

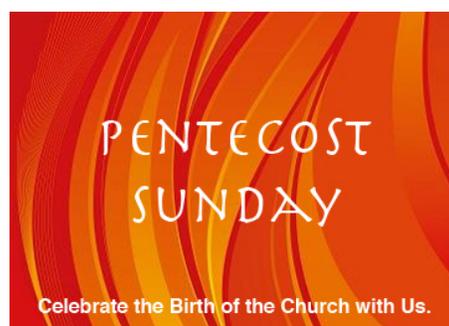


Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

June 2, 2017

Spotlight on Grace: Celebrate the Birth of the Church

Pentecost is the annual celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples 50 days after the resurrection of Christ. It is also traditionally considered the birthday of the Christian Church. Why is that? Why would the Church not consider its birthday to be, say, Christmas or Easter? Or even the baptism of Jesus by John in the River Jordan?



The Feast of Pentecost marks the birth of the Church because of at least two things that happened on that day, 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus. First, through the coming of the Holy Spirit, God was present with the followers of Jesus from that moment on, whether they were experiencing tangible miracles or not. When we gather together in prayer and mission in the name of Jesus, God's Holy Spirit is with us, and that is what the Church is meant to be - God and God's people together in mission, following Jesus.

Second, the Pentecost experience in that upper room in Jerusalem all those years ago was deliberately diverse. The Church is meant to be universal rather than the faith of one ethnic, national, or linguistic group. (On Sunday, we will celebrate that diversity in our own parish through a multi-lingual Gospel reading.) The Church is not the Church unless it is outward-reaching and embracing. On that Day of Pentecost, when all those people were gathered together - divided by language but united in faith - that would also mark the Church as the Church.

God's active presence in our ministry on this earth, as well reflecting the diversity of all humanity (and reaching out to all of humanity) - these things make the Church what it is meant to be, and so the Feast of Pentecost is indeed a very good day to consider as the birthday of the Church. We look forward to celebrating our birthday with you on Sunday!

The Rev. Canon Jonathan Huyck
Rector, Grace Church in Providence

This Week at Grace

Weekly Worship Schedule:

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

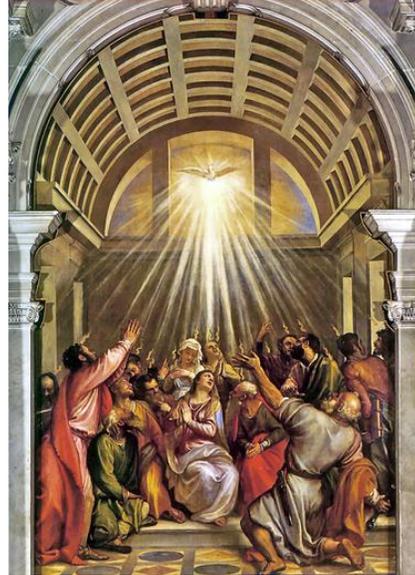
Open Doors:

Your friendly docents are here to greet you every weekday from 11:00am - 2:00pm.

Prayer Group: Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30am, Chafee Room.

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.



Grace at the RI Pride Festival

Grace Church will be an active participant at this year's RI Pride Festival, held on Saturday, June 17th. We are still looking for a few volunteers for the afternoon shifts - 2:00-3:30 and 3:30-5:30. You don't need any special training - all that you need to do is be willing to speak about what Grace Church means to you and welcome any and all that come to our booth. The Festival is held on South Water Street in Downtown Providence. If you are interested and able to volunteer for a shift, please contact Nicholas Halar at outreach@gracepvd.com for details. All volunteers will be provided with a Grace Shirt t-shirt.



A Purse for Champ's Retirement

Our beloved facilities manager, Champ Cooley, is retiring at the end of the month after more than 25 years at Grace. In keeping with church practice for the retirement of long-serving staff members, we will be taking up a "purse" for Champ. If you would like to contribute to this gift for Champ, please send a check (of whatever amount you are moved to give) to the parish office (300 Westminister Street, Providence, RI 02903), and write "Champ gift" in the memo line. We will collect all these checks into one check from the church to present to Champ on June 25th in church. Thank you in advance for your gift to Champ...and thanks to Champ for his years of service to Grace!



June 4, 2017 - 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](#):

[Acts 2:1-21 ~ Psalm 104:25-35,37 ~ 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 ~ John 20:19-23](#)

This week from the Episcopal Church: [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.

Summer Choir Begins June 18

During the summer months (June 18 to Labor Day) we will enjoy the leadership of our summer choir! Summer Choir is open to anyone who sings with the Grace Church Choir, or anyone who would like to try singing in the choir. We meet in the Choir Room at 8:45 AM on Sunday mornings, rehearse the hymns and psalm, and prepare a simple anthem or two. You don't need to give previous notice, but if you would like to try Summer Choir, please do [email Vince Edwards](mailto:vince.edwards@gracepvd.org), Director of Music, for more information, or if you have any



questions. Feel free to sing one Sunday, or every Sunday! Please note: We may not vest once the weather turns hot, so please wear our summer choir "uniform" - white blouse or shirt, black (or very dark) shorts, pants or skirt and dark-ish shoes (sandals are fine!).

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[This Sunday's Readings](#)

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CHURCH

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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.