



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

March 31, 2016

## Spotlight on Grace: *Hey, Where'd the Altar Go?*

Some of you may have noticed that the altar we've been using on Sundays wasn't there on Easter morning, and instead we were using the "high altar". Here's an explanation of why that is:



Until the 1960's, most Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches in this country had "east facing" altars, where the priest celebrated the eucharist with his back to the congregation. Around that time, though, many churches decided it would be better for the priest to face the people. Many churches pulled their altars away from the back wall so the priest could stand behind it to face the people.

In some churches, that was nearly impossible; and Grace is one of those churches. The high altar -- built in 1912 when the chancel was constructed -- is made of solid marble, and affixed to the back wall of the church. So years ago, a compromise was struck that we would install a table altar and movable communion rails at the

"crossing" of the church, and use that altar for most of the year. We would then return to the high altar for the Christmas and Easter seasons each year (about 8 Sundays out of 52), so that worshippers would have the experience of taking communion at the historic high altar of Grace Church, and cross through the choir as they approached the altar.

On Trinity Sunday (May 22 this year), look for the table altar to return to its usual place. While we're at the high altar, our intention is to have each Sunday a standing communion station at the foot of the pulpit, just as we did on Easter, for anyone who would rather not navigate the chancel steps.

Paschal blessings,  
Jonathan+

## This Week at Grace

### Worship services:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist

Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist w/ music

Wednesday Noon Holy Eucharist

**Sunday Forum:** Join us this Sunday (April 3) at 9:00am in the Chafee Room for a discussion of the faith and teachings of the Anglican/Episcopal church. Absolutely all are welcome!

### 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.

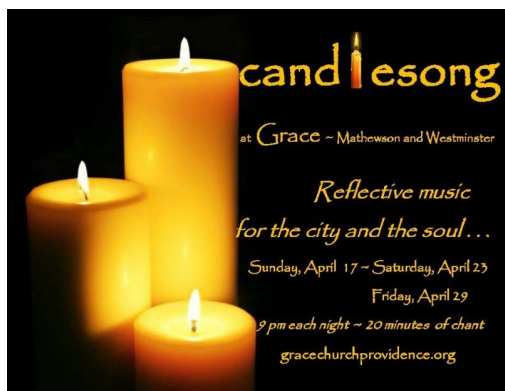


## Looking Ahead

**Saturday, April 9, 4:00pm at Grace.** Youth Choir Festival Evensong presented by the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island. Vince Edwards 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!

**Sunday, April 17, after the 10am service:** Pam Quinn and Anne McCarthy will lead a discussion of advance directives -- legal documents that allow you to spell out your decisions about end-of-life care ahead of time -- in conjunction with The 1829 Society at Grace.

**Children's Friend 5K Walk & Run:** Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 30, 10:00am-12:30pm, and plan to walk or run with us for a terrific cause; or even just come out to enjoy the day and support your Grace Church team! Live entertainment, food by Panera Bread, activities for kids, and loads of fun! [Click here](#) for event information.



## Music at Grace

Grace Church presents **Candlesong: Reflective music for the city and the soul.** Gleaming candlelight, fragrant incense and sublime Gregorian chant will combine to create a restful and reflective atmosphere. Attendees will not have to sing, or even speak out loud - simply let the experience of Candlesong wash over them. The initial series will be held on Sunday, April 17; Saturday, April 23; and

Friday, April 29, all beginning at 9 PM.

**For this Sunday's 10am service**, we continue our Easter celebration with a glorious bit of Mozart. Exultate, jubilate was composed between December 1772 and January 1773 while Mozart was in Italy for a production of one of his operas. We are fortunate to have Erin Maughan, a member of the Grace Church Choir, singing for us. Erin is a recent graduate of New England Conservatory, where she received her Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance. She also holds a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Rhode Island. Erin currently teaches general music and beginning strings at Stony Lane Elementary School, and is hoping to open a voice studio this summer.

**The Thursday Noon concert series** will return next Thursday, April 7 with a performance by Director of Music 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.

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## Your Health & Wellness Minute

**Farm Fresh RI** will be available to meet with us after the 10:00am service on April 10, 2016. The discussion will relate to farm to table offerings, ideas on how to incorporate fresh produce into your diet, and on how to support your local famers. Please join us!!



"This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones." Proverbs 3:8

## Connect with Grace


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401-331-3225

*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.*