



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

April 17, 2020

A Weekly Message from the Rector

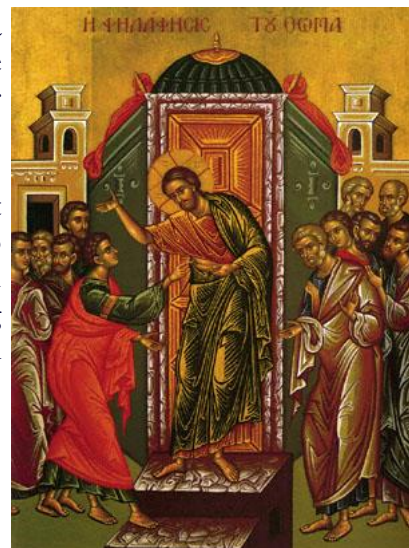


[Click here](#) or on the image above to watch.

Voices of Grace: Virtual Worship

At Grace Church we are committed to continue building a loving and joyful community through worship despite temporarily not being able to gather on Sundays or weekdays due to health concerns related to COVID-19. Until our normal rhythm of worship and gatherings resumes, every Sunday morning we will send an email, post on Facebook and upload to Vimeo a short worship video put together by our staff that will feature clergy and parishioners participating in "virtual worship" by reading lessons from scripture, preaching, and making music all from their homes. Keep a look out for Voices of Grace: Virtual Worship every Sunday morning!

If you'd like to print the service leaflet for this Sunday's Virtual Worship please [click here](#).



This Sunday's Preacher: Ryan Weimer



Our preacher this week will be Grace parishioner Ryan Weimer. Ryan was educated at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Harvard Divinity School, and the University of Edinburgh and has taught at the University of Mississippi. In his time at Grace, he's served on the vestry and has led adult forums, children's Sunday School classes, home fellowship groups and currently co-leads our Youth Group. We're thrilled to have Ryan preaching for us this week!

Thank You For Sustaining Your Stewardship

As the offering plate has ceased circulating each Sunday, it is only through the deliberate continuity of stewardship by our parishioners that Grace will reliably meet its financial obligations during this period.



We know that some among us have lost jobs or seen household income disrupted by this pandemic, so we understand some may need to pause or reduce their support for a time. For this reason, we're in particular need of broad participation - and perhaps even accelerated pledge payments where possible - from those who are able.

Please mail in your pledge payments or schedule electronic contributions. If you're accustomed to placing cash contributions in the offering plate, please consider mailing a check instead. Alternatively, an outdoor mail slot is located adjacent to the reception office at The Pavilion entrance.

Electronic contributions are fast and easy to arrange [through our website](#) or by using the [GivePlus mobile app](#). We're [standing by to help](#) if anyone would like assistance setting that up.

Thank you for maintaining your support of Grace Church as we navigate through an unprecedented challenge. And thank you for joining us in prayer for all who are in need of comfort, peace and healing this Eastertide. May they find these in the never-ending love of our resurrected Christ, and may God's blessing be upon us all.

Habits of Grace: Meditations from the Presiding Bishop

[Click here](#) or on the image to the right for weekly videos, posted every Monday from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.



Faith Climate Action Week: Love Made Visible



During this Faith Climate Action Week, April 17 - 26, as our world strives to deal with-and heal from-the impact of COVID-19, let us not forget that we still need to heal our world itself. We are invited to join people of all faiths in reciting this National Climate Prayer at noon on the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22:

We Hold the Earth

We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms
and droughts intensified by climate change.

We hold all species that suffer.

We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.

We pray that the web of life may be mended
through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.

We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation
to help our already suffering earth community.

We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities,
so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and
truthfully say, we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children.

May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.



You are also invited to join the April 19 service at the Washington National Cathedral when the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Missioner for Creation Care for the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, will be preaching at the [11:15 a.m. service in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day](#). The Cathedral will also host a multi-faith Earth Day service on Sunday at 2 p.m. at <https://cathedral.org/event/multi-faith-earth-day-service/>.

Finally, to learn more about how people of faith can respond and take action beyond our prayers, visit one of the links below:

www.faithclimateactionweek.org

<https://episcopalchurch.org/creation-care>

An Offer of Help: Preparing Wills & Medical Guidelines

Even as we each hope and pray for everyone's health and well being during this pandemic, it never hurts to be prepared for any possibility. If you have not already made a Last Will and Testament, or prepared a document which gives medical personnel guidance about the kind of care you want to receive, this may be a good time to do so. Our Senior Warden has offered to prepare a simple set of papers for any parishioner, free of charge. If you would like to discuss this, please call Adrienne Southgate at 401-301-7823 or email her at asouthgate1@cox.net.



Wednesday Virtual Prayer Group

The Wednesday prayer group invites all parishioners to join them in prayer via Zoom every Wednesday at noon. If you can't make that time but would still like to have their prayer list for your own prayers, you can request that list instead. Either way, contact Adrienne Southgate at asouthgate1@cox.net to join in.



"Virtual" Thursdays at Noon Concerts April 16, 2020

Though our normal Thursdays at Noon Concert Series has been temporarily put on hold, the parish musicians will continue the music online! [Click here](#) or on the image to the right to watch Vince Edwards, Organist & Director of Music at Grace play an Easter-themed program with music by David Johnson, J.S. Bach, Gerald Near, and others.



April 12, 2020 The Second Sunday of Easter: Low Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For the texts of the readings for The Second Sunday of Easter: Low Sunday, [please click here](#).

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



Details of the Temporary Closure at Grace

This closure impacts all parish activities until further notice, including Sunday worship, the Open Doors ministry, the Wednesday Eucharist, the Thursday Noon concert, all meetings and ministry gatherings, all music lessons and choir rehearsals. We will continue to send a weekly ENews, so please stay tuned for further updates and our online worship experience videos sent out every Sunday.