## Welcome to Grace Church The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 23, 2025



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

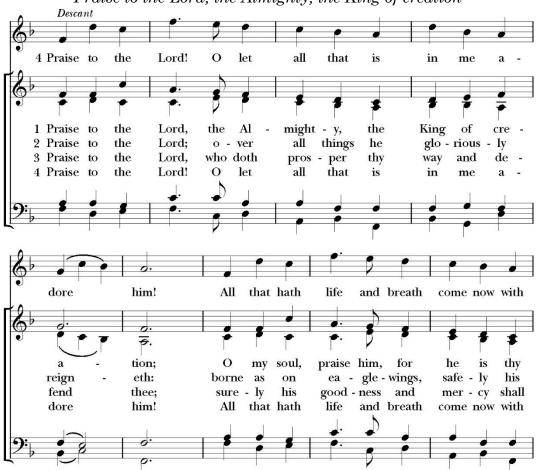
Meditation on Amazing Grace

Hymn tune: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; setting by Charles Callahan (1952-2023)

WELCOME

#### The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman

#### **OPENING HYMN: H 390**



Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation



Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. Hymnal 1940, alt.
Music: Lobe den Herren, melody from Erneuerten Gesangbuch, 1665;
harm. The Chorale Book for England, 1863; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

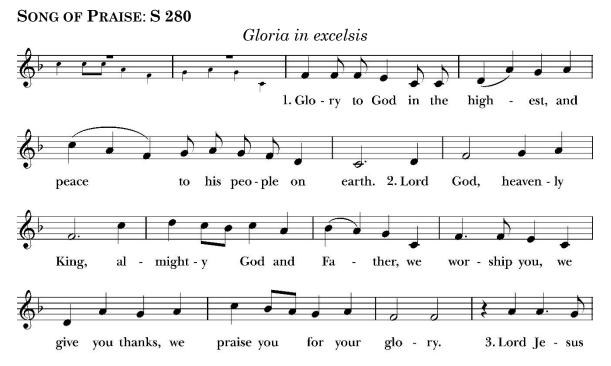
PriestBlessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.PeopleAnd blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.

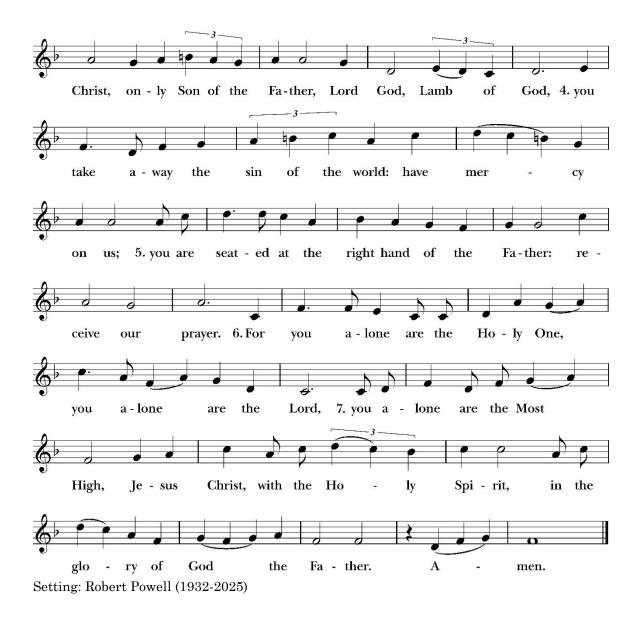
## The Word of God

#### **COLLECT FOR PURITY**

*Priest* Let us pray together

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





#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Priest	Let us pray.

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

## THE FIRST READING

#### Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty."

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

ReaderHear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.PeopleThanks be to God.

## PSALM 37:1-12, 41-42

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; \* do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, \* and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; \* dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 Take delight in the LORD, \* and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, \* and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light \* and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the LORD \* and wait patiently for him.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, \* the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; \* do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, \* but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; \* you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

- 12 But the lowly shall possess the land; \* they will delight in abundance of peace.
- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; \* he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
- 42 The LORD will help them and rescue them; \* he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because they seek refuge in him.

## THE SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

ReaderHear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.PeopleThanks be to God

**SEQUENCE HYMN: H 677** Vs 1-2 before the Gospel; Vs 3-4 after God moves in a mysterious way Unison or harmony God moves in mys - te - rious way his won - ders to per - form: 1 a 2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines, with nev - er - fail - ing skill, 3 Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age the clouds ye so much dread take: fee - ble sense, grace; 4 Judge not the Lord by but trust him for his His pur - pos - es will ri - pen fast, un - fold - ing ev - erv hour: 5 00 he plants his foot - steps in the sea, and rides up - on the 1 storm. 2 he trea-sures up his bright de - signs, and works his sov - ereign will. with mer - cy, 3 are big and shall break in bless - ings on your head. 4 be - hind a frown - ing prov - i - dence he hides smil - ing face. a 5 the bud may have bit - ter taste, but sweet will be the flower. a 0 d 0 σ

Words: William Cowper (1731-1800)
Music: London New, melody from The Psaumes of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635; harm. John Playford (1623-1686)

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

PriestThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ<br/>according to Luke.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

# PriestThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman

## 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; and in the name of Jesus Christ, 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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Book of Common Prayer

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; **That we all may be one.** 

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.* 

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; **That they may be delivered from their distress.** 

Give to the departed eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

#### Silence

Priest adds a concluding collect.

*Priest* Let us confess our sins to God.

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. *Priest* 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 in eternal life. **Amen.** 

## THE PEACE

PriestThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd 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

*Celebrant* Jesus said, Come unto me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN: H 601**



Words: Robert Balgarnie Young Scott (1899-1987) Music: *St. Michael*, Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?); harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

The Book of Common Prayer

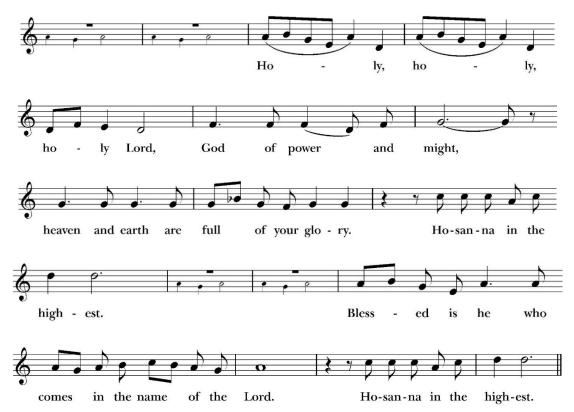
Celebrant	The Lord be with you.	
People	And also with you.	
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.	

People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give God 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. 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:

SANCTUS: S 128

Holy, holy, holy Lord



Setting: William Mathias (1934-1992)

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.

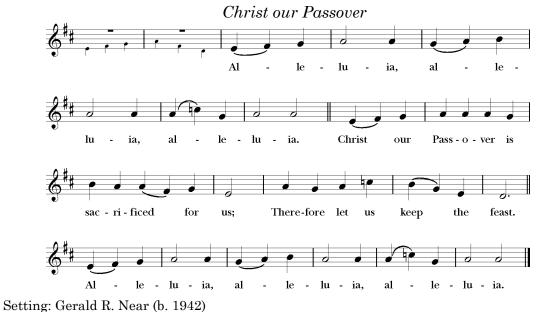
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

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

#### FRACTION ANTHEM: S 155



*Celebrant* The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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 cannot 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: VF 124**

#### Brother, sister, let me serve you



Words and music: Richard Gillard (b. 1953); arr. Betty Pulkingham (1928-2019)

## 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.

## 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

The light of God surround you. The love of God enfold you. The power of God protect you. The presence of God watch over you. Wherever we are, God is. **Amen**.

#### **CLOSING HYMN: H 493**



6 Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1783), alt. Music: *Azmon*, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

#### DISMISSAL

Priest 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

#### Lift Every Voice and Sing Words: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

Music: J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)

## The congregation is invited to sing along (verse 1)

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies; let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on, till victory is won.

The Congregation is requested to stack the chairs as they are able during the Postlude. If you wish to listen (or dance!) to the Postlude, draw near the keyboard.

Flowers are given today by Mary Anne Grammer In Loving Memory of John Grammer and Paul Nelson



#### **GRACE CHURCH INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

## Please Include in Your Prayers This Week

**Members of the Parish Family:** The Rev. Marc Britt; The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman; Ian and Mary Booton; Anne Andrews; Rick and Sue Gore; Maya Gurung; George Raymond; Dindy and Mark Anderson; Caroline Murray; Linda White and her grandchildren, Claire, Mark, and Johnny; David Hamill; Doone Marshall; Meredith Haider; Rosemarie Blakely.

**Others we Love:** Marna Sorenson, Richard and Evie Starr's friend; Paul Haywood, Sue Gore's brother; Jeanne Murray, Tom Murray's sister; Genevieve Rainy, Monique Kirchoff's daughter; Susie, Mike, and Emily Silver; Fran Hunt, Anne Andrew's sister; Michal Snyder, Dessida's sister; Sue, Tom, and Michael, as they grieve the death of their beloved mother, Vonnie; Sarah Sieber's cousins, Caleb and Rachael Davis who are grieving the loss of their beloved baby Oliver; Elizabeth Brannan; Elvis and the Isaguirre family; Rick and Sue Gore's nephew, Jordan, the Andre family, and Nick; Anne Kistrup and Pam Reed, Lynn Walker's friends; Susan Bunce, Mary Booton's sister; Doone Marshall's granddaughter Bex; George Laye; Molle Cheek, John and Lee Cheek's sister-in-law; Kevin White, Steve White's brother; Robert Rywkin, Monique Kirchoff's brother; Dick and Fleming Rutledge; George and Tracey Brooks; Richard Cherneff; Cynthia Griesing, Holly Murray's mother; Bishop Michael Curry; Jerry and Karen Ericson, John Ericson's parents; Deborah McCurdy.

**Those who have died:** Pamela Drumm; Antonia Poulos, friend of Jainee McCarroll; The Rev. Francie Hills; Barbara Turner; Michael Silver; Barbara Gore; Caren Bunce, Mary Booton's cousin; Oliver Davis, Sarah Sieber's cousin; Cyndi Isaacs, June's niece; Vonnie Frye; Tommy Laroque; Jainee McCarroll's friends, Bruce Baum and Doug MacKenzie; Mimi Alford's brother, Jimmy; Jayden (JJ) Andre; Lois Young; Stacey Thomas; Father Joseph Sestito, Alex Moore's uncle. **Our world:** For the people of Lebanon, Haiti, Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, the Sudan, and all other places of violence and war, that peace and justice may prevail, and human fear and suffering diminish. For all victims of hatred in this country; for all victims of gun violence 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, the Rev. Jane Tillman, and the Rev. Libby Wade; 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				
Wednesdays	Contemplative Eucharist $\sim$	10:00 am		
	In-person at Grace Church Chapel			
	and on Zoom			
Thursdays	Centering Prayer ~	5:00 pm		
	In-person at Grace Church Chapel			
	and on Zoom			
Sundays	Worship Service ~	10:00 am		
	In-person at			
	Berkshire South Community Center			
	and on Zoom			

#### WORSHIP LEADERS

ROTA	Today 2/23/25	Next Sunday 3/02/25
WELCOME TEAM	Dale and Louise	Mary Booton
	Peterson	Sally Brooke
ACOLYTE	Robert Forman	Jacob Greer
LECTOR	Matt Marcos	Lynn Walker
INTERCESSOR	Kathy Clausen	Meredith Haider
CHALICE BEARERS	Robert Forman	Jacob Greer
	Cathy Haywood	Mackenzie Kendall
HEALING TEAM	Ted Cobden	Ted Cobden
	Pennie Curry	Pennie Curry
ALTAR GUILD	Robert Forman	Jacob Greer
	Sarah Sieber	Sarah Sieber
COFFEE HOUR	Gore / Leavenworth	
COUNTERS	Sue Gore	Matt Marcos
	Kathy Clausen	Carol Way
TRANSPORT	Matt Marcos	Mary Booton
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Dindy Anderson	Dindy Anderson
	Margaret Layton	Margaret Layton

GRACE CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION 67 State Road / PO Box 114 Great Barrington MA 01230 Phone ~ (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

Interim Clergy: The Rev. Dr. Stephen L. White The Rev. Dr. Janet W. Zimmerman (413) 644-0022

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) 644-00