



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

175 MATTHEWSON STREET PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903 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 and to downtown Providence.

Grace Episcopal Church E-News

Grace Abounds

April, 2015

In This Issue

- Rector's Letter
- Holy Week Services
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Easter Vigil Celebration
- Easter Sunday!
- Director of Music Search Update
- Sunday Forum



Quick Links

- [Grace Church Website](#)
- [Directions](#)
- [Visitor's Guide](#)

Deadline: May E-News

Please [forward](#) any content for May's e-news by Friday, *April 17th*.

Rector's Letter

Friends,

Many years ago, I attended a lecture by a prominent Methodist minister in Chicago who said, "When I was growing up, we went to church on Palm Sunday and then on Easter Sunday, and didn't step foot in church on the six days in between." Truth be told, the same was true for me and my family when I was growing up. Of course, attending church on those two holy days of Palm Sunday and Easter is an excellent thing to do! But I want to encourage you to come to church in between those Sundays, especially if you've never done so before. Maundy Thursday (a service I first attended as a college student here in Providence) is a beautiful and moving worship service that commemorates the Last Supper and Jesus' washing of his disciples' feet and giving them (and us) the commandment to love one another. By the end of the service, we strip the altar and chancel of all its ornamentation, calling to mind the desolation felt by Jesus as he awaited his betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane. For some, this service is the most moving of the church year.

On Good Friday, we continue Grace Church's tradition of a noon service with a guest preacher, who this year will be the chaplain at Woman & Infants Hospital, the Rev. Caroline Patterson. And the following evening at 7 p.m., we will begin the Easter Vigil and celebrate the first Eucharist of the Easter season following sundown on that night. This, too, is a favorite service of many who have experienced it, though hardly any of us grew up with it in our own churches. A bit like Maundy Thursday, it almost has to be experienced to be appreciated.

Holy week is an opportunity to move through the life, death,

Grace Church Calendar

Sundays in April

8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Eucharist

Wednesdays in April

12:00 p.m. Noonday Eucharist

12:20 p.m. Intercessory Prayer

Saturdays,

April 11th and 25th

9:30 a.m. Women's Prayer and Bible Study: Chafee Room

and resurrection of our Lord in a uniquely concentrated way. I hope many of you are moved to be a part of it.

Holy week blessings,

Jonathan

Holy Week Services

Weekly

The Holy Eucharist

Sundays 8 am & 10 am (sung)

Wednesdays 12 noon

Holy Week

Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday 8 am & 10 am

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday 7 pm

Friday, April 3 Good Friday 12 noon

Saturday, April 4 Easter Vigil 7 pm

Sunday, April 5 Easter Day 8 am & 10 am

Maundy Thursday



We will need 12 parishioners to volunteers to have their feet washed by the clergy at the Maundy Thursday service. If you're willing email or call the parish administrator: administrator@gracechurchprovidence.org or 401-331-3225.

Good Friday



The guest preacher for the Good Friday service at noon on Friday, April 3, will be the Rev. Caroline Patterson Inlow, a Congregationalist minister and Chaplain at Women & Infants Hospital in Providence. The church will remain open following the service for prayer and hourly organ meditations for Good Friday until 3 pm.

Easter Vigil Celebration

As we've done for the past three years, we'll celebrate following the Easter Vigil service at 7 pm on Holy Saturday 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!

Easter Sunday!



Children's Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt

All families with young children attending the 10 am service on April 5, Easter Sunday are invited to gather immediately after the service in the Chafee Room for crafts and treats.

Director of Music Search Update

Our musician search committee is preparing to interview finalists to be our next Director of Music. Our hope is to be able to make a hire by May, for an anticipated start in early to mid-summer. Please keep our committee and process in your prayers!

Sunday Forum on Climate Change



On **Sunday, April 19th**, Prof. Yongsong Huang of the Department of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences at Brown University will come to Grace Church to describe the impacts of climate change and talk about what each person can do to make a difference. 2015 is a make or break year on this important issue. With a major international meeting in December, and the effects of climate change already happening worldwide, we all have a moral duty to act. On **April 19th at 9 a.m.** in the Chafee Room we'll learn more about climate change and ways to take action. The event has been organized in partnership with GreenFaith, an interfaith environmental organization, and Climate Voices, a non-profit dedicated to bringing scientists and citizens together to discuss climate science and the local impacts of

climate change. For information on GreenFaith Day, visit: <http://www.greenfaith.org/success-stories/greenfaith-day-2015>. All are welcome!

Grace Church e-letter Administrators
Grace Episcopal Church

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