

# THE WEEKLY EPISTLE

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday + APRIL 17, 2011

Dear Friends,

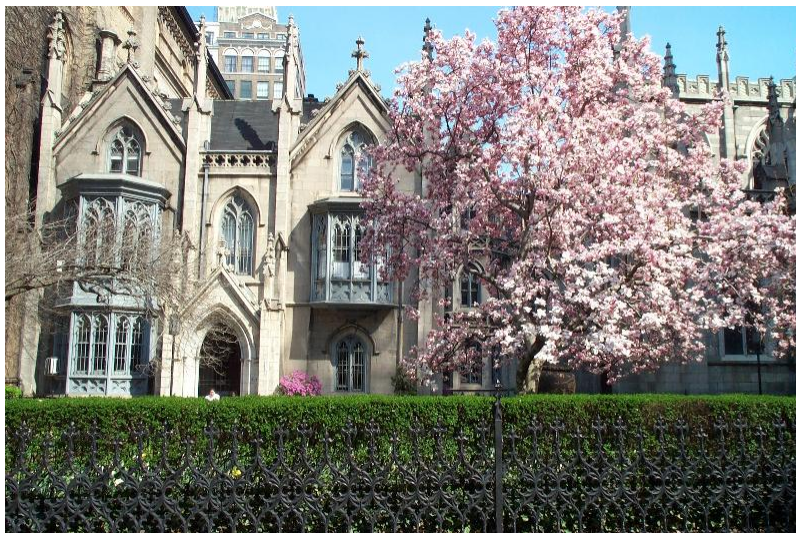
I am not generally a claustrophobic person, but I often feel a sense of release and freedom when I come up from out of the subway. Down beneath the air is stale, the ceiling is low, and strangers press in from every side. Once outside again the sun and sky and fresh air always provide a welcome contrast. This morning I went out into the church and experienced a similar feeling of liberation. For the past ten weeks the two sets of scaffolding necessary to restore the north and south chancel aisles left only a narrow canyon from which to lead the services. It's been like sitting in a different room from the congregation. But now, just in time for Holy Week, the scaffolding is gone and the sense of light and openness is palpable. The restored sections are beautiful, and the stained glass windows back in place are sparkling. You are in for a real treat this Sunday.

Let me give you an even more important reason to be here this week: it's Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week, the most important time of worship and devotion in the Christian year. We who claim the faith of Jesus need to set apart ways to make the coming week different. Below you will see numerous opportunities for a deeper participation in the drama of our salvation. Join in.

And, if you're just happy the Spring has finally sprung, come see the magnificent magnolia tree in the rectory garden. Every year this one tree blooms more radiantly than any other tree I've known. By Sunday it should be in all its glory.

See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring  
Rector



**HOLY WEEK APRIL 17-24, 2011**

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 17**

**All Services in the Church**

**9:00 am**

**Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

*Nursery care for children ages 0-3*

*Sunday School for children ages 3-8 at 9:00 am*

**11:00 am**

**Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Sermon**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Girls' Choir with Adults

*Nursery care for children ages 0-3*

*Sunday School for children ages 3-8 during the sermon*

**4:00 pm**

**Choral Evensong**

with excerpts from

Part II of *Handel's MESSIAH*.

The Adult Choir

**6:00 pm**

**Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

**MONDAY—THURSDAY, APRIL 18-21**

**12 noon— 5 p.m.**

The church is open—enter, rest and pray.

**12:20 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.**

“Bach at Noon” organ meditation

**HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20**

**6 p.m. in Tuttle Hall**

**1st Century Agape Supper**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 21**

**7 p.m. Holy Eucharist**

**Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar**

**Preacher: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew**

**Music by Duruflé, Farrant, Tallis, & others. The Adult Choir.**

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 22**

**12 - 3 p.m. The Three Hours' Devotion:**

**The Seven Last Words of Christ.**

**7 p.m. Choral Vespers**

**OLIVET TO CALVARY by John Henry Maunder.**

**The Adult Choir.**

**HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 23**

**10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Easter Eve Walk**

Children ages 4–12 and their families are invited to join us as we relive the story of the Passion and Resurrection through interactive storytelling.

**7 p.m. – The Great Vigil of Easter**

**Holy Baptism & Eucharist**

**Preacher: The Rev. Ted Pardoe**

**Music by *Byrd & Fauré.***

**The Adult Choir.**

**EASTER DAY, APRIL 24**

**All Services in the Church**

**9 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist**

**Preacher: The Rev. J. Donald Waring**

**The Combined Grace Church Choirs.**

**11 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist**

**Preacher: The Rev. J. Donald Waring**

**Music by *Batten, Byrd, Noyon/Hancock, Parker & others.***

**The Combined Grace Church Choirs, Brass & Timpani.**

**4 p.m. Organ Music for Easter Day**

**6 p.m. Festive Choral Eucharist**

**Preacher: The Reverend J. Donald Waring.**

**Music by *Batten, Byrd, Noyon/Hancock, & others.* The Adult Choir.**

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 17**

**THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 am** is on recess for Palm Sunday and Easter, and will resume in May.

**CHORAL EVENSONG at 4 pm** will be offered by the Adult Choir with The Parish Choir, including selections from Handel's MESSIAH Part II.

**CENTERING PRAYER 5 pm** – This Christian meditation practice is facilitated by Joe Budenholzer in the 3rd Floor Conference Room. *Note: the group will not meet on Easter Sunday.*

**HOLY EUCHARIST at 6 pm** today and on Easter Day will be held in the main church, not the chantry chapel.

**EASTER FLOWER OFFERING** *Today is the last day to have your donation listed in the Easter bulletin.*

Envelopes (found in the narthex, the Parish House or on the Chantry table) may be placed in the collection plate, the wooden box in the Parish House hallway, or the mail to Grace Church. Checks should be payable to Grace Church (Memo line: Easter flowers). You may also donate online at [www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org) (click GIVE, scroll down to FLOWERS). We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount you can give. *Many thanks for the gifts already received!*

**FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS** – Join us in Tuttle Hall following the 9 and 11 am services.

**THE NURSERY** is freshly painted (with more improvements to come!) and has moved back to the basement level. Take the elevator down to the lower level of the Parish House for childcare during both the 9am and 11am services.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** takes place at both the 9 and 11 am services. Children ages 3-8 are welcome. At 9 am, parents may drop their children off at the classrooms near Tuttle Hall. Children then rejoin their parents in time to receive Communion. At 11 am, parents and children begin together in the church, and children follow the crucifer to their classes during the sermon. On 11 am Eucharist Sundays, children in 11am Sunday school return to church for Communion. On all other Sundays, children may be picked up from their classrooms after the service. For more information, contact Maura Hooper at (212) 254-2000 x113 or [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org).

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON EASTER SUNDAY** – but you are invited to pick up an Easter goody bag for your child in the Narthex or by the North Aisle door before the service.

**ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES** are available for the 11 am service from any usher.

**CHORAL EVENSONG TUESDAYS at 6pm** with the Junior Choristers is on recess until May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** held on Wednesdays from 10-11:30 will resume after Easter on April 27th. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Linda Bartholomew ([lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org)) for more information.

**AGAPE SUPPER, WEDNESDAY APR 20** – At 6 pm in Tuttle Hall, we will celebrate a first century-inspired liturgy and supper (replacing the usual Wednesday Eucharist). All are welcome, so bring the whole family! A \$10 suggested donation per adult will help offset our costs. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Maura Hooper at [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org).

**DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR EASTER** on Saturday, Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:30-4 pm This year will be extra special with all the scaffolding down and our first peek at the latest phase of restoration. RSVP to the Rev. Linda Bartholomew at [lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org) so we can have plenty of goodies on hand.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET MADE A 2011 PLEDGE**, we are counting on you to do so! Please mail your pledge card today, or make your pledge online by visiting [www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org) (click GIVE). If you have any questions about pledging, please feel free to contact Stacie Styles at 212-254-2000 x119 or [sstyles@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:sstyles@gracechurchnyc.org).

### **YOUTH & FAMILY**

**PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION** – All Sunday School children who wish to participate in a grand procession at the beginning of the 11am service should come to Tuttle Hall at 10:45am on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Parents are welcome to march with their children. Parents who are not marching: please be sure your children know where to find you in the church after the procession ends.

**EASTER EVE WALK** – Join us on Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:30am-1:30pm as we experience the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord through interactive storytelling. There will also be crafts, treats, and an Easter egg hunt! Activities are designed for kids ages 4 and up, but the whole family is welcome. Suggestion donation is \$10. To attend, RSVP to Maura Hooper at [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org). To help, please see below!

**EASTER EVE WALK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!** Your help in making this year's Easter Eve Walk a joyous occasion for all is greatly needed! If you are able to offer your time, gifts or talents, please contact Maura Hooper at [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org) to sign up for any of the following:

*Candy and Cupcake Drive* – We are seeking donations of candy, 100 undecorated cupcakes, frosting, and cupcake decorations for the kids to enjoy. Candy will be used for goody bags and our egg hunt. Donations will be collected throughout Holy Week. *Assistance with set-up, crafts, hiding eggs, clean-up, and more!* Lots of help is needed for both the day before (Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 3-6pm) and the day of (Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10am-2pm) the Walk. Come participate in all the fun!

### **COMING SOON**

**THE CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA OF GRACE CHURCH** under the direction of John Maclay, will present Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Sea Symphony" on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm sharp. Due to ongoing renovation work at Grace, the concert will take place at Saint Thomas Church, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street. Tickets cost \$25 and are only available for purchase at [www.thechoralsociety.org](http://www.thechoralsociety.org), or directly from a Choral Society member.

**SPRINGTIME COCKTAILS ON THE LAWN** Please join us for a festive cocktail party for adult parishioners on Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup> on Huntington Close. We'll enjoy fellowship, drinks and light hors d'oeuvres from 6 pm until sundown. Admission is free, but you must RSVP to [gracechurchsvp@gmail.com](mailto:gracechurchsvp@gmail.com) to be added to the guest list.

### MUSIC

Please check ahead; programs are subject to the celebration of special liturgies and other observances (call 212-254-2000/6).

**CHORAL EVENSONG** with the Junior Choristers is held each Tuesday at 6 pm.

**BACH AT NOON** – The organ compositions of Johann Sebastian Bach are played between 12:20 and 12:50 p.m. every Tuesday through Friday in the Church.

**AFTERNOON ORGAN MEDITATION SERIES** - Held each Saturday & Sunday at 4 pm in the Church through May 2011.

**THE PARISH CHOIR WANTS YOU** to come sing with them! Rehearse with the Parish Choir at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings and sing at the 9 a.m. Rite II Eucharist. If you have ever thought about joining a choir, this choir is for you! Families are most welcome. Contact Dr. Patrick Allen at [pallen@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:pallen@gracechurchnyc.org) to sign up.

### OUTREACH

**FOOD DONATIONS** may be placed in the baskets in the narthex. Please be as generous as you can!

**ARE YOU READY FOR THE GO Project TUTOR experience?!** The GO Project provides critical year-round educational and family support to public elementary school children who are performing below grade level. We are seeking dedicated volunteers interested in contributing their time and talents to our weekday (Wednesday 3-5 pm) or Saturday (9:30 am to 12:30 pm) tutoring program to provide students with individualized instruction. Help make a positive impact in a child's life! For more information, please contact Olivia Nunez, at [goprojecttutor@gmail.com](mailto:goprojecttutor@gmail.com).

### PARISH LIFE

**NOW YOU CAN FOLLOW GRACE CHURCH** on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/gracechurchnyc>) and Twitter (@GraceChurchNYC) thanks to our terrific volunteer tech team: David Verchere, Amanda Cochran and Andrea Nielsen!

**TAKE A GUIDED WALKING TOUR** of Grace Church on the first and third Sundays of the month at 1pm. The tours last about 15 minutes and highlight Grace's history and architecture. Self-guided cell phone tours are also available anytime the Church is open to visitors.

**WHAT DOES YOUR ANNUAL FINANCIAL PLEDGE DO?** Consider the following. Your annual pledge: Says a tangible "thank you" to God for all the blessings of your life, Supports the GO Project, a tutoring and social service program for 300 at-risk, public school students and their families, Keeps the church building open seven days a week for anyone who wants to come inside, warm-up, pray, rest, or meditate, Grows a resilient and reasonable faith in people of all ages through our ambitious music program and Christian education classes for children and adults, Spreads the good news of Jesus Christ through our presence and worship services, and Employs 13 full-time and 3 part-time people. In short, your annual pledge changes people's lives for the better. Thanks to all who have pledged for 2011. For those who haven't, please fill out your pledge card and respond today. You may also go to [www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org), click GIVE, and follow instructions from there. If you have any questions about pledging, please contact Stacie Styles in the Development Office at [sstyles@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:sstyles@gracechurchnyc.org) or 212-254-2000 ext. 119.

**SHARE IN THE HOSPITALITY MINISTRY** Bite-sized goodies (savory and sweet) and help with serving and coffee-pouring are provided each week after the 11 am service by a faithful few. We would love to add new helpers and friends to our roster. Please see the bulletin board (near the ladies room) to sign up or you can e-mail [danafoote1@me.com](mailto:danafoote1@me.com) or [charbarnard@yahoo.com](mailto:charbarnard@yahoo.com) with any questions.

**TO ADD A NAME TO THE PRAYER LIST** please contact Jennifer Metz at [jmetz@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:jmetz@gracechurchnyc.org) or 212-254-2000 x100 by Wednesday at 5 pm. Names will be read during the services for four weeks unless otherwise specified.

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