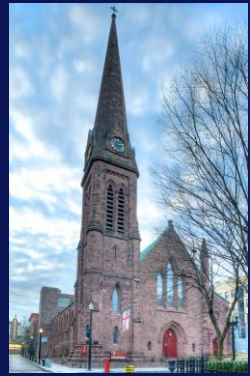


# GRACE ABOUNDS



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

April 12, 2024

## Spotlight: A Reflection on the Solar Eclipse

My family and I travelled to Stowe, Vermont on Monday to witness the total solar eclipse. Having just experienced the glorious Easter celebration at Grace Church the week prior, I offer this brief reflection on what the eclipse may have in common with the worship we offer to God in church each week.



A word often used by people who've witnessed a total eclipse is "awe." There is something about experiencing a total eclipse that defies explanation and brings up the simplest of all prayers, which writer Anne Lamott calls a prayer of "wow!" Having now seen a total solar eclipse with my own eyes, it felt to me akin to what it was like on Easter Sunday when hundreds of us sang together "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" or the final "Hallelujah" of the "Hallelujah Chorus." Just, "wow!"

One can have a transcendent experience of God alone on a mountaintop, of course, which, I'm sure, is how some witnessed the eclipse on Monday. But I experienced it with my family and hundreds of other people in a snowy field. At the moment when the moon completely obscured the sun, a great cheer went up from all of us. None of us planned to cheer. It was just a visceral expression of what we felt as a community of wonder-ers who were joined together by nothing more than the joy of being a part of this rare celestial event. Similarly, at our Easter worship last Sunday, no one in that gathering knew all 435 of us by name. As the church's rector, I might have come closest, but, at best I knew the names of half of the people gathered together on that sacred day. Many of us strangers to one another, we were brought together not because we were family or friends but because we wanted to share with others this joyous and wondrous celebration.

Lastly, the eclipse connected us with those throughout history (and before!) who have looked up at the skies and had the same experience of wonder and awe. New Englanders witnessing this great event said the same thing this week that they did centuries ago – "Wow!". As we celebrate each November during our All Saints' and All Souls' worship services, we are a community not just of the 435 people gathered at the corner of Westminster and Mathewson Streets on Easter Sunday but of all those who have done so before we were even born, for almost 200 years.

It will be many decades before a full solar eclipse returns to New England, but we share in the wonder of God's creation at Grace every Sunday in our own way. For that, we share another one of the one-word prayers to God identified by Anne Lamott – "Thanks!"

Eastertide Solar Blessings,  
*Jonathan+*

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**FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT**  
**CHAMBER MUSIC**  
*from*  
**BROWN UNIVERSITY**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> AT 12:00 NOON**

*The concert will feature students participating in Chamber Music Ensembles in the Music Department at Brown University. These groups generally consist of 3-5 members and are coached by highly-trained professional musicians. Antonín Dvořák's Quintet for Piano & Strings in A Major and Sergei Prokofiev's String Quartet No. 2 will be featured on the program.*

**THIRD THURSDAYS @ TWELVE (NOON): A CONCERT SERIES**

Free, diverse, 45-minute concerts held at Grace Church for the enjoyment of the city of Providence and its visitors! *(Church Address: 300 Westminster Street)*

*Please feel free to stay for the entire concert or for five minutes - whatever works best for your schedule!*



**CHORAL EVENSONG**  
**ON GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2024**  
**4:00 PM**

*The Choir and Choristers of Grace Church sing music of William Byrd, Jessica French, Anthony Piccolo, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, and others.*

*A reception follows in The Pavilion.*



# CHORAL COMPLINE

SUNDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>  
8:00 PM

*Doors open at 7:30 PM*

A short 30-minute service of Gregorian Chant & unaccompanied Renaissance Polyphony, sung in a darkened Church amongst hundreds of candles and fragrant incense. The perfect calm and meditative way to start the week.

## Annual Grace Church Cemetery Clean-Up

We are seeking volunteers to join in the upcoming Spring Clean-Up of the Grace Church Cemetery, located on Trinity Square at the corner of Broad Street and Elmwood Avenue. The clean-up will be on **Saturday May 4, from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon**. Parking is available on the street alongside the cemetery, or in and around the Salvation Army parking lot nearby. The Trinity Square community will be coming out to support the event, so we need a strong contingent from Grace, since the cemetery is ours! We hope you join this worthwhile endeavour to help make a small slice of Providence better for the local community!



## PRAYER REQUEST SUBMISSIONS

*To submit a Prayer Request, scan the QR Code below and fill out our form.*



*"Prayer is not the reverberation of sound; it is the articulation of love. It is with the heart rather than the lips that we pray."  
- St. Augustine*

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# Sunday Morning Worship: The Third Sunday of Easter April 14, 2024



**Every Sunday Morning**, Grace Church offers a 'live-stream' broadcast of our Sunday morning 10:00 AM Eucharist service. We hope this experience allows those who are not able to join us in person on Sundays to participate in the worship life at Grace.

~ 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 Third Sunday of Easter, please [CLICK HERE!](#)**

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

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## April 14, 2024 The Third Sunday of Easter

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

For the texts of the readings for **The Third Sunday of Easter**, [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.](#)