Welcome to Grace Church

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 5, 2023

10:00 a.m. at Crissey Farm and via Zoom



Step into Grace where strangers become friends. We are an open and affirming church.

Every one of every age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, or economic status is invited to join us as together we live out the Gospel message of love, forgiveness, service, and justice.

No matter where you are in your spiritual journey—you are welcome here.

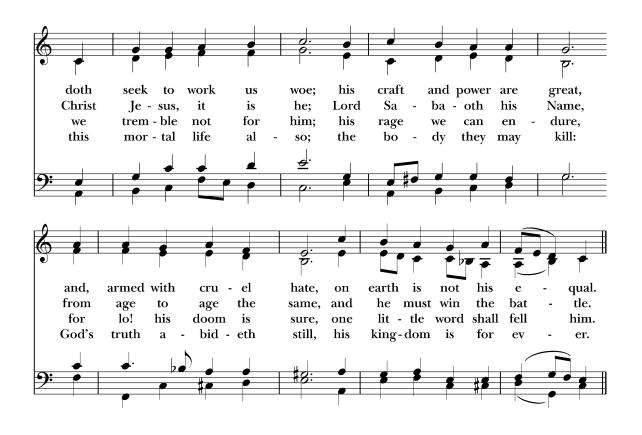
The Word of God

OPENING HYMN H688

A mighty fortress is our God

Martin Luther (Ps.46), tr. F.H. Hedge; M. Luther (melody), J.S. Bach (harm.)





Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE H 427 V.1

When morning gilds the skies



COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the

hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **People** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112:1-9

¹Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord * and have great delight in his commandments!

²Their descendants will be mighty in the land; * the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches will be in their house, * and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴Light shines in the darkness for the upright; * the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending * and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶For they will never be shaken; *

the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; * their heart is right;

they put their trust in the LORD.

⁸Their heart is established and will not shrink, * until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹They have given freely to the poor, * and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him"-

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. **People** Thanks be to God.

v1 before the Gospel; v2 after



THE GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-20

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said:] ¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ

THE SERMON Mr. John Cheek

A CREED FROM THE IONA COMMUNITY

We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust; in the name of Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and live in peace, to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love, and in the company of the faithful so to be the church for the glory of God. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Book of Common Prayer Form II

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Doug; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

The celebrant and people greet one another by sharing a physically distanced sign of peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A GRATITUDE MOMENT

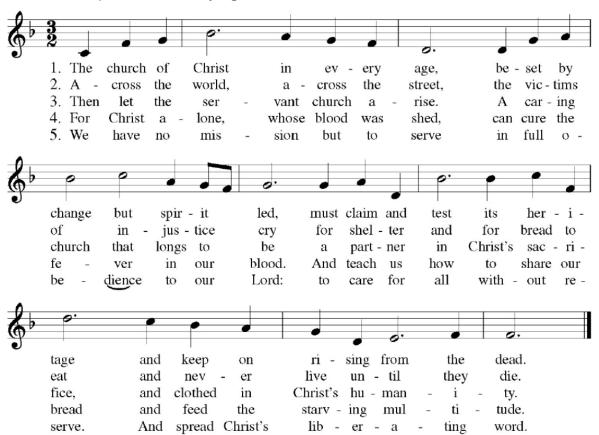
The priest invites the congregation to take a few moments to think of something during the past week for which they thank God. If you wish to share your gratitude with the community, you may come to the microphone.

The Holy Communion

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY WLP 779

The church of Christ in every age



Celebrant All things come from you, O Lord.

People And of your own have we given you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B Book of Common Prayer

CelebrantPeopleCelebrantThe Lord be with you.And also with you.Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



The celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command. O Father.

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and a period of silence is kept, then all sing:







Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The People Thanks be to God.

All Are Welcome at God's Table

Gluten-free bread is available. Please let the priest know if you would prefer this. If you would rather receive a blessing instead of communion, please come forward and cross your hands over your chest. And lastly, if you need communion brought to you, just let the usher know. All are welcome at God's feast.

The Grace Healing Team is in the back of the room during Communion to offer the laying on of hands and a prayer for healing to anyone who desires it for themselves or another.

If you can't physically receive the communion bread because you are participating in this service virtually, you are invited to pray this Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

Lord Jesus, as you promised to be with us in the bread and wine that is your body and blood, grant that we may receive you spiritually today into our hearts, minds, and souls. Stay with us; be our companion in the way; kindle our hearts and awaken hope that we may know you and have confidence in your loving care, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN
This little light of mine

LEVAS 160

Negro Spiritual adapt. W.F. Smith



2. Everywhere I go... 3. All through the night...

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

A Prayer for Our Children

Most generous and loving God, we thank you for the gift of children. With each child you refresh your promises to all of us. Through each child you remind us to take care of all you have created.

We pray your blessing on each child today. Teach them to love courage and to trust you. Help them see you at work in your world. Help them speak words of love, peace, and friendship. Turn their faces in kindness toward their neighbors, and fill each one with confidence in your steadfast love. This we ask in the name of your child, Jesus Christ. Amen

THE BLESSING

May the light of the gospel of Christ shine in your hearts and fill your lives with joy and peace. And may the blessing of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN WLP 787

We are marching in the light of God

South African protest hymn





Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Jesus said, "As the Father sent me, so I send you."

Go in Peace to do the work of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia

POSTLUDE The

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Carl MaultsBy

Today's flowers are given by George Raymond in loving memory of Ada Hastings

WORSHIP LEADERS

ROTA	TODAY 2/5	Next SUNDAY 2/12
WELCOME TEAM	Sally Brooke	Rick Gore
	Doreen Hutchinson	Sue Gore
ACOLYTE	Kathy Clausen	Joel Jorgensen
ALTAR SERVERS	Caroline, Wren & Vivi	
LECTORS	Robert Forman	Pennie Curry
INTERCESSOR	Joel Jorgensen	John Cheek
CHALICE	Kathy Clausen	Joel Jorgensen
	Rick Gore	Lynn Walker
HEALING TEAM	Sue Gore	Ted Cobden
	Ted Cobden	Pennie Curry
ALTAR GUILD	Kathy Clausen	Margaret Layton
	Margaret Layton	Joel Jorgensen
COFFEE HOUR	Annual Meeting	Anderson, Holmes
COUNTERS	Sue Gore	Pennie Curry
	Ian Booton	Sarah Sieber

GRACE CHURCH INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Please Include in Your Daily Prayers This Week

Members of the Parish Family: Abe Streeter; Cathy Haywood; Monique & Peter Kirchoff; Debbie Holmes; Linda White; Stacey Thomas, and her children, Claire, Mark and Johnny; Mark Anderson; Dindy Anderson; Doreen Hutchinson; Anne Andrews; Meredith Haider; Rosemarie Blakely; Marina Bowens; Charles Folger; Barbara Gore; and Barbara Turner.

Others we Love: Barbara Gore; Kelly & Elijah; Denise Chandler; James Driscoll; Livia Driscoll; All those grieving the death of Jack Stedman, Wendy Reeve and Ed Hunt; Cynthia Griesing, Holly Murray's mother; Karen LaRocque friend of Sue Gore; Rosalind Haywood, Sue Gore's mother; Deborah McCurdy; Joy Milani, dear friend of Dindy Anderson; the Hardenberg family, friends of Lynn Walker; Sophia, who is grieving the sudden death of her son; Michael Rywkin, Monique's father; Linda Tornicelli.

Those who have died: Joe Merola; Jim Driscoll, father of Gideon's Garden intern, James Driscoll; Michael Rywkin, Monique Kirchoff's father; Wendy Reeve, Cathy Haywood's sister; Jack Stedman; Queen Elizabeth II; Rino Aldrighetti, beloved friend of Steve White; Ed Hunt, brother-in-law of Anne Andrews; Faustino Gonzalez Nasario; Ruth Thornton, a dear friend Steve and Andrea White; Richard Edelstein, husband of Pat and beloved friend of our congregation; Hugh Pecon; Sam Raymond; Sara Keene; Vanessa Neves, daughter of Patti Poulos, friend of many in the congregation; Alan Sparks, brother of Debbie Holmes; Ruth Crawford; Neil Brandt, brother of Linda White; Jim Santolin, a dear friend of Rick & Sue; Larry Cheek, John's brother; Patricia O'Hara.

Our world: For all places of violence and war around the world, that Peace may prevail, and human fear and suffering diminish. For Tyre Nichols and his mother RowVaughn Wells and for all who love him. For all victims of gun violence in this country. We pray also for those who inflict gun violence on others. For people who are suffering from COVID, those who have died and those who mourn. For all who are alone, or afraid, or despairing. For prisoners, unhoused people, newly arrived immigrants and all our neighbors, near and far.

The many ministries of our local community, especially for our partners at St. Paul's and the Revs. Libby Wade, Jane Tillman; Christ Trinity and the Rev. Erik Karas; our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Doug Fisher; and the Mampong Babies' Home.

And we offer thanks: for all those celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month. Especially, Laura Jordahl, Jane Clausen, Dick Holmes, Fred Hollman, Virginia Vogel-Polizzi, Kathy Clausen, Terry & Ellie Smith.

WEEKLY WORSHIP CALENDAR

Tuesdays	Community Bible Study ³	7:00 PM
Wednesdays	Contemplative Eucharist 1 & 3	10:00 AM
Thursdays	Centering Prayer 1 & 3	5:00 PM
Sundays	Worship Service ^{2 & 3}	10:00 AM

Sunday services are at Crissey Farm; all other services are in the chapel at 67 State Road. If you are unable to join us in person, please visit our website, www.graceberkshires.org, for zoom links. 4:00 Tu

The Office/Chapel 1/ Crissey Farm 2 / On Zoom 3

GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

Senior Warden Kathy Clausen Junior Warden Pennie Curry Treasurer Sue Gore

Clerk Mary Anne Grammer

Class of 2023 Dindy Anderson, Holly Murray, John Cheek

Class of 2024 Anne Andrews, Dutch Pinkston

Class of 2025 Cathy Haywood, Andrea White, Laura Jordahl

Grace Church worships and gardens on the traditional land of the Mohican people.

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Bishop of Western Massachusetts: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Fisher

Rector: The Rev. Tina Rathbone RevTina@graceberkshires.org (617) 852-4916

Gideon's Garden Director: Mr. Joel Jorgensen gideonsgarden@graceberkshires.org (413) 644-6572

Choir Director: Mr. John Cheek cheekbass@gmail.com (413) 446-8863

Keyboardist: Ms. Lee Cheek <u>lee.cheek@yahoo.com</u> (413) 854-1095

Parish Administrator: Ms. Jean Chapin Office@GraceBerkshires.org (413) 644-0022

GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION

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