

The Weekly Epistle
Pentecost 4-8
July 2011
GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK



During these blissfully quieter days of summer, the Weekly Epistle will be a monthly, so read below for the July schedule of preaching and music at Grace Church.

Also on tap for July is the summer book discussion. This year's choice is *The Cloud of Unknowing*, based on the recommendation of several parishioners who told me that they have "always wanted to read it." In truth, I'd never read it either, but have always known that it's a Christian classic that ought to be faced. The book was written anonymously by a 14th century monk who was trying to instruct a novice in the art of

contemplative prayer. The monk describes how even those who are the most devoted in prayer will eventually encounter a cloud of unknowing between themselves and God. What is it? Why is it there? Can mere mortals penetrate it, and if so, how? *The Cloud of Unknowing* is not an easy read, but the blessing is, the 75 chapters are extremely short - some no more than a paragraph. We'll discuss 25 chapters each week on July 6, 13, and 20, 7 pm in the Reception Room. If you commit yourself to 3-4 chapters per day each week, you can let it sink in, you'll be ready for the class, and it will do your soul good.

Finally, wait until you see the inside of the church. Oh my! The sanctuary and choir stalls have been swallowed up in a forest of scaffolding for the mother-lode phase of interior restoration. It really is a joy and deeply satisfying to be putting this house of God back in order. I truly believe it is God's call for us. But at times I have thought of the prophet Isaiah, who upon receiving his call from God simply asked, "How long, O Lord?"

We shall see! Opening up walls in a building as old as Grace Church is to enter a cloud of unknowing. In the meantime, the church is open every day, and I hope you will be here on Sundays to see the progress. See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

Schedule of Services

July 3 + The Third Sunday after Pentecost

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe, Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe, Music: Abby Fischer, Soloist

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe, Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

July 10 + The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring, Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite I

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring, Music: Maeve Höglund & Monica Garcia-Albea

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring, Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

July 17 + The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe, Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite I

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe, Music: Joshua Parrillo, Soloist

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe, Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

July 24 + The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring, Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite I and Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring, Music: John Rose, Soloist

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring, Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

July 31 + The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe, Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite I

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe, Music: Maeve Höglund, Soloist

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe, Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

Announcements

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESTORATION UPDATE: Phase 3 in the overall plan to restore the interior of Grace Church is now in high gear, with scaffolding filling the sanctuary, chancel, and even reaching out into the first rows of pews in the nave. The great window rising above the altar (known as the Te Deum window) is not only the largest and the oldest window in the church; it has also been moved twice when the church was lengthened in the late 19th century. For this window to be saved, it must be removed and completely rebuilt. Eight other stained glass windows all need considerable restoration, as does the plaster and stonework. If you go to the church website you can watch a brief YouTube video of the Rector explaining the project. The projected timeline for Phase 3 will be approximately 7-8 months.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER SCHEDULE During the month of July, Sunday school for children ages 3-8 takes place only at the 11 am services. Parents and children begin together in the church, and children follow the crucifer to their classes during the sermon. On July 3rd (an 11 am Holy Eucharist Sunday), children in Sunday school return to church in time for Communion. On Morning Prayer Sundays, children may be picked up from their classrooms (outside Tuttle Hall) after the service. *In August, Sunday school goes on recess.* For more information, contact Maura Hooper at (212) 254-2000 x113 or mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

NURSERY CARE is available for children ages 0-3 during both the 9 and 11 am services. Take the Parish House elevator to the basement level.

CENTERING PRAYER 5 pm This Christian meditation practice described by Father Thomas Keating in his book *Open Mind, Open Heart* takes place each Sunday in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

SUMMER WEEKDAYS

MONDAY-THURSDAY

The church is open 12 noon - 5 p.m. enter, rest, pray.

TUESDAY

THE DAILY OFFICE OF MORNING PRAYER is celebrated each Tuesday from 7:15 - 8 am in the 3rd floor conference room. Newcomers are always welcome.

WEDNESDAY

BACH AT NOON SUMMER SERIES -The organ compositions of Johann Sebastian Bach are played between 12:20 and 12:50 pm every Wednesday from June 1st through Sept. 7th in the Chantry.

HOLY EUCHARIST at 6 pm - Celebrate in the Chantry with hymns and homily.

SUMMER BOOK DISCUSSIONS at 7 pm - led by the Rector on July 6, 13, and 20 from 7-8 pm in the Reception Room.

FRIDAY

The church is open 12 noon- 3 p.m. The Parish Offices close at 3 pm.

COMING SOON

SUMMER BOOK DISCUSSIONS BEGIN JULY 6

Throughout the summer we plan to host several Wednesday evening book discussions to enrich and challenge our faith. The first will be led by the Rector on July 6, 13, and 20 from 7-8 pm in the Reception Room. The book we will consider is a devotional classic written anonymously in the 14th century: The Cloud of Unknowing. It has certainly stood the test of time! The only requirement for participation in the class is that you read the book prior to the first class. For those who travel on summer weekends, the summer book discussion is an excellent way to stay connected with Grace Church, especially if you combine it with the Wednesday 6 pm Eucharist.

THE NEXT DATE FOR BAPTISMS is Sunday, August 14 at the 9 am service. For information on infant or adult Baptism, please contact the Rev. Ted Pardoe at tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) AT GRACE CHURCH

This fall we wish to launch a parish chapter of the ECW of New York here at Grace Church. The ECW Mission Statement says "the purpose of the Association is to unite women of the Episcopal Diocese of New York in a program of worship, study, service, gifts and fellowship which will deepen and strengthen their own spiritual lives and lead them into service as the Church in the parish, the community, the diocese, the nation and the world". If you are interested in growing into the life of the church through women's fellowship and ministries, please contact Elana Foundos at elanafoundos@gmail.com for information.

DID YOU MISS A SERMON?

Click below to read or listen to a sermon

<http://gracechurchnyc.org/online-sermons/>

Contact Information

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www.gracechurchnyc.org