

Grace Notes



Monthly Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church

March 2020

From the Associate Rector

Let Us Worship Together!

*And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, for with your blood
you have redeemed for God, from every family, language,
people, and nation, a kingdom of priests to serve our God.
(Morning Prayer, Canticle 18, BCP, p. 94)*

Grace Church has been blessed for decades to share our ministries with our brothers and sisters who speak Spanish and who call other parts of the world their native home. On high holy days, especially on days when we participate in sacramental and physical acts like the Imposition of Ashes and the Liturgy of the Palms, why not come together as one parish, as one body of Christ?

This year we will offer two additional bilingual services during Lent and Holy Week. The first will be at 7:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, a bilingual Choral Eucharist, and the second will be at 9:00 a.m. on Palm Sunday, a bilingual Festival Eucharist with Liturgy of the Palms.

I realize that bilingual worship is challenging for some. The language barrier can be frustrating, and it may make some people uncomfortable, speakers of both Spanish and English alike. But I ask you all to join us this year at these bilingual services with open hearts and minds. Please don't stay away from church on these days; I know that you will find unexpected blessings where you least expect them.

It is my prayer that our worship together, in unity and love — Grace and La Gracia — will be an example to the world that we live as one people, together as “every family, language, people, and nation” under God. I pray that the scripture and prayers that we will say together — both in Spanish and English — will draw us closer to God and also draw us closer to one another.

*Blessings for a Holy Lent,
Father Jason*

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Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite I 7:30 am
Child Care 8:45 am–12:45 pm
Children’s Chapel 8:50 am–9:30 am
La Santa Eucaristía 9:00 am
Choral Eucharist Rite II 9:00 am
Christian Ed classes 10:15 am
Choral Eucharist Rite I 11:15 am
Holy Eucharist Rite II 5:00 pm

Weekday Schedule beginning March 2

Mondays, Rite II 6:30 pm
Tuesdays
Rite II with healing 6:30 pm
Wednesdays, Rite I 7:30 am
Thursdays* 12:15 pm
Fridays
Stations of the Cross, Rite I 12:15 pm

*Alternating Rite I and Rite II weekly

About Grace Notes

Grace Notes is published 10 times a year by Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia – monthly except for combined July/August and December/January issues. The deadline for submitting copy is midnight on the 15th of the preceding month.

The next *Grace Notes* deadline is March 15 for the April issue. Articles should be submitted by e-mail to grace.notes@gracealex.org. All articles are subject to editing.

Grace Church’s newsletter team includes Kristine Hesse, June Huber and Teresa Preston.

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Music during Lent

As we journey through this penitential season of Lent, music will shift to reflect the more somber and solemn character of the Lenten Sunday liturgies. For instance, the organ voluntaries will be meditative, and the closing voluntary, in particular, will be much quieter than usual, and similar in mood to the opening voluntary. Hopefully this will cause those leaving the church to leave in a contemplative state that is consistent with Lenten inner soul-searching. Also, during liturgies there will be no organ improvisations to fill in any dead time. There is no opening hymn during Lenten Sunday Eucharists, and the psalm that is sung at the 11:15 a.m. Eucharist will be plainsong instead of Anglican Chant. The reasoning behind all of these changes is that music serves as a handmaid to the liturgy, so as our Lenten liturgies see some slight alterations, the music follows suit in order to paint a musical picture of this season of penitence.

Choral Evensong

Our Lenten Choral Evensong will be on Sunday, March 15 at 5:00. The evening canticles, Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in B minor, was composed by Thomas Kelway, organist of Chichester Cathedral from 1720-1744. The anthem is *Like as the hart* by 20th century composer Herbert Howells. Please invite your friends to this rarely attended service of our Anglican heritage.

Easter Brass

Holy Week and Easter are perhaps the most musically rich times of the liturgical year. But to provide for special instrumental music at Easter, we rely solely on the Music Fund—not on the church budget. The total sum of our Easter morning brass and timpani will cost \$3,000. If having brass is meaningful to you and you are able, please consider making a donation of *any amount* to the Music Fund to help defray this cost. Please help me meet my goal of getting at least 150 regular contributors to this fund.

Richard Newman
Director of Music

Announcements

Candy Needed

Candy is needed to stuff Easter eggs in preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning. Donations of candy, gummies, quarters are welcome! Please drop your candy in the collection bin outside the main office. No chocolate please (not because kids don't love it, but because it melts inside the eggs)!

Youth News

Youth Night will be March 1 from 5:30-8:00. All youth are invited and encouraged to join in the fun!

Altar Guild Tea Save the Date

The Altar Guild Tea, a twenty-year Grace Church tradition, will be held on May 9, 2020. This grand tea tradition features the theme: ***Downton Abbey Redux***, a celebration of the new Downton Abbey motion picture which premiered last fall. The tea starts with an interesting program and then features a complete English Tea with savories, sweets and incredible scones, clotted cream and strawberry jam. Servers are men from the parish smartly dressed in bow ties and aprons. Prizes for best hats in various categories are awarded. Hold the date and plan to come in your best tea hat to celebrate the return of our glorious event. Seats are \$40 per person and reservations begin on Monday, March 30 by calling the church office. Questions? Contact Anne Caputo.

Please Support the Altar Guild Fund

Did you know the Altar Guild is not funded with your pledge and relies on monthly donations from parishioners? Donations to the Altar Guild fund the wafers and wine at each service, our candles, linens and vestments. Please consider donating \$5 a month, or \$60 per year, using either the pink envelopes among your pre-printed offering envelopes (please write "Altar Guild" in the memo line of the check). If you use the Tithely app, you can make a one-time or recurring donation by selecting "Altar Guild in the "Give To" field. Thanks!

Grace Episcopal School

After a February of love and valentines, the School turns to embrace Spring! Our parent association sponsors fun-filled activities like Bingo Night and a Talent Show Evening. Our teachers continue to host exciting after school opportunities like a 5K Race for our Running Club, A Fiesta for our youngest students and a Grace Sleepover in Merrow Hall for our grades 1-5. We find that busy kids are happy kids!

Of course, we also celebrate the incredible leaps of learning that we see each day. Our children love to read; we also love our Math in Focus curriculum and the fact that our students are math fluent while becoming flexible thinkers. And the writing -- just walk the school hallways and prepare to be amazed! We all look forward to our Social Studies Museum Night later this spring.

We always love welcoming new families to Grace. If you have friends or family who are looking for an exceptional educational program for their children in preschool through grade 5, please be sure to recommend Grace School. Amanda Hungerford, our Director of Admissions, stands ready to give a tour and answer questions. Please feel free to contact her at admissions@graceschoolalex.org or call the School Office at 703-549-5067.

*Patti Culbreth
Head of School*

An LGBTQ+ Retreat sponsored by the Diocese of Virginia Friday, August 21 – Sunday, August 23; Shrine Mont

As children of God, we are all made in God's image and possess unique gifts that benefit the entire Body of Christ in the world. Come and share your whole self with God and the Church without pretenses: start new friendships with people across our Diocese, deepen existing relationships, be at peace in the presence of God and your fellow siblings. The theme is "Bringing Our Whole Selves: Exploring the Vital Gifts the Queer Community Offers to the Church." Our keynote speaker is the Rev. Elizabeth Edman, Episcopal priest and author of *Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity*. For more information, go to <http://www.thediocese.net/events/2020/08/21/bringing-our-whole-selves-exploring-the-vital-gifts-the-queer-community-offers/>.



Registration ends on May 10, 2020. Space is limited! For questions about the retreat and scholarships, please email lgbtqministrydiova@gmail.com.

Lenten Simple Supper

Take part in this year's Lenten Journey at Grace, *Praying Through Lent*, Monday nights in Lent beginning March 2. The evening begins with Holy Eucharist at 6:30 pm, followed by a Simple Supper in Merrow Hall Auditorium starting at 7:00 pm. The speaker begins at approximately 7:45 pm and should finish by 8:30 pm.

- March 2 Simple Supper - *A Lenten Reflection Based on a Simple but Profound Prayer*
Speaker – The Rt. Rev. Robert Moody
- March 9 Simple Supper – *Wisdom Prayers for Times of Trouble*
Speaker – The Rev. Francis Wade
- March 16 Simple Supper – *Reflection on the Collect “God of Unchangeable Power and Eternal Light”*
Speaker – The Rev. Jonathan Bryan
- March 23 Simple Supper – *Pray Always – Pray All Ways: Finding a Way that Works*
Speaker – The Rev. Bruce Stewart
- March 30 Simple Supper – *Praying the Jesus Prayer*
Speaker – The Rev. Jason Roberson
-

Adult Forum

Each Sunday during Lent, the Adult Forum will transform into the Inquirers Class! Using the book, *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*, participants will have the opportunity to learn the essential tenets of our faith. This is also the perfect way for our long time parishioners to join newcomers for a fresh look at the church you love.

- March 1 The Sacraments and Sacramental Rites
March 8 The Church Calendar
March 15 Basic Beliefs
March 22 The Church
March 29 Daily Life

Books can be purchased for \$17 by seeing Jenni or Jason or through Amazon.

If you are interested in Baptism, Confirmation or Reaffirmation at the Easter Vigil, please see one of the clergy or Jenni in the coming weeks.

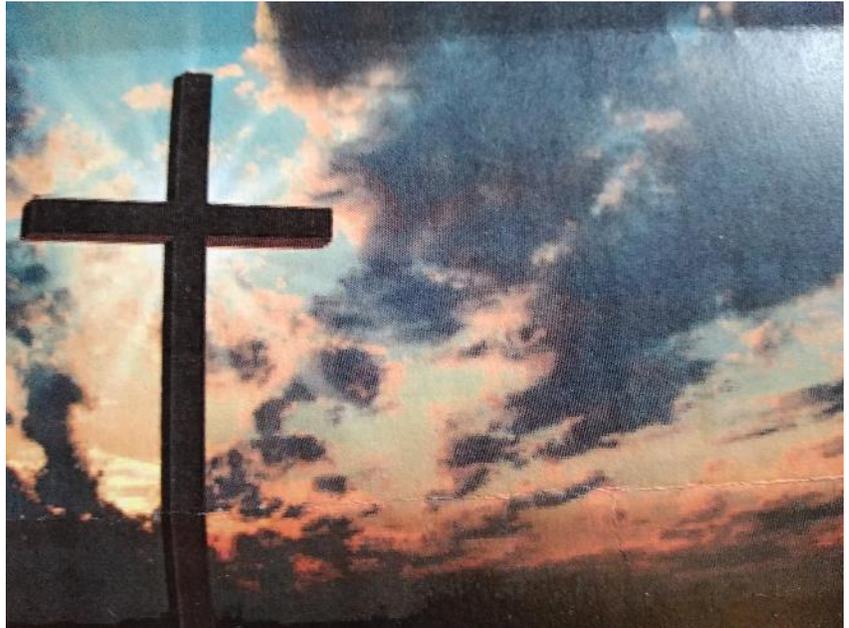
Worship at Sea

Brad and I travel a lot, so when Sunday comes around, we never know what kind of worship it will be. We always try to worship somewhere, in some way. When we're on a land tour we can usually manage to find a church of some kind -- it doesn't really matter what kind. It may be a mosque or a temple. We may be lucky enough to time it so that we can actually attend a worship service, but that isn't always the case. We might have to create our own worship service.

When we're at sea our choices are limited. Most cruises offer some kind of Christian worship service on Sunday. Some ships, including the one we were currently on, have something on Friday evening for Jewish passengers. Thus far, I've never seen anything specifically designed for Muslim passengers.

We're currently on the Viking ship Orion, cruising New Zealand, Tasmania and Australia. Our worship service last Sunday was led by the cruise director, Brian. He explained to me that his faith is very important to him, and so he organizes and leads worship by choice. Today is Saturday, and I will be leading tomorrow's Sunday worship because I volunteered to do so.

Shipboard worship is a simple service that any Christian can be reasonably happy with, made up of readings and prayers. Some of the prayers, including the Lord's Prayer, are read by everyone together; other prayers are read sequentially, each person taking a turn. There's an opportunity for passengers to offer petitions and prayers of thanksgiving aloud or silently. We will not celebrate the



Eucharist because there is no ordained minister on board.

Before I end, I'd like to share with you "A Seafarer's 23rd Psalm":

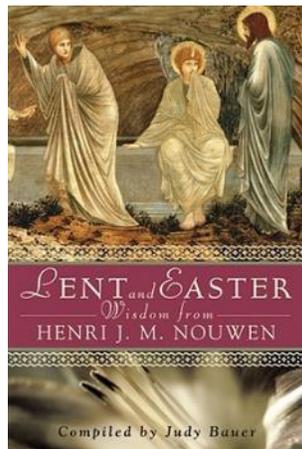
*The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift.
He lighteth me across the dark waters;
He keepeth my log, he guideth me
By the star of holiness, for his name's sake.
Yea though I sail 'mid the thunders and
tempests of life,
I shall dread no danger, for thou art near me.
Thy love and thy care, they shelter me.
Thou preparest a harbor for me in the
homeland of eternity.
Thou anointest the waves with oil; my ship
rideth calmly.
Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me
on the voyage I take,
And I will rest in the port of my God forever.*

June Huber

From the Library

As we all know, Lent is the time when Christians prepare for Easter. It is a time for renewal, penitence, and for turning our lives in a new direction. Many people engage in daily reflection readings or meditations to enrich their experience of this important season. Our parish library has a number of books of this nature. Let me point out four of them.

The first is *Lent and Easter, Wisdom from Henri J. M. Nouwen*, compiled by Judy Bauer. Father Nouwen, a Roman Catholic priest, was a prolific spiritual writer with many longtime followers. Each daily reflection, from Ash Wednesday through the Second Sunday of Easter, begins with a Lenten theme supported by scripture, a prayer, and a suggested activity for spiritual growth. The introduction to this book also contains a concise explanation of how the season of Lent developed over time and the reason for its penitential nature.



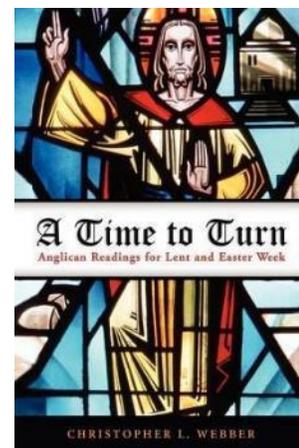
Next is *A Time to Turn, Anglican Readings for Lent and Easter Week*, by Christopher L. Webber, an Episcopal priest. Father Webber explains that Lent is a time when Christians stop and take stock of their lives in order to turn away from old patterns to something new. This volume contains daily Lenten themes, drawing from sermons, books, hymns, and poems of Anglican writers such as John Donne, Phillips Brooks, John Keble, and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Another volume in our library is *Through Lent with Luke, Daily Reflections on the*

Transfiguration and Passion, by Margaret Hebblethwaite, a popular theologian, author, and broadcaster. This volume contains a series of daily meditations on Luke's gospel from the Transfiguration through the Passion. The author explains that she has followed Luke's story steadily, a few verses at a time, taking a continuous narrative in short steps in order to go into depth without losing sight of the whole.

The final book I want to mention is *Lent With Evelyn Underhill*, a collection of the author's writings edited by G. P. Mellick Belshaw. Ms. Underhill was an English Anglo-Catholic writer and pacifist in the first half of the twentieth century, known for her books on religion and spiritual practice, in particular Christian mysticism. This volume is comprised of inspirational passages from her works for each day in Lent.

The Lenten journey, however observed, is intended to constitute a period of spiritual growth. It is variously celebrated through components of scripture, prayer, rituals, and



practices of penitence. Each of the resources mentioned here, and many additional volumes in our collection, can serve as a travel guide for your personal journey – whether you purposefully set aside meditative time each day, guided by a scripted series of devotions, or are seeking occasional spiritual direction to supplement your established Lenten practices.

Jay O'Malley

Chili Bowl 2020



U.T.O. Calendar

Welcome to our third year of the UTO Lenten Devotional Calendar! This calendar will help introduce you to the recipients of the 2019 UTO Grants and 2019 Young Adult and Seminarian Grants. This year, some of the items for you to count have expanded out to include your town. We hope that this will be a fun internet search or scavenger hunt to help you get to know your community better. Just like last year, we invite you to prayerfully consider how much you will donate for each item that you count in your house or in your community. It is like making a pledge for each mile walked in a fundraiser. Consider giving a dime or dollar for each item, and write this amount at the top of the calendar. Beginning on the day after Ash Wednesday, you are invited to read daily about one 2019 UTO Grant site and maybe explore its webpage to learn more. Then, you are asked to look around your house or community to count the specified items, which are related to the request being met by that day's grant. After you've counted, you can write the number on the calendar so you can make one thank offering at the end of Lent, or simply place the number of coins (or dollars) you committed to into your Blue Box. On Ash Wednesday and on Sundays, we simply invite you to consider an area of your life and reflect on how it blesses you. We hope you see this as a weekly reminder of the blessing of hope found when our community gathers together to celebrate the Eucharist to remember the promises of our faith.

I hope you enjoy this Lenten Devotional opportunity. Please let me know that you've used it, and feel free to share ideas you might have to help deepen our spiritual discipline of gratitude during Lent.

Wishing you all the best for a Holy and Sacred Lent,

*The Rev. Canon Michelle I Walker
Associate Staff Officer, the United Thank Offering of The Episcopal Church*

The complete calendar is available at
https://episcopalchurch.org/files/uto_lenten_calendar_2020.pdf
To learn more about the United Thank Offering, please visit www.episcopalchurch.org/uto





Easter Flower Donations

Please **print** your name here:

It's time for Easter Flower donations. The Altar Guild invites you to help make Grace Church beautiful with seasonal decoration. If you wish to contribute to the Easter decoration fund, please fill out the form below and enclose a donation of \$50. These forms may be dropped in the Sunday offering or sent directly to the church office. Please note "Easter Flowers" on the check memo line. **If you wish to have your offering listed, the office must receive this form and payment by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30.** Question? Contact Lisa Doelp, Altar Guild Flower Chair, at 703-239-1302 or lisa.doelp@gracealex.org.

Please circle one of the choices below and **print** the remainder of the message exactly the way you would like it to appear in the Christmastide booklet:

"In loving memory of" or "In thanksgiving for"

Given by (**print** the name or names of the donors exactly as you want them to appear):
