



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

March 24, 2016

## Spotlight on Grace: *An Invitation from the Rector*

This evening we begin what the Church calls the "Triduum" or the "Three Days" leading up to Easter. Today is Maundy Thursday, when we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples and recall the events of that final full day of his life. Tomorrow is Good Friday, and we will remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross at our noon service here at Grace with readings, music, and prayers (child care is available in the nursery). And then on Saturday evening, we will gather "in vigil" as we await the first eucharist of Easter and the Easter acclamation mid-way through the service - "Christ is risen!"



Many of us (myself included) grew up going to church on Palm Sunday and not stepping foot in church again until Easter Sunday. Some of us went to church on Good Friday, but I suspect many of us did not experience in our youth any of the services that make up the Triduum. This year, I want to invite you especially to come to Grace for the Easter Vigil. In some Episcopal (and other) churches, the Saturday night Easter Vigil service is the one and only Easter service that many parishioners attend! One of the strengths of the Episcopal Church is that, through our worship, we maintain a connection to the generations of Christians that have preceded us, and there may be no worship service in the church year that is so evocative of Christian worship in its early days as the Easter Vigil. I could try to describe it in detail (and you can [get all the details you could ever want here](#)), but there's no substitute for experiencing it in person. So, I hope to see many of you on Saturday night and wish you "Happy Easter". Of course, if you can't make it on Saturday night, I'll be thrilled to wish you "Happy Easter" on Sunday morning as well!

Paschal blessings,

Jonathan+



# HOLY WEEK

## **Palm Sunday**

Sunday, March 20, 8:00am & 10:00am

## **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, March 24, 7:00pm

## **Good Friday**

Friday, March 25, 12:00pm

## **Easter Vigil**

Saturday, March 26, 7:00pm

## **Easter**

Sunday, March 27, 8:00am & 10:00am

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## **This Week at Grace**

### **Worship services:**

Maundy Thursday 7:00pm

Good Friday 12:00 Noon

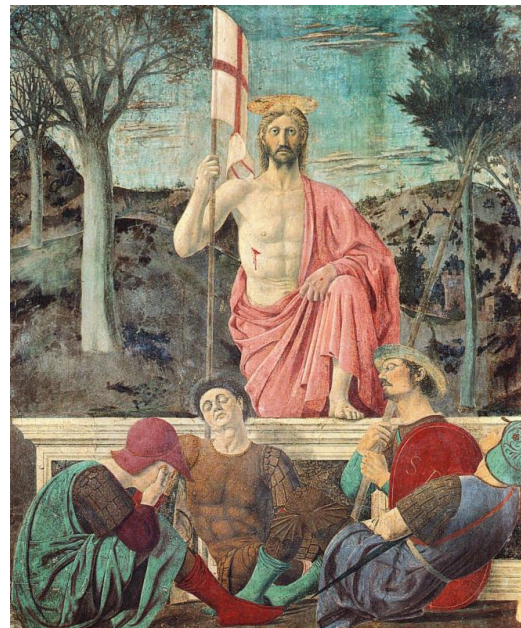
Easter Vigil 7:00pm

Easter Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist

Easter Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist w/ music

Wednesday Noon Holy Eucharist

**Maundy Thursday:** Join us on Thursday evening at 7 pm. The ancient rite of Foot Washing, the commemoration of the Last Supper and the Stripping of the Altar combine for a dramatic and moving service.



**Good Friday:** The Good Friday service will be held at Noon on Friday, March 25. Our guest preacher will be the Reverend Meaghan Brower, Director of the Episcopal Conference Center; and founding Rector of Church of the Beloved in Pascoag, RI. Following the Noon service, the church will remain open following the service for prayer and organ meditations for Good Friday until 3 pm. **Please note:** Child care is available in our nursery during Good Friday service.

**Easter Vigil Celebration:** Following the Easter Vigil service at 7 pm on Holy Saturday, March 26, we'll celebrate with champagne/sparkling cider & dessert. Anyone attending the Easter Vigil is welcome and encouraged to bring a dessert to share. All chocolate and sugar-related fasts will be over at that time!

### **Children's Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt:**

All families with young children attending the 10 am service on March 27, Easter Sunday, are

invited to gather immediately after the service in the Chafee Room for crafts and treats followed by an egg hunt in the sanctuary. Please join in this festive celebration!

### **Women's Prayer and Bible Study:**

2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30am in the Chafee Room

**Grace Church is OPEN to the Public** each weekday from 11:00am until 2:00pm. Please tell your friends, co-workers, and visitors to stop by and explore this beautiful historic church. Our friendly docents will greet you with a smile.

## **Looking Ahead**

The Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island presents a **Youth Choir Festival Evensong, Saturday, April 9 at 4 PM at Grace Church in Providence**. This year's festival includes choristers from East Greenwich, Newport, Narragansett, Bristol and Providence. Vince Edwards, Director of Music at Grace Church, is this year's festival conductor; Peter Stoltzfus Berton (St. John's Newport) and Rodney Ayers (St. Luke's East Greenwich) will be the accompanists. The service includes 'Bless the Lord' by Andrew Carter, a sectional anthem of great exuberance and whimsy for the choristers. You have to hear it to believe it!

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## **Music at Grace**

**The services of Holy Week at Grace Church will be filled with beautiful music!** Maundy Thursday and Good Friday feature mostly a cappella repertoire by composers ranging from the 16th to 20th centuries. At the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening, the choir sings joyful settings by Calvin Hampton and R.S. Thatcher, in addition to Palestrina's sublime setting of *Sicut cervus*. And on Easter Day, there will be jubilant music of Mozart for French Horn and piano as well as duets by Mozart for French Horn and Trombone. The choir will sing Horatio Parker's incomparable setting of Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky followed by the Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah*. Scores will be available for those in the congregation who want to sing along! And our Easter Day celebration concludes with the Toccata from Widor's *Symphony No. 5* for organ! We hope to see you for one or all of these music-filled and meaningful services!.

**The Thursday Noon concert series** will take a brief 2-week hiatus for March 24 and March 31, and then return April 7 with a performance by Vince Edwards.

**The Grace Church Choristers** is open to boys and girls in grades 2 through 12. The choir rehearses twice weekly, and sings twice per month at the Sunday Holy Eucharist at Grace. Please spread the word to families with youngsters who may have an interest in singing. Contact [Director of Music Vince Edwards](#) with questions.

## **Connect with Grace**

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*The Mission of Grace Church is to build, by the grace of God, a loving and joyful community which lives the gospel through worship, proclamation and service to each other, to downtown Providence, and beyond.*