

GRACE ABOUNDS



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

July 28, 2023

A Grace Church Chorister at St. Thomas, 5th Ave

Every summer, St. Thomas Church in New York City holds a week-long choral course for girl choristers. One might say that this is an effort on St. Thomas' part to create an opportunity for girls to sing for services at a church which has a unique tradition in the United States in terms of church music programs. Since 1919, St. Thomas Church has had a residential choir school for boys (grades 3 through 6), who sing the treble (upper) voices parts in the St. Thomas Choir for daily services of Choral Evensong and Eucharist. The school's structure is based on that of the famous cathedral choir schools in the United Kingdom, and today the only school and choir program that it parallels exactly is Westminster Abbey in London. This is because St. Thomas and Westminster Abbey are the only two remaining, non-collegiate churches that have a residential choir school exclusively for boys who are responsible for singing daily services in the Anglican tradition.



In recent years there has been much conversation on both sides of the Atlantic about the inclusion, integration, and parity between boy choristers and girl choristers, with most Cathedrals in the U.K. now having both genders in their ranks of treble voices. Several cathedrals here in the U.S. that boast a chorister program, have out of necessity and to provide equal inclusion united boys and girls in their choirs. This has been a long-overdue step and the musical quality of the choristers' singing benefits enormously.

At Grace Church, there once were separate boy and girl choristers. Today both genders sing together in The Choir & Choristers of Grace Church, and we rejoice in and appreciate this unity. While boys voices change, we still keep them involved in the music program by teaching them how to sing safely through voice change as they become tenors and basses (the lower voices of the choir). The girls just continue singing as they were, providing a continuity in the treble line as the roster of boys that sing treble changes.

This week (July 24-30) one of our very own girl choristers is participating in the St. Thomas Girl Choristers' Course. We are exceedingly proud that Briella Weimer was selected to join girls from all across the country for a week of rehearsals, vocal training, and singing for services of Choral Evensong and Eucharist at St. Thomas! Our Associate Director of Music, David Heinze, will be traveling to New York this weekend to watch and hear Briella in services and to represent the clergy, staff, and parish in support of her participation in this excellent musical opportunity. She will be making music for worship at one of the highest levels available to girl choristers

in the U.S. and we know she will make us proud! *Of particular note, this year there are several women composers featured in the repertoire being sung by the girls this week.*

To view live-streamed services of the St. Thomas Girls Choristers Course (and to see if you can spot Briella!) click on the links below! *Hint: She sings on the Decani (Right) side of the choir.*

[July 25: Solemn Choral Eucharist for the Feast of St. James the Apostle](#)

[July 26: Choral Evensong](#)

[July 27: Choral Evensong](#)

[July 30 \(Morning\): Festal Choral Eucharist at 11:00am](#)

[July 30 \(Afternoon\): Festal Choral Evensong at 3:00pm](#)

Summer Worship Schedule

For the months of July and August,
we will suspend the
Sunday 8:00 AM Spoken Eucharist
and the Wednesday 12 Noon Spoken Eucharist.



Please join us for the 10 AM Eucharist on Sunday mornings during those months.

Summer at Grace

July

22 - Parents + Toddlers Play Date, 9-11am in the Pavilion at Grace
30 - Last Day of Summer Sunday School

August

26 - Family Picnic at the Pedestrian Bridge Park, 11am

All are welcome!
Please contact Vivian
at vblais@gracepvd.org
with questions!

Refugee Ministry Sign-Up and Details



DORCAS INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF RHODE ISLAND

Working in partnership with Dorcas International our ministry has opportunities for your participation!

Through our “Restart Kits for Refugees” you are invited to fill a tub with specific items new arrivals will need to help them set up their new homes. Copies of the requested items and procedures are found on the tables at the back of the church. You can sign up easily by [clicking here](#) or speak with Bill or email Holly Gray at hollyandmike@gmail.com

In teams of two we are invited to become mentors for newly arrived families. Under the guidance of a Dorcas Case Manager, mentors are matched with a specific family to be a welcoming friend, someone who can help new arrivals navigate, discover resources, practice English, or whatever is needed. A description of responsibilities and commitments is found on the back of the Restart Kits at the back of the church. For information or to express interest please contact The Rev. Mike Coburn (P: 401-421-8755; mikecoburn77@gmail.com).

Please join us in this important expression of our community’s welcoming spirit and faith!

Flower Power!

Not only are flowers beautiful to look at, it has been proven they are also good for our mental health! Research has shown that flowers brighten hospital patients' moods, enhance happiness in dining areas and even contribute to creativity in office settings.



We know there are a lot of gardeners in the parish, and it would be wonderful if folks could bring in some of their lovingly nurtured garden flowers for all to enjoy during Coffee Hour. Bring your own vase or obtain one from the kitchen! Afraid there might be multiple floral donations? No worries - our buffet table is quite long (whether in The Pavilion or outdoors) so multiple arrangements will never be a problem! We can even place them in different locations (for example, Pavilion tables, coffee station, etc.).

Worried what will happen to your flowers after coffee hour on Sunday? Our Parish Administrator, Sara, will display them in the church during the week or perhaps place a vase in the side door entrance to welcome visitors, etc., wherever they land they will definitely be put to good use!

So start creating those fun backyard bouquets to share with our Grace community on summer Sundays!

Any questions, email Diane Stamp at flowers@gracepvd.org

Sunday Morning Worship **The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**



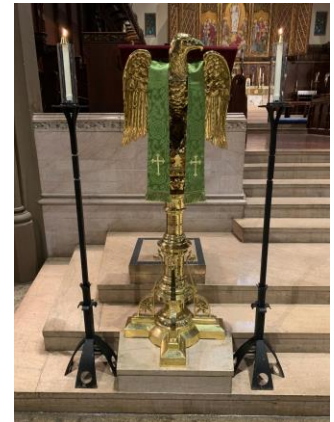
~ Sunday Morning YouTube Link ~
[Click here!](#)

This service will be live-streamed to the [Grace Church YouTube Channel](#). Please use the link provided above to watch. The service will also be archived on the [Grace Church website](#) for 'on-demand' viewing after Sunday morning. We hope this experience allows those who are not able to join us in person on Sunday to participate in the worship.

To view the Order of Service for **The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**,
[CLICK HERE!](#)

Regardless of how you choose to participate in our worship life together,
ALL ARE WELCOME at Grace Church!

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost **July 30, 2023**



O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**,
[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.](#)