Welcome to Grace Church

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

March 2, 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

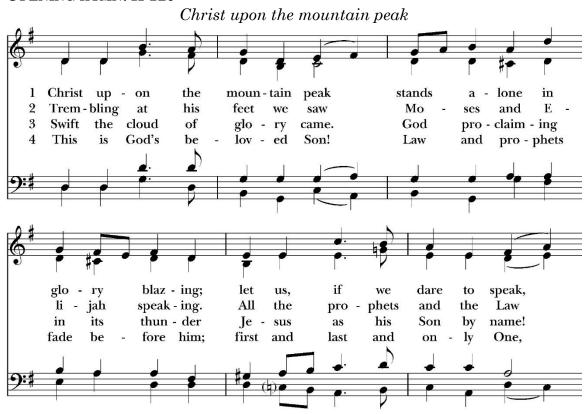
Prelude on Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

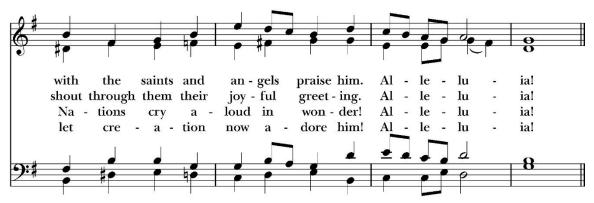
Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; hymn words from the Liturgy of St. James, late 4th cent. Jerusalem; arr. Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman

OPENING HYMN: H 129





Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936)

Music: Mowsley, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

The Word of God

COLLECT FOR PURITY

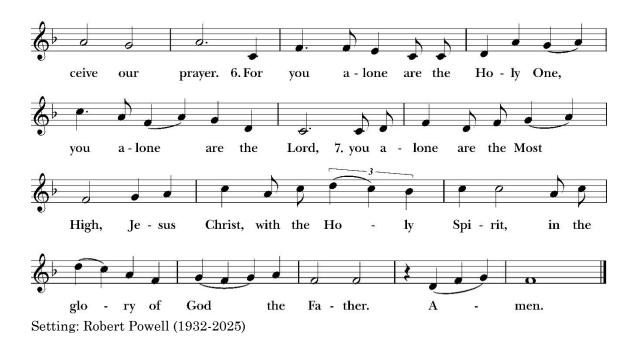
Priest Let us pray together

People
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts 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: S 280





COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

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

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 99

- 1 The LORD is King;
 - let the people tremble; *

he is enthroned upon the cherubim;

let the earth shake.

- 2 The LORD is great in Zion; * he is high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; * he is the Holy One.
- 4 "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; * you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and fall down before his footstool; * he is the Holy One.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, * they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; * they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
- 8 O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; * you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.
- 9 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and worship him upon his holy hill; * for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

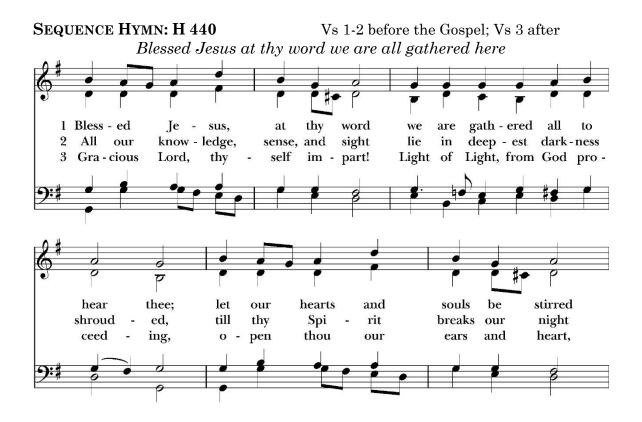
Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

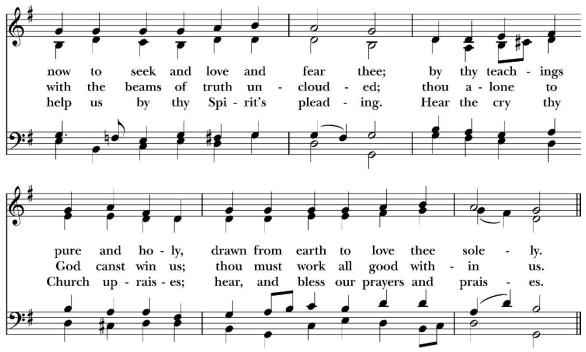
Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but

by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People Thanks be to God





Words: Tobias Clausnitzer (1619-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Liebster Jesu*, melody Johann Rudolph Ahle (1624-1673); alt. *Das grosse Cantional; oder Kirchen-Gesangbuch*, 1687; harm. George Herbert Palmer (1846-1926)

THE GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-36, 37-43a

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at

Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise 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

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Silence

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Silence

The 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

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

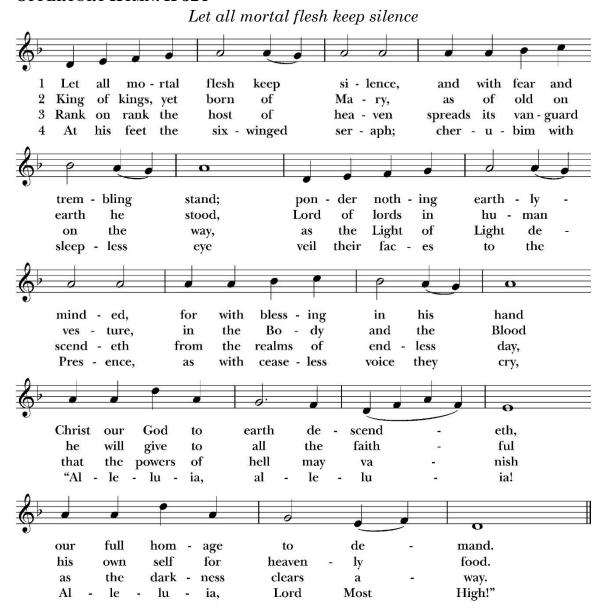
A GRATITUDE MOMENT

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

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

OFFERTORY HYMN: H 324



Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885)

Music: Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from Chansons populaires des

Provinces de France, 1860; harm. after The English Hymnal, 1906.

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.

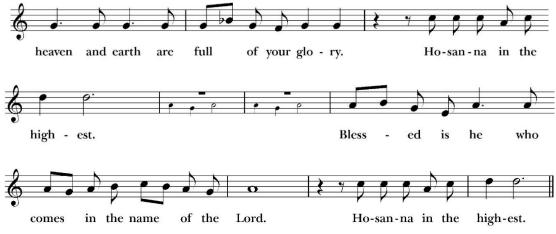
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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:









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.**

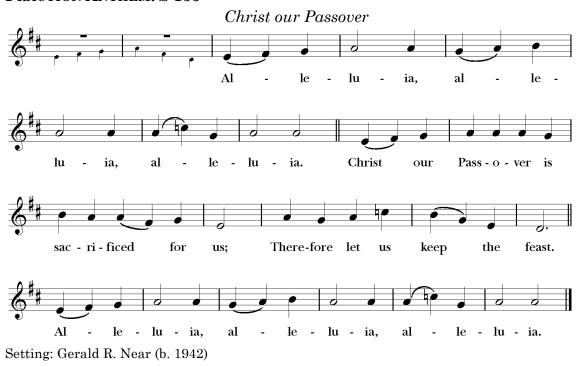
As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray,

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: LEVAS 138



Words: Traditional

Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Edward C. Deas (1880-1944)

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

Let us pray.

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

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

Go forth into the world in peace, be strong and of good courage, hold fast to that which is good. Love and serve the Lord with singleness of heart, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit; and the peace of God be always with you. **Amen**.

CLOSING HYMN: H 436



Words:Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica*, *Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1702-1872), alt.

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; hymn words from the Liturgy of St. James, late 4th cent. Jerusalem; arr. Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

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
Dale and Louise Peterson
In Loving Memory of Robin Bruce and Bob Barton



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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

ROTA	Today 3/02/25	Next Sunday 3/09/25
WELCOME TEAM	Mary Booton	Richard Starr
	Sally Brooke	Carol Way
ACOLYTE	Jacob Greer	Joel Jorgensen
LECTOR	Lynn Walker	Doreen Hutchinson
INTERCESSOR	Meredith Haider	John Cheek
CHALICE BEARERS	Jacob Greer	Joel Jorgenson
	Mackenzie Kendall	Rick Gore
HEALING TEAM	Ted Cobden	Ted Cobden
	Pennie Curry	Sue Gore
ALTAR GUILD	Jacob Greer	Joel Jorgensen
	Sarah Sieber	Cathy Haywood
COFFEE HOUR	Anderson / Kirchoff	
COUNTERS	Matt Marcos	Sue Gore
	Carol Way	Sarah Sieber
TRANSPORT	Mary Booton	Matt Marcos
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Dindy Anderson	Andrea White
	Margaret Layton	Matt Marcos

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY 3/05/25	Ash Wednesday Service ~ In-person at Grace Church	12:00 pm
	Chapel	
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	

GRACE CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

 $67 \, \text{State Road / PO Box } 114$ Great Barrington MA 01230 $\text{Phone} \sim (413) \, 644\text{-}0022 \, \mid \text{E-mail} \sim \text{Office@GraceBerkshires.org}$

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

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