



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

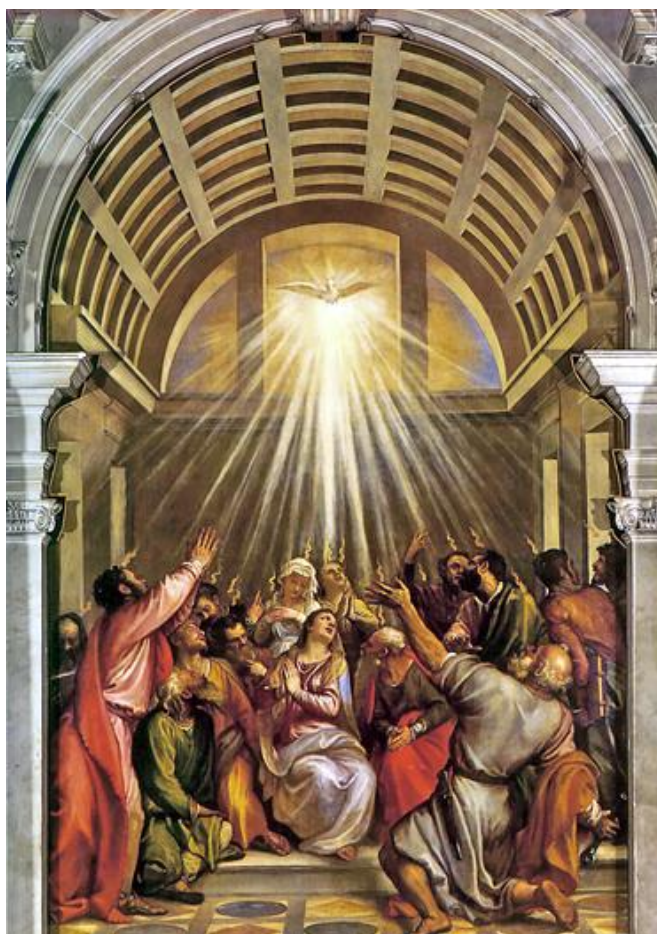
May 18, 2018

Spotlight on Grace: A Message from the Rector

Of all the Christian holy days with origins in the New Testament - Christmas, Epiphany, the Transfiguration, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost - the only one in which Jesus is absent is the one we celebrate on Sunday: Pentecost.

A Christian holy day without Christ? Does that make any sense? The answer, you won't be surprised, is, yes, for two reasons.

Firstly, the event we celebrate on Pentecost - the presence of the Holy Spirit with the disciples on that day just ten days after Jesus had ascended to God the Father - is the celebration of a promise of Jesus fulfilled. Jesus has promised that God would send the Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen his followers after his ascension, and that's exactly what happened. So just as the apostles - and all who heard them speaking in their own languages that day - were joyful that the Spirit of God had done this amazing thing, we celebrate with them that God's Spirit was present in a unique way that day and that the Holy Spirit inspires the hearts and lives and mission of us all in this place and time, too.



Secondly, even though the Pentecost experience was not technically a "Jesus experience" like those other biblical events were, Jesus was very clear in the Gospels that "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20) Even if Jesus wasn't physically present with the apostles on the Day of Pentecost, if there was ever a day when he was spiritually present with his followers, that was it! There's an old Shaker song called Encouragement, which (with a slight lyrical alteration) speaks to the presence of Jesus in our lives perfectly: "Though Jesus is gone, he's with you still." Jesus may have ascended, but he's with us still, just as he was in dramatic fashion on that first Pentecost.

Blessings,
Jonathan+

Wear Red to Church on Sunday

In many churches, parishioners wear red to church on Pentecost Sunday to recall the tongues of flame that rested above the heads of the apostles on that first Pentecost. You are invited to do likewise! In their early song "Yes It Is", the Beatles may have sung, "please don't wear red tonight," but your rector says, "please do wear red on Sunday!"

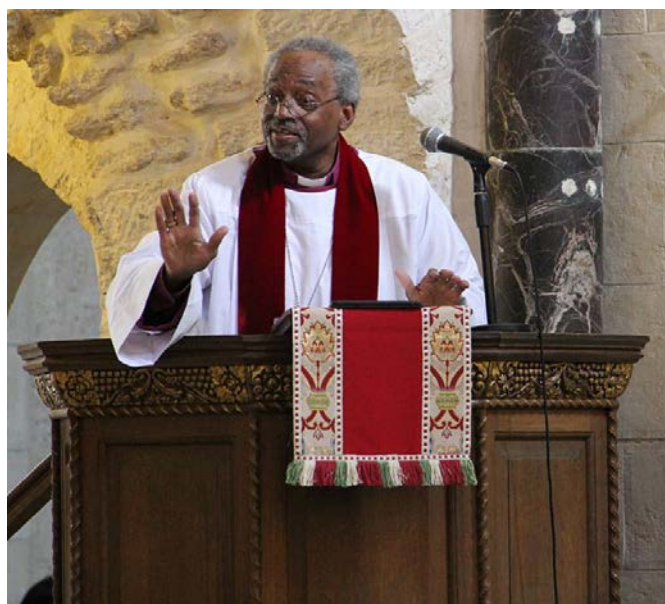
A red rectangular graphic with white text. The text reads "Celebrate Pentecost" in a cursive font, followed by "WEAR RED THIS SUNDAY!" in a bold, sans-serif font.

Your Guide to the Royal Wedding

With Presiding Bishop Michael Curry delivering a sermon during this Saturday morning's royal wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, what more reason could you need to watch? Here's how.

Broadcast:

PBS will broadcast BBC's coverage beginning at 4 a.m. Many, many other stations will provide coverage as well, most with coverage beginning at 4am, 4:30am, or 5:00am. If you wish to skip the pre-wedding coverage, just know that the ceremony itself will begin at 7:00am here in our time zone.



Streaming:

You can stream every moment on Saturday, May 19th from 5-9 a.m. ET on CNN.com's homepage. It can also be viewed on CNNgo (at CNN.com/go on your desktop, smartphone, and iPad, and via CNNgo apps for Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire and Android TV).

The 150th Anniversary of Sissieretta Jones: America's First Black Diva


Sissieretta Jones grew up in Providence, toured the world as a first rate soprano, broke racial barriers, and was the highest paid Black performer of her day.

For 85 years, she has rested in an unmarked grave in Grace Cemetery. At the conclusion of the celebration, a headstone will be dedicated at her gravesite in Grace Cemetery (at the confluence of Broad Street and Elmwood Ave.). Join others in funding the stone through a [GoFundMe page here](#).

On Thursday, June 7, please join us in The Pavilion at Grace for a presentation of "The Sun is Shining: Sissieretta Jones", a one-woman play. The performance will begin at 7:00pm.

[Please click here](#) to visit the Sissieretta Jones web page within the [Stages of Freedom website](#). Questions: (401) 421-0606


Mark your calendar for the many events listed at right, June 7-9th. All Events are Free & Open to the Public. [Please click here](#) to register for the Keynote at Providence Athenaeum on Friday, June 8.

STAGES

OF Freedom

AMERICA'S FIRST BLACK DIVA: SISSIERETTA JONES AT 150

The following events comprise a three day national celebration

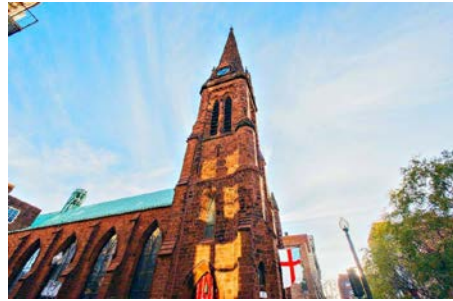
- 1) Thursday, June 7, 5pm
Exhibit Opening - Sissieretta Jones: The Greatest Singer of Her Race
Stages of Freedom Museum, 10 Westminster Street, Providence
- 2) Thursday, June 7, 7pm
"The Sun is Shining: Sissieretta Jones" A One-Woman Play
Providence Site to be Announced
- 3) Friday, June 8, 10am
Gallery Talk & Tea - Finding Sissieretta: Creating the Exhibit
Stages of Freedom Museum, 10 West Minster Street, Providence
- 4) Friday, June 8, 5pm
Keynote - Author Maureen Lee & Archivist Gino Francesconi of Carnegie Hall
Providence Athenaeum, 251 Benefit Street, Providence
- 5) Saturday, June 9, 9am
Walking Tour of Sissieretta Jones Historic Sites
Point of Origin: Stages of Freedom, 10 Westminster Street, Providence
- 6) Saturday, June 9, 2pm
Concert: Sissieretta Jones and Her Music
Congdon Street Baptist Church, 17 Congdon Street, Providence
- 7) Saturday, June 9, 5pm
The Last Rose of Summer: Headstone Ceremony for Sissieretta's Unmarked Grave
Reception: Southside Cultural Center, 393 Broad Street, Providence
Procession to Grace Church Cemetery, Broad St. & Elmwood Ave., Providence



This Week at Grace

Weekly Worship Schedule:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist
Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist with Music
and Holy Baptism
Wednesday 12:00 Noon Eucharist



Thursday Concerts at Noon:

Please join us next Thursday, May 24 at Noon for our FINAL concert of the season! Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor and Widor's famous Toccata from Symphony 5 are on the program! Following the concert, you are cordially invited to a light luncheon in celebration and thanksgiving for the preceding season of Music at Grace, kindly hosted by Luci Scanlan, Hope Brothers, Joan Martin, and Bob Nelson.

Open Doors: Your friendly docents are here to greet you every weekday from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Please encourage your friends or guests to come and visit Grace Church and see the new Pavilion at Grace.

Prayer Group: The prayer group meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30am in the Chafee Room, which is accessed via Mathewson St.

20s/30s Group Potluck Dinner: The growing and active 20s/30s Group at Grace Church hosts a monthly potluck dinner on the first Thursday of each month in the beautiful Pavilion at Grace. Please contact Drake at 20s30s@gracepvd.org. **PLEASE NOTE:** On June 7, the group will instead gather at 7:00pm to attend the Sissieretta Jones play (please see above), and then find a nearby spot for refreshments.

Wheelchair Access and Accessible Parking: Please find convenient accessible in the Grace Church parking lot with access from Snow Street. The new wheelchair ramp connects directly from the lot, and you will enter through the new reception entrance of The Pavilion and into the church at ground level.

Parking for Worship: Free parking for Sunday worship is provided:

- 1.) in the lot diagonally across Westminster Street, on the NW corner of Westminster and Snow;
- 2.) On the **top level only** of the PPAC parking garage, for which the entrance is on Weybosset Street. A stairway from the top level leads right to Chapel Street across from the church; and
- 3.) In the Grace Church parking lot accessed via Snow Street. We ask your kind cooperation in reserving this lot, to the extent possible, for seniors and those with limited mobility.

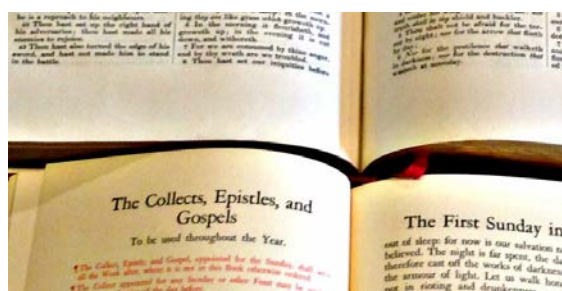
Enroll for Summer Programs at ECC

A great variety of summer camp programs for children and youths from age 4 through 12th grade are now enrolling at the Episcopal Conference Center in Pascoag, RI. Brochures are available in the narthex of the church, or [visit the ECC website for details](#) or to enroll. If you're interested in learning more, the ECC has two upcoming [Open House events scheduled](#).



May 20, 2018 The Day of Pentecost

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



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

This week from the Episcopal Church: [Day of Pentecost](#). [Click here](#) for the latest from the Episcopal News Service. And for current news from the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, [please click here](#).

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.

Connect with Grace

[Grace Church Website](#)

[This Sunday's Readings](#)

[Listen to Recent Sermons](#)

