



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

February 23, 2017

Spotlight on Grace: A Lenten Message from the Rector



Just as the Sabbath is an opportunity to take time away from our daily routine and turn our attention to God and our spiritual lives and communities, so too Lent is a season to remind ourselves of *who* we are and *whose* we are.

Many of us have known since childhood of the Christian practice of giving something up during Lent, or the modern version of taking on a practice during Lent. Both of those can be spiritually worthwhile endeavors. One has to be careful, though, not to short-change the experience by "gaming the system." My mother tells of her Lenten practices in her teenage years, when she would give up candy and ice cream and replace them with marshmallows and sherbet!

One practice you can take on is to join with other Anglicans, as we did here at Grace last year, in following the Lenten Series of the brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist. This year's program is called "5 Marks of Love", [and can be found here](#). Following this program during Lent is taking on a Lenten practice that combines the ancient (monastic spirituality) and the modern (internet videos). Beginning Ash Wednesday, we will open each weekday from 8:30-9:00am for Morning Monastic Meditation (please see below). I hope you all will be moved to undertake a Lenten practice of some kind - either those we're lifting up at Grace or elsewhere. Doing so is one of the best ways to fully experience the joy of the Easter that is to come.



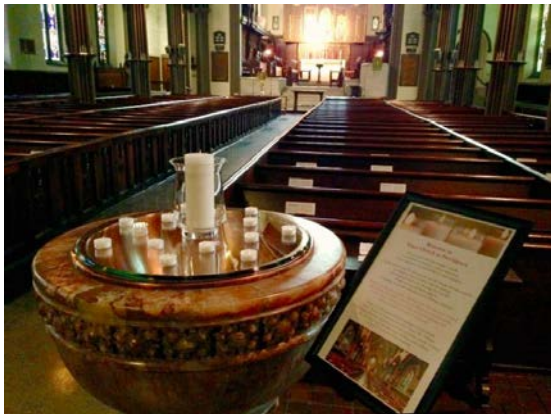
God's Peace,
Jonathan+

Your Journey of Lent at Grace Church in Providence



Morning Monastic Meditation

Weekday mornings
from 8:30 - 9:00am at
Grace Church in Providence



Ash Wednesday services and imposition of ashes Grace Church will offer two Ash Wednesday services on March 1, at 12:00 Noon and 7:00pm, plus an additional imposition of ashes during the Morning Monastic Meditation between 8:30 and 9:00am (see below).

Morning Monastic Meditation

Throughout Lent, please make time in your downtown mornings for Morning Monastic Meditation every weekday from 8:30-9:00am. We will open for half an hour weekday mornings for silent meditation and prayer to the sounds of monastic chant from across the centuries. Please stop in for a moment of peace to begin your day. Visitors are welcome to light a candle as a symbol of their prayer intention.

The Sandwich Brigade at Crossroads

Grace Church parishioners will volunteer to make sandwiches at [Crossroads](#), a homeless services organization in downtown Providence, on 3 consecutive Saturdays, March 11, 18 and 25, at 10:00am. Please find the signup sheet in the back of the church, or e-mail Outreach Ministry chair Nicholas Halar at outreach@gracepvd.org. Financial contributions are welcome (please place check payable to Crossroads in the collection plate).

Take a Journey through the Bible The Prayer and Scripture Group at Grace will meet every Saturday during Lent in the Chafee Room at 9:30am to explore the exciting new book from Forward Movement: [The Path: A Journey through the Bible](#). "With informative trail signs to help you see how each piece of the narrative fits together, The Path is an experience unlike any other: an amazing 360-degree overview of the vast, sweeping story of God's extraordinary love for ordinary people." To take part, [please contact Louise](#).

The Lenten Giving Cross

Grace Church will collect donations for Children's Friend to assist foster families that are welcoming a baby into their home. We will welcome a variety of donations including: bibs, clothes, car seats, and gift cards. Donation requests will be written on flower bulbs on the Lenten Cross, located at the back of the church. If you'd like to get involved, the Outreach

Ministry will meet this Sunday, February 19 in the Chafee Room following the 10:00am service.

Choral Evensong for Lent The Grace Church Choir will offer a Service of Choral Evensong for Lent, Sunday, March 26 at 5:00pm at Grace Church, featuring music of music of Vierne, Blair, and Finzi.

Other Resources for your Lenten Journey Grace Church will have copies of [Lenten Meditations 2017](#) -- a publication of [Episcopal Relief & Development](#) -- available while supplies last. Episcopal Relief & Development is the compassionate response of The Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. Hearing God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, Episcopal Relief & Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world.

This Week at Grace

Worship Schedule:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist
Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist
with Music
Wednesday Noon Holy Eucharist

Ash Wednesday, March 1:

8:30-9:00am Imposition of Ashes
during Morning Monastic Meditation
12:00 Noon Ash Wednesday Service
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service

Prayer and Scripture Group:

2nd and 4th Saturday of each month
at 9:30am in the Chafee Room, and
every Saturday during Lent.

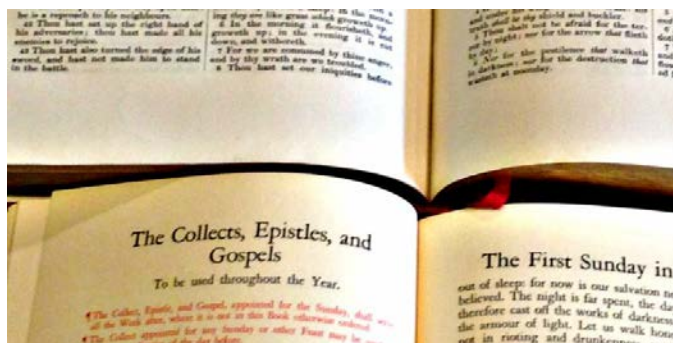
Parking for Worship: Parking for Sunday worship is provided in the lot diagonally across Westminster Street, on the NW corner of Westminster and Snow. A small number of spaces are available on the portion of the Grace Church lot facing Snow Street, along an inset section of the construction fence. For all other times, please [check with the parish administrator](#) for availability.



Wheelchair Access and Accessible Parking: Please find wheelchair access from the sidewalk on Westminster Street into the church. Handicapped parking spaces have been posted for Sundays on Mathewson Street near Westminster.

February 26, 2017 - Last Sunday after the Epiphany

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



For the text of this Sunday's readings, [please click here](#):

[Exodus 24:12-18 ~ Psalm 99 ~ 2 Peter 1:16-21 ~ Matthew 17:1-9](#)

This week from the Episcopal Church: [What is Lent?](#)

Also, [click here](#) for the latest from the Episcopal News Service.

Would you like to add someone to the prayer list? [Please click here](#) to submit a name, or call the church office at (401) 331-3225. Names are kept on the list for a month, and can be renewed at any time. Those received by Wednesday will appear in the same week's bulletin.

Join Us for Winter and Spring Musical Events at Grace

Thursdays at Noon: March 9 - May 25

Please join us on Thursdays at Noon from March 9 through May 25 for in for mal half-hour organ, vocal or instrumental concerts. Feel free to stay for a portion of the concert or the entire concert if your schedule will allow.

Choral Evensong: Sunday, March 26 at 5PM

The Grace Church Choir offers Choral Evensong for Lent. Music of Vierne, Blair, and Finzi.

St. Matthew Passion: Friday, April 7 at 7:30PM

Museum Concerts of Rhode Island 50th Anniversary Gala Concert Performed by the Brown University Chorus and Schola Cantorum of Boston. For tickets, visit www.museumconcerts.org or call 401-274-5073.

Music of Praise and Glory:

Sunday, April 30 at 5PM

The Grace Church Choir and Choristers join with Collegium Ancora to present Vivaldi's beloved Gloria and Purcell's Te Deum and Jubilate with Chamber Ensemble. \$10 suggested donation



Scout Sunday: Girl Scout Cookies on Sale this Sunday

Girl Scout Cookies will be on sale in the narthex before and after 10am worship service today. Proceeds benefit Girl Scouts of SE New England and our local girl scout troops.

You can also donate cookies for families with children undergoing cancer treatment at Hasbro Children's Hospital. Cookies are \$4/box, or \$5/box for the gluten free cookies.



Learn & Lead 2017: Understanding Generational Differences

Saturday, March 18, 2017
9:00am - 3:00pm
St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth

But We've Never Done it that Way Before... Understanding Generational Differences in our Churches

Within our churches at this moment in time are potentially five different generations of members, each operating with distinctly different expectations in such important areas as communicating, giving, learning, attending and participating. Come learn the basic ways of looking at different aspects of life - especially life in the church - through the eyes of the different generations. Learn how these differences may become either a stumbling block to church growth or a catalyst to new ways of living life together. [Click here to register!](#) With questions, email info@episcopalri.org. Ticket prices include the cost of a boxed lunch. \$10/person.

Learn & Lead 2017:




But we've never done it that way before
Understanding generational differences

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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.