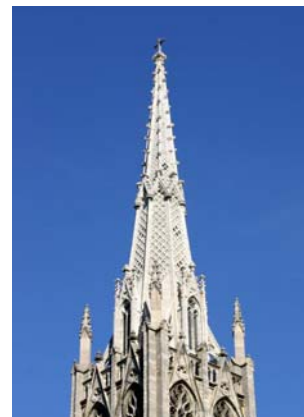


The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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When God Breaks In

The Sunday Forum
@10 am. Sundays in
Lent.
2/21 Youth & Faith.
2/28 *The Color
Purple.*

Please pray for...

February 21, 2016

The Second Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

If you read the announcement below, you will see that the call is out to sign up for Confirmation classes. But what is Confirmation, and why would you want to sign up for it?

From time to time I have lamented and quipped in this space how I am not an early adapter when it comes to technology. My cell phone is apparently (for the time being) an enviable thing. It is a Samsung Galaxy S6 with all the pre-installed bells and whistles, otherwise known as apps. The sad truth is, I never use the vast majority of the apps on my phone, and as for some of them, I don't even know what they are. I might be more willing to try them out, but a tiny part of me still fears that all technology comes with a self-destruct button. One of these apps may indeed produce sparks and smoke and that will be it. So I content myself with emailing, texting, and taking the occasional selfie. Here I am, for example, outside of Citi Field before a World Series game last November. Other than these few forays into technology, the depth of my phone goes unexplored. To be honest, I am amazed at the ease with which other members of my family race through cyberspace.



What is true between me and my phone may be true for you and your Christian faith. The depths go unexplored. For a host of reasons - perhaps fear being one of them - you have seldom ventured beyond the familiar. Thus, certain aspects of life in Christ such as prayer, worship, spiritual gifts, sacraments, and various



those who suffer

Lori Interlicchio
 Alana Duran
 Julie Harvey
 Sekou and Stacy
 Andrews
 Bill Nave
 Greg Gillies
 Josephine Ferraiuolo
 Howard Small
 Trish Lawrence
 Paul Tillotson

and those who have died

George Walker
 Ron Adinolfi

church doctrines strike you as strange apps on the screen that you don't dare touch. They might ruin your life! Well, since the season of Lent is all about dying to self, perhaps it's time to try them out. You might find that they connect you with a whole new world: the kingdom of God and the God who lives.

Confirmation class is an opportunity to ask questions, to learn more, and to dig deep. If you were confirmed years ago and need a refresher, then you can participate in order to renew your faith. Growing in spiritual maturity is a lifelong process. We are never done. Two classes will be offered: one for teens and one for adults. See the announcement below to register. Who knows? On May 22nd you may get to take a selfie with the bishop!

See you in church.

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

This Sunday

The Second Sunday in Lent

9 a.m. A Penitential Order & Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. A Penitential Order & Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

6 p.m. A Penitential Order & Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen C. Holton

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

LITURGICAL CHANGES FOR LENT – Our Sunday worship takes on a different tone for the weeks of Lent. We will begin each service with a Penitential Order, which includes a recitation of the 10-Commandments. The word "Alleluia" is omitted from all hymns, versicles, and responses, and you will see no flowers on the altar.

The goal of the scarcity is to highlight the abundant life that will be ours to claim at Easter.

GOD BREAKS IN: YOUTH & FAITH – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM – During Lent many of us feel an urgency to make a deeper connection with God. We may embark on Lenten disciplines: giving things up, taking things on, etc. At the end of Lent we may be a few pounds slimmer, but perhaps no closer to God. Yet God seems to break into our lives according to no script or recipe that we can follow. Speakers for this Lenten series will draw on their own experience—whether through the lens of art or literature, work or leisure, joy or sorrow, to describe those times when they feel that God has been trying to get their attention. Sundays in Lent. *Today, 2/21, we will examine adolescent experiences of faith as depicted in literature and pop culture, and how those activities shape the developing teen identity. Speaker: Chris Shoemaker, parishioner and past president of the Young Adult Library Services Association.*

NEWCOMERS' CLASSES –Members of the clergy speak, and answer questions, about Christianity, the Episcopal Church, and what it's like to be a member of Grace Church. A light lunch will be served. Feb 14 and 21, from 12:45 – 1:45 pm in the Reception Room. Additional Newcomer classes will be held in April.

ACOLYTE MEETING & TRAINING –The clergy will lead a training for new and current acolytes on Sunday, Feb. 21 after the 11 am service (approx. 12:30–1 pm). All current acolytes are asked to attend. Please join us if you're in you're in 4th grade and up and might like to carry a torch, light the candles, serve at the altar, or even carry the cross! Contact [the Rev. Chase Danford](#) with any questions.

TEEN STUDY BREAK – Youth in grades 7–12 are invited for snacks and conversation this Sunday, Feb. 21 from 4:30–5:45 in the Parish House (3rd Floor). Enter at the

802 Broadway entrance. Contact [the Rev. Chase Danford](#) for more information.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS will begin soon in preparation for the Bishop's visit on Sunday, May 22nd. All who desire to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church are welcome. To sign up for youth classes (7th–12th grade), beginning in early March, contact [the Rev. Chase Danford](#). To enquire about adult classes, contact [the Rev. Stephen Holton](#). Please respond this week.

Coming Soon

FEB 25 – NEWCOMERS' WELCOME EVENT– All Grace Newcomers are invited to join us for light refreshments and a special tour of the church by the Rector, Thursday, Feb 25 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM in the Reception Room. *RSVP to James Romanik [here](#). We're looking forward to seeing you there!*

FEB 27 – 20s/30s-ish RETREAT DAY WITH BISHOP SHIN– The Diocese of New York invites young adults from around NYC for a day of reflection, conversation and worship with Suffragan Bishop Allen Shin. The bishop will reflect on Henri Nouwen's book, *For the Love of Jesus* (no advance reading required). Held at St. James Church, 865 Madison Avenue (@71st St) on Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 am–2 pm. \$5 suggested donation for lunch. *RSVP to the Rev. Chase Danford [here](#).*

FEB 27 – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/GRACE CHURCH BUILD DAYS – JOIN US! Grace Church is overjoyed to be partnering with Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate a condemned house in Laurelton, Queens, for a family in need. Next build day is Sat, Feb 27. Our Feb 10 and 20 build day spots filled up fast, so don't delay! Visit our [Outreach page](#) to learn more and to sign up.

FEB 28 – GOD BREAKS IN! THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM –Speakers for this Lenten series will draw on their own experience—whether through the lens of art or literature, work or leisure, joy or sorrow, to describe those times when they feel that God has been trying to get their attention. Sundays in Lent. *On 2/28: Alice Walker (b. 1944) is a leading*

*voice of womanist theology and its spiritual journeys. We will discuss her 1982 novel, *The Color Purple*, the first novel by a black woman to get the Pulitzer Prize, and the basis of a triumphant revival of the musical now on Broadway. Speaker Dr. Catharine R. Stimpson is University Professor and Dean Emerita of the Graduate School of Arts and Science at NYU. She is considered one of the pioneers in the study of women and gender, and is a founder of feminist criticism. Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served.*

MAR 2, 9, 16 –SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE AND JUSTICE: A 20's and 30's-ish Lenten Book Study. Grace Church invites young professionals and students (ages 18–45) from around NYC to a discussion series on Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. We will meet in the Reception Room from 7 to 8:30 pm to discuss the book and whether the church might be called to respond to the issues raised. We hope you'll be able to join us for all three evenings, but you're welcome to come as you can. Note that dinner will be provided on March 2; RSVP to the Rev. Chase Danford [here](#).

MAR 18 – 20s/30s-ish SUSHI FRIDAY – Parishioners 18–45 are invited to join other young adults from NYC Episcopal parishes at our annual Lenten Sushi Friday. The evening includes a tour of the church (perfect opportunity to invite a friend!), sushi and the brief but beautiful service of Compline (Night Prayers). Friday, March 18, 6:30–8:30 pm. Meet in the Reception Room via the 802 Broadway entrance to the Parish House. RSVP to the Rev. Chase Danford at cdanford@gracechurchnyc.org.

MAR 20 – EXCERPTS FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH On Palm Sunday at 4 pm in the Church, the Adult Choir will offer Choral Evensong featuring excerpts from Part II (the Easter Portion) of Handel's MESSIAH.

*To find service information,
you may visit www.gracechurchnyc.org, updated weekly.*

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