Welcome to Grace Church

The Fifth Sunday of Lent March 17, 2024



GRACE CHURCH

an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires

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.

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken

Traditional Gaelic Melody

Hymn tune BUNESSAN is based on a Gaelic tune possibly brought to Scotland by Irish monks of Iona; 1931 English hymn text by Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

WELCOME

The Word of God

OPENING HYMN

I bind unto myself today

H 370

Words: Att. St. Patrick (372-466); tr. C.F. Alexander (1818-1895) Music: ST PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE, Irish melody adapt. C.V. Standford (1852-1924)







Priest Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People God's mercy endures forever.

Priest

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

THE CONFESSION

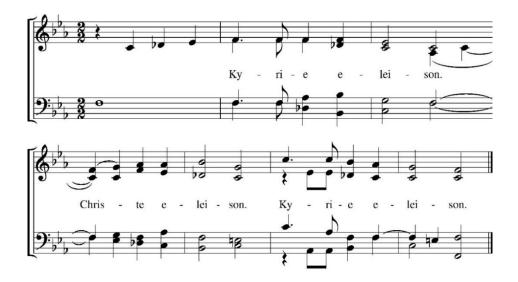
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. AMEN.

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Kyrie eleison sing 3 times WLP 837



COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:9-16

- 9 How shall a young man cleanse his way? * By keeping to your words.
- 10 With my whole heart I seek you; * let me not stray from your commandments.
- 11 I treasure your promise in my heart, * that I may not sin against you.
- 12 Blessed are you, O LORD; * instruct me in your statutes.
- 13 With my lips will I recite * all the judgments of your mouth.
- 14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees * than in all manner of riches.
- 15 I will meditate on your commandments * and give attention to your ways.
- 16 My delight is in your statutes; * I will not forget your word.

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place,

> "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN

What wondrous love is this

H 439

Vs 1, 2 before the Gospel Vs 3 after
Words: American folk hymn, ca 1835
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, from The Southern Harmony, 1835



THE GOSPEL John 12:20-33

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Stephen L. White

THE NICENE CREED

Book of Common Prayer

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Book of Common Prayer, Form II

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Doug; for this gathering; and for all God's 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 God. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may add their prayers and thanksgivings.

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

Priest O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. AMEN.

THE PEACE

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A GRATITUDE MOMENT

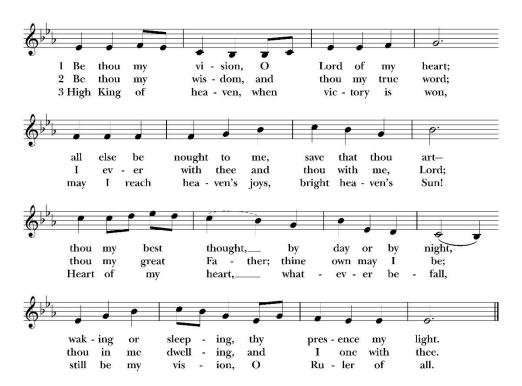
Take a few moments to think of one thing during the past week for which you thank God. If you wish to share your gratitude moment with the congregation, please come to the microphone.

The Holy Communion

Priest Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us.

OFFERTORY HYMN Be thou my vision H 488

Text: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary W. Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935) Music: SLANE, Irish ballad melody, adapt. 1927 *The Church Hymnary*



Priest All things come from you, O Lord.

People And of your own have we given you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

Book of Common Prayer

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to the Lord.

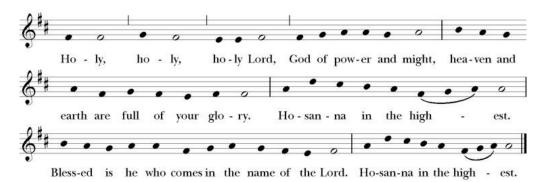
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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:





Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

S 124

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

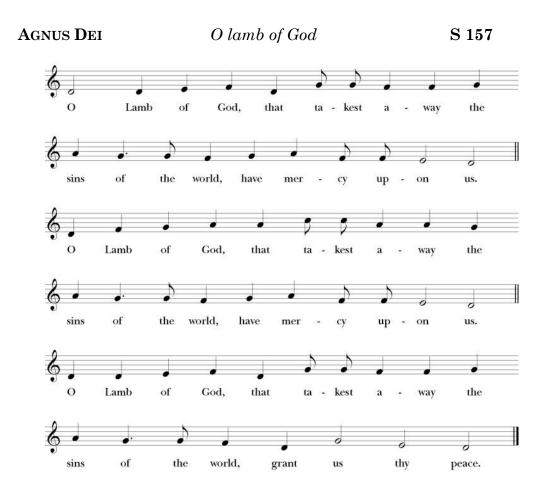
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**

And now, as our Savior Christ taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD



Priest The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

Lift Him up

LEVAS 159

Words: Johnson Oatman, Jr. (1856-1922) Music: B.B. Beall (1874-1945)





* "folk" may be substituted for "men."

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN.

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN

Let us pray.

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.

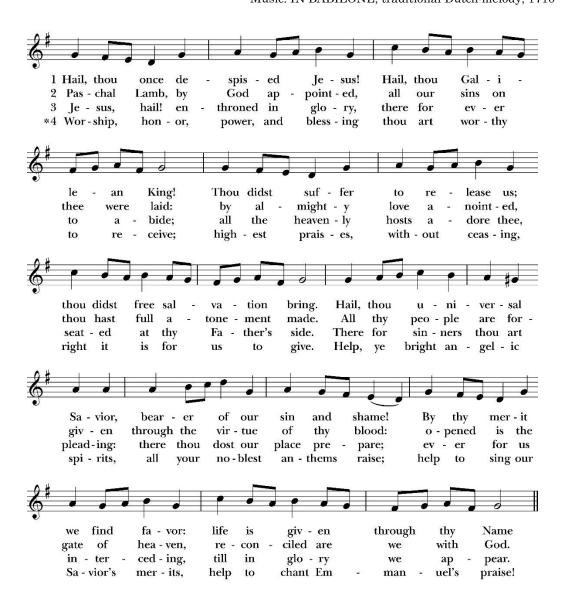
Help them speak words of love, peace, and friendship. Turn their faces in kindness toward their neighbors, and fill each one with confidence in your steadfast love. This we ask in the name of your child, Jesus the Christ. AMEN.

BLESSING

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful, and in your kindness grant us this grace: that, abiding in the love of you and our neighbor, we may fulfill the whole of your commands. AMEN.

May the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you, now and forever. AMEN

Words: John Bakewell (1721-1819) and Martin Madan (1726-1790) Music: IN BABILONE, traditional Dutch melody, 1710



DISMISSAL

Priest Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Hymn tune ST COLUMBA, Irish folk melody

Text, Psalm 23, in English hymnals by Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), an Anglican priest

GRACE CHURCH INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Please Include in Your Prayers This Week

Members of the Parish Family: Abe Streeter; Doreen Hutchinson; Meredith Haider; Linda White; Stacey Thomas, and her children, Claire, Mark, and Johnny; Mark Anderson; Rosemarie Blakely; Barbara Gore; and Barbara Turner.

Others we Love: Tania Guerro and her baby daughter Eugenia Marie Ayala Guerro; David Rodriguez Ovalle, Sergio Rodriguez's father; Gordon Sparks, Debbie Holmes' brother; Richard Cherneff; Cynthia Griesing, Holly Murray's mother; Caren Bunce, Mary Booton's cousin; Bishop Michael Curry; Diane Ramirez; Sara Miles and her wife Martha; Jerry and Karen Ericson, John Ericson's parents; Kelly & Elijah; Denise Chandler; James Driscoll; Livia Driscoll; Karen LaRocque friend of Sue Gore; Deborah McCurdy.

Those who have died: Denise Chandler, Abe Streeter's partner; Shirley Sparks, Debbie Holmes' sister-in-law; Thomas Muraco, beloved friend of John and Lee Cheek; Niall Nordoff; Rev. Emily Richards; Rosalind Haywood, Sue Gore's mother, and Abe Streeter's sister; Jack Fargo, Tom Murray's uncle; Eugene (Geno) Wilson, the Murrays' neighbor; Sandra Fowler, grandmother to Megan Piro; Susan Cabot, Stepmother to Edward Cabot; Claude Sansaricq; Michael Rywkin;

Olga Milligan; Richard William Jorgensen; Tom Jacomb; Vincent Pelletier; Arlene Symons; Ed Hutchinson; Mattie Marina Bowens; Justine Harari.

Our world: For the people of Haiti, Gaza, and of Palestine, especially all those who have been killed, and the people who love them. May peace, justice, and a new way forward take hold in the hearts of those with authority. For the people of Ukraine and all other places of violence and war, that peace may prevail and human fear and suffering diminish. For all victims of gun violence and institutionalized racism in this country, and also for those who inflict gun violence on others. For all who are alone, 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 Rev. Samuel Vaught and the Rev. Jane Tillman; Christ Trinity and the Rev. Erik Karas; our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher; and the Mampong Babies' Home.

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

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CALENDAR

Tuesdays	Lenten Bible Study Series on Zoom	7:30 pm
Wednesdays	Contemplative Eucharist In-person at Grace Church Chapel and on Zoom	10:00 am
Thursdays	Centering Prayer In-person at Grace Church Chapel and on Zoom	5:00 pm
Sundays	Worship Service In-person at Berkshire South Community Center and on Zoom	10:00 am

WORSHIP LEADERS

ROTA	Today 3/17	Next Sunday 3/24
WELCOME TEAM	Rick and Sue Gore	Marcia Doelman
		Carol Way
ACOLYTE	Joel Jorgensen	Cathy Haywood
LECTOR	Robert Forman	Sue Gore
INTERCESSOR	Sarah Sieber	Pennie Curry
CHALICE BEARERS	Joel Jorgensen	Cathy Haywood
	Rick Gore	Lynn Walker
HEALING TEAM	Ted Cobden	Ted Cobden
	Sue Gore	Sue Gore
ALTAR GUILD	Joel Jorgensen	Cathy Haywood
	Cathy Haywood	Sarah Sieber
COFFEE HOUR	Anderson / Murray	No coffee hour
COUNTERS	Pennie Curry	Kathy Clausen
	Rick Gore	Sue Gore
TRANSPORT	Steve and Andrea White	Mary Booton

GRACE CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

 $67 \ State \ Road \ / \ PO \ Box \ 114$ Great Barrington MA 01230 Voice Mail ~ (413) 644-0022 | E-mail ~ Office@GraceBerkshires.org

For more information about Grace Church's regular work and worship, please visit *Tuesday's Child* newsletter on the website.

www.graceberkshires.org

To receive our newsletter via email, please contact Andrea Saville White.

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 (319) 521-3966

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

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

Parish Administrator: Ms. Andrea Saville White Office@graceberkshires.org (413) 644-0022

Holy Week Services 2024

Sunday March 24	Palm Sunday Berkshire South & on Zoom 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington	10:00 am
Wednesday March 27	Contemplative Eucharist & Blessing of the Icon Grace Church Chapel 67 State Road, Great Barrington	10:00 am
Thursday March 28	Maundy Thursday Worship & Foot Washing St. Paul's Church 29 Main Street, Stockbridge	6:00 pm
Friday March 29	Good Friday Service Grace Church Chapel 67 State Road, Great Barrington	6:00 pm
Saturday March 30	Holy Vigil of Easter Christ Trinity Church 180 Main Street, Sheffield	8:00 pm
March 31	Celebration of Easter Berkshire South & on Zoom 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington	10:00 am

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,
The strong Name of the Trinity;
By invocation of the same.
The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of Whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

Old Irish prayer of protection of the "lorica" (breastplate) type attributed to Saint Patrick

