felt, Holly Willis	<i>Members of Vestry</i>