

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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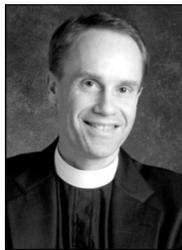
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## CLOSING THE GAP...

## March 16, 2014

The Second Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

When I was growing up my brothers and I would enjoy playing with little green plastic toy soldiers that came in bags by the hundreds. The soldiers were about two-inches long, with each one frozen in a different pose: some lying down to fire a rifle, others crouching on one knee, and others standing. I suppose in every bag you could find every pose that might be necessary for imaginary battle, but the reality was that each individual soldier was immobile - doomed forever to strike one pose, and one pose only, never to change. I remember the frustration of trying to get a kneeling soldier to stand, or a lying-down figure to do something else. Alas, they would not bend.

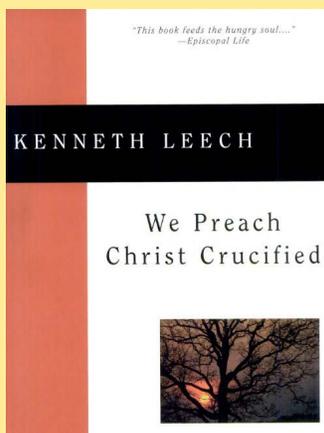
Here we are coming up on the Second Sunday in Lent, and perhaps you are already feeling frustrated by your own efforts to strike a new pose. In Lent many of us impose disciplines on ourselves in the effort to become more like Christ. We give things up like dessert or drink. We take things on like prayer or charitable works. We attempt to bend our natural selves into a posture that is more pleasing to God. But it could be you are already thinking, "Alas, I cannot bend!" If so, take heart. Lent is not about the triumph of the human will, but rather, the soul's realization that only God has the power form and reform us into the likeness of Christ.



Meet Sister Claire Joy

The Sunday  
Forum @10 am.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN...



to live a cross-shaped  
life?  
Sunday @7pm.

### CHANNEL YOUR INNER CHEF! ECW COOKBOOK!

This Lent at the Sunday Forum we are presenting a series about personal transformation. Various speakers will be with us to witness to their own experiences of how God has worked to bend their lives into postures and vocations they never would have imagined for themselves. This week we will hear from Sister Claire Joy, who has entitled her presentation, I Wasn't Always a Nun! What is it that would lead an artist, mother, and grandmother to reassess her life and enter a religious community? Come find out, Sunday at 10 am in the Reception Room. Coffee is served.

See you in church.

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

### This Sunday, March 16, 2014

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Anne Wood  
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer  
Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Anne Wood  
Music: The Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry  
Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Anne Wood  
Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

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

CLOSING THE GAP: I WASN'T ALWAYS A NUN! – THE SUNDAY FORUM AT 10AM. Sister Claire Joy is a member of the Community of the Holy Spirit (Manhattan & Brewster, New York) and chaplain to Episcopal Relief and Development. But she wasn't always a nun! Before taking vows, she was an artist working in photography, television / audiovisual production, 3-D animation, and graphic design. She was a mother, and a grandmother. And she still is all those things. But after September 11th, 2001,



We are requesting favorite recipes from ALL parishioners to include in our NEW fun loving cookbook. Please [e-mail recipes to Mary Ann Owens](#). You may include a brief comment or scripture that relates to your recipe. Thank you!

**JOIN THE  
COMMUNITY.  
MAKE A PLEDGE  
FOR 2014.**

(Remember, you have the whole year to make payments on your pledge.)

Just click [HERE!](#)

she began to reassess her life. Responding to a longing for service, she found herself unexpectedly drawn into life in community, and now, thirteen years later, she lives in community with her sisters, praying the office and serving God and God's creation. Come hear Sister Claire Joy's story of laughter, longing, and servanthood—a surprising story of what can happen when the Holy Spirit takes hold and we let go. (Read more about Sister Claire Joy and the Sisters at [www.chssisters.org](http://www.chssisters.org)).

MEETING OF THE ALTAR GUILD AT 12:30 – for all who serve the ministry of the altar, we will meet to plan for services in Lent and Easter. We'll plan, collaborate and answer all of your questions! Grab some coffee in Tuttle Hall and come to the Reception Room at 12:30 pm.

**WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED**

– SUNDAY EVENINGS AT 7PM. What does it mean to live a cross-shaped life? How does Christ's passion inform our daily lives, our sense of mission, and our service to God and others? Walk the way of the cross this Lent with a series of brief readings, reflection, and discussion centered on Kenneth Leech's masterful devotional book, *We Preach Christ Crucified*. Leech, an Anglican priest, served for decades in urban parishes in London, focusing on young adult ministry and outreach to homeless and addicted populations. Sundays in Lent following the 6 o'clock service in the Chantry. Light refreshment served. March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13. It's not too late! Order a Kindle copy of the book online or [email now to Fr Stephen](#) Holton to reserve a copy.

**COMING SOON**

**MAR 27 – DOCUMENTARY FILM *MISS REPRESENTATION*** will be screened on Thursday, Mar 27 at 6:15 pm in Tuttle Hall, along with discussion time and a "No pressure" finger food pot luck (bring food or bev to share – no pressure!). The evening is hosted by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of Grace Church and the discussion

moderated by Melissa Spindler. All parishioners and friends are welcome. \$5 suggested donation. *Premiering at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, Miss Representation is written and directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom and exposes how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America. The film challenges the media's limited and often disparaging portrayals of women and girls, which make it difficult for women to achieve leadership positions and for the average woman to feel powerful herself. View the trailer [HERE](#). Check out the website [HERE](#).*

MAR 28 – 20s/30s LENTEN SUSHI FRIDAYS – Enjoy a meal, prayer and fellowship with others in their 20s and 30s at 6:30 pm on alternate Fridays during Lent (Mar 14, Mar 28, April 11). Come to one or to all three! \$10 per person for dinner and BYOB. RSVP by 5 pm each THURSDAY prior, to [Melissa Spindler](#).

APR 3 – OUR LITTLE ROSES Meet an American-born Episcopal priest who travels to Honduras, the poorest Spanish-speaking country in the Western Hemisphere and, in that, the murder capital of the world – San Pedro Sula – to teach poetry to a score of orphaned teenage girls at Our Little Roses orphanage, at the edge of one of the city's ram shackle barrios. Join us for an exclusive preview screening and poetry reading by Priest and Poet Spencer Reece. Father Reece will discuss his recently completed anthology of poems written by the girls. Brad Coley, the film's director, will be present for a Q&A. Limited edition watercolor prints of the film's subjects will available, and all donations are tax-deductible and directly support the finishing of the film. Thursday, April 3, 7–8 pm in the Chantry. Watch trailer [HERE](#).

APR 5 – HELP SERVE A MEAL at the [New York City Rescue Mission](#) on Saturday, April 5, from 4–7 pm. No experience needed, just put on your smile and bring your willing hands and warm hearts. To sign up or request more information, [e-mail Fr. Stephen Holton](#) or look for the sign-up table at coffee hour on Sunday.

APR 13 – EXCERPTS FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH PART II – On Palm Sunday at 4 pm in the Church, the Adult Choir will offer Choral Evensong featuring excerpts from the Easter Portion of Handel's MESSIAH.

APR 29 – GO PROJECT/ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT –

46 years ago, members of Grace Church and parents of Grace Church School created the GO Project as an educational outreach program for underperforming public school children. The GO Annual Spring Benefit raises funds to directly benefit the 550 students and families served. This year's event – held on Tuesday, April 29 at the Bowery Hotel – will feature cocktails, tasting tables and both silent and live auctions. For more information and tickets visit:  
<http://www.goprojectnyc.org>.

MAY 9, 10 – THE CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA SPRING CONCERT Deeply felt works for unaccompanied choir, choir with organ, and choir with orchestra and soloists, including the magnificent Mozart Requiem. Randall Thompson: The Last Invocation, Arvo Pärt: The Beatitudes, Charles Ives: Psalm 90, W. A. Mozart: Requiem (KV 626). Under the musical direction of John Maclay. Friday, May 9 at 8 pm and Saturday, May 10 at 3 pm. Tickets are on sale now:  
[www.thechoralsociety.org](http://www.thechoralsociety.org) click "concerts."

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