

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH in New York City



In This Issue

[Confirmation Classes
Begin](#)

[This Sunday](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

Quick Links

[GIVE to Grace](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

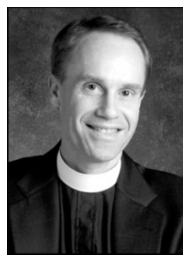
[More About Us](#)

[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)



February 9, 2014

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

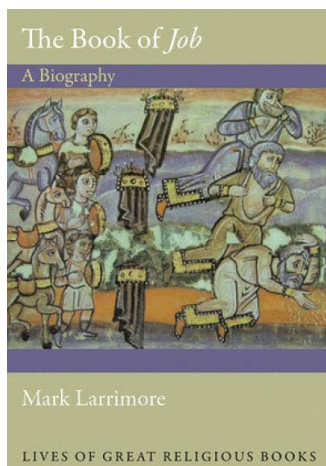


Dear Friends,

Suffering is one of life's unavoidable realities. Indeed, few people - if any at all - make it from cradle to grave without experiencing periods of prolonged physical, emotional, or psychological pain. No matter what the external cause of suffering may be - whether grief, injury, illness, abuse, or any combination thereof - we often seek to detect an underlying reason or pattern that may justify it. Especially when the innocent suffer, we wish to know why. For people whose faith is in God, whom Scripture reveals to us as all-powerful and all-loving, the question is doubly vexing.

One of the books of the Bible that takes on the problem of suffering is called Job. Job, we are told, was a righteous man who had everything the world could offer: a fine family, great personal fortunes, and physical health to enjoy it all. Then in a flash he lost it all to the ravages of disease and disaster. Why? In the spirit of helpfulness three of Job's friends try to counsel him by offering crisp, clean, neat, and tidy explanations for why God allows us to suffer. Job's friends try to make sense of suffering by speaking of it as being somehow part of God's plan, and in accordance with God's will. We just have to accept it. Not so, cries Job, who refuses to lay down and take it without a protest. Meanwhile God, who is silent through most of the book, finally speaks out of the whirlwind. What does God say? Is the answer satisfying?

Author Talk!



This Sunday @10 am...

CONFIRMATION CLASSES for Youth and Adults

will begin on Sunday, April 6, after the 11am service. Classes are led by the clergy and will meet weekly in preparation for the bishop's visit on Sunday June 15.

To sign up for youth classes (7th-12th grade) contact [Melissa Spindler](#). To sign up for adult classes, contact [the Rev. Stephen Holton](#).

HAVEN'T PLEDGED YET FOR 2014? It's fast and easy!

Just click [HERE](#).

...and remember, you can take all of 2014 to fulfill your pledge.

Professor Mark Larrimore, the Director of the Religious Studies Program at The New School, is the author of a recent book entitled, *The Book of Job: A Biography*. Professor Larrimore will be with us at the Sunday Forum this week to discuss how people have interpreted the Book of Job. Does it offer comfort, clarity, or more confusion? Does it adequately address the problem of suffering? Well, come and see! The Sunday Forum meets every week at 10 am in the Reception Room. Coffee is served. Do join us.

See you in church.

[The Reverend J. Donald Waring](#)
Rector

This Sunday, February 9, 2014

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

(Service times are updated weekly on the [website](#).)

10 AM – READING THE BOOK OF JOB – THE SUNDAY FORUM – Mark Larrimore, author of the recent [The Book of Job: A Biography](#), will speak about Job, some of its most interesting interpreters past and present, and how Job gives voice to those suffering the most devastating kinds of loss and grief. *NOTE: the Forum is on recess next week, 2/16 for Presidents' Weekend.*

SS FOR CHILDREN AGES 9-12 – TODAY during the 11 am service.

NEWCOMER AMBASSADORS – All those recruited for this new ministry to help connect our many newcomers with the life of the parish will meet at 12:45 pm in the Reception Room.

COMING SOON

FEB 10 – ECW PARISH WIDE MEETING – All women of Grace Church (and their friends!) are welcome at our first meeting of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in 2014. *Hear about upcoming events. *Bring your ideas and suggestions. *Come for fun and fellowship. "No Pressure" Pot Luck! Monday, Feb 10 at 6:30 in Tuttle Hall. Questions? Contact Elana Foundos at elanafoundos@gmail.com.

FEB 20 – NEWCOMER RECEPTION/WINE-TASTING – If you are new to Grace Church in the past year, here is an opportunity to connect with others during a casual and fun evening. Our guest Jamel Freeman, a sommelier with 15 years of experience in culinary arts, mixology, wine and spirits, will guide us through a selection of red and white wines, discussing their regions and suggested food pairings. Thursday, Feb 20, 6:30pm–8:30 pm in Tuttle Hall. *Bring a friend!* [RSVP to Jennifer](#) by *Wednesday, Feb 12th*.

FEB 22 – 20s30s DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER –

Teams of 6+ will compete for some amazing prizes– so come help Grace raise some serious booty, and kick some too! \$5 per person at the door will be donated in the name of the Young Adult Network to a predetermined charity. Saturday, Feb 22, 3–6 pm at Church of the Intercession. [RSVP to Melissa now!](#)

FEB 19, 26, MAR 12 – "IN A BETTER WORLD" – FILM AND CONVERSATION with the Rev. Sarah Wood. Come to view and discuss this award-winning Danish film directed by Suzanne Bier, which has been described as a "powerful and captivating drama." Join us as we reflect theologically upon the complex themes presented here, and which we might find relevant just as we begin to prepare for our Lenten journey. Note: the film is rated R for some violent images. Wednesdays, Feb 19, 26, Mar 12 – PLEASE NOTE start date moved to 2/19 and no class on Ash Wed. 3/5. Held in the Music Room directly after the 6 pm Eucharist.

FEB 23 – CREATION AND EVOLUTION: MORAL IMAGINATION AND BIOTECHNOLOGY – THE SUNDAY FORUM – Belief in the 21st Century series.

Biotechnology is unique for its special capacity for promoting well-being. Today, biotechnology presents humanity with an expanding view on nature, along with an augmented capacity to engineer nature that is almost "God" like. What is required of us so that we may flourish on a dynamic human path instead of enhancing benefits to a narrowing portion of society? This talk will examine how we can use how our moral imagination to shepherd the use of biotechnology toward becoming extraordinarily humane and truly superhuman – that is to say more Christ like. *Led by Robert Schmaltz, Contemporary Art Specialist; BS of Liberal Arts Candidate, New School for Public Engagement. After working with community groups across the United States, Schmaltz graduated from the School of Visual Arts with a BFA in 2005. As an artist he has collaborated on projects set in New York, Frankfurt, Bologna, Beijing, and Seoul. A husband and father to be, Robert's academic interests revolve around the various dimensions of Bioethics.*

FEB 27 – SONGS AS SERMONS: SONG LYRICS WITH A MESSAGE. Join parishioner and vocalist Bill Minifie, as he sings the songs of Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers, Cole Porter, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Irving Berlin and others. Interspersed with the songs will be sermon-like tales about the song lyrics that hopefully will lead to a greater understanding of life itself! Piano accompaniment by Michael McFrederick. All are welcome to this event, hosted by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of Grace Church. Admission is one canned or packaged good for the food donation baskets. Thursday, Feb 27 at 6:30 pm in Tuttle Hall. *Bill Minifie grew up in the rectory of Grace Church as a son of Benjamin Minifie, who was the 10th Rector (1960–1975). After such a childhood the only thing that could compete was singing heroic Wagnerian roles which he pursued religiously until the "fat lady" told him it was over. Since then he has focused on singing the great American Song Book which is perhaps less fertile for spiritual enhancement but much more fun.*

MAR 2 –SHROVE SUNDAY! Come celebrate Shrovetide this year with a fabulous Sunday brunch of pancakes, bacon and eggs, and fruit salad. \$15 per person requested donation at the door. Fun activities for all ages included. Share a meal with friends before Lent begins. Held in Tuttle Hall after the 11 am service. *Volunteers to help with decorating and other tasks are most welcome and appreciated! Sign up by [e-mailing Melissa](#).*

MAR 5 – ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES will be held at 8 am in the Chantry, and 12:10 and 6 pm in the Church. All services include homily by the Associate Rector, Eucharist, and the imposition of ashes. The two earlier services are expected to last for approximately 45 minutes.

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