

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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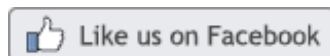
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**Glorious  
EASTER  
FLOWERS in  
Memoriam or  
Thanksgiving**



...are donated each

## April 2, 2017

The Fifth Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe, but here comes the Fifth Sunday in Lent, which means that the penitential season is nearly over, and we are right on the brink of [Holy Week and Easter](#). My hope is that Lent has been a time of restoration for you. Whether

you gave something up, or took something on, the goal of Lent is self-examination and repentance. It is like a house cleaning or a home repair so that we can be in a better place to welcome to risen Jesus at the center of our souls come Easter.

For the past four weeks we have been engaged in a great amount of home repair inside Grace Church. Prep work is now complete, and the ceilings of the nave, crossing, and north transept are ready for the full restoration they will receive beginning in June. If you [lift up your eyes](#) you will see gray supports that have been drilled into the ceiling between every gothic rib. You will also see scaffolding that fills the gallery, partially obscuring the west rose window, so that workers will be able to access portions of the ceiling that the lift cannot reach. We have one Sunday left without the organ, and beginning Monday the tarp will come off and the instrument will sound again for Palm Sunday.

In the coming months we will be talking much about the building, and devoting attention and resources to the bricks, mortar, and plaster that surrounds us. Some people might worry that we have sold out to the material world. Our focus instead should be on the *spiritual* aspects of our life. But did you know that an excessive enthusiasm for spirit, to the detriment of matter, was one of the earliest heresies the church had to face? In the 2<sup>nd</sup> century,

year by YOU – our parishioners and friends! Your donation in memoriam or thanksgiving will be listed in the Easter service bulletins if received by **Palm Sunday, April 9th**. Simply click [HERE](#) to donate now! (If your gift is dedicated "in honor of" or "in memory of," please list this in the comments box.) As always, thank you!

**PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICE INFO [HERE](#).**

**Please pray for...**



*Those who suffer*

Gnosticism was a strain of theological thinking that believed matter didn't matter. The material world was evil. Flesh and blood, bricks and mortar, bread and wine - these were the domain of the devil. God, who is spirit, would never fully fuse the divine life with the corrupt stuff of the creation. Therefore, Jesus only appeared to be human, but really was not. Also, you and I are spiritual beings who are trapped in the world of matter. The goal of human life was to escape the world of matter (not restore it) and return to the spirit realm that God inhabited.

The Early Church countered the Gnostics by affirming the creation stories in Genesis: the devil didn't make the world, God did. And not only did God make it, God said it was good. Furthermore, God in Christ took on flesh, entered this world of matter, worked as a carpenter with wood and tools, multiplied loaves and fishes, and did not shun possessions. While it's safe to say that Jesus didn't own much, we do know that he owned a cloak that was worth owning, as evidenced by the soldiers who gambled for it at the foot of the cross. Far from demonizing the material order, Jesus made sacred use of it. He baptized with water, and on the night before he died, he took bread and wine and said "this is my body; this is my blood." Jesus saves us not from the world, but in it and through it. The creation is good. Matter is of God. Our church building is sacramental; it is an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace.

I am looking forward to the journey ahead, with all of its material and spiritual implications. See you in church.

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

### **SAD NEWS:**

Immediately upon finishing my letter to the parish today, I received word that our facilities manager, Peter Hogden, has died. Earlier this week Pete was admitted to the ICU near his home due to heart and lung problems. On Wednesday he had heart surgery, and this morning



Linda & Tom Hall  
David  
Elisa Galjour  
Ramzi Abed  
Rayma Hayes  
Josephine Ferraiuolo  
Howard Small  
Trish Lawrence

*and those who  
have died*

Our friend and  
colleague, Peter  
Hogden.

he died due to complications after surgery. Pete was a husband and father of three. He was a trusted colleague and a friend to many of us on the Grace Church campus, both church and school, renowned for his irreverent sense of humor and formidable work ethic. Please remember Pete in your prayers, and pray that God may grant his wife and children strength and courage to meet the days ahead. *Rest eternal, grant to Pete, O Lord: And let light perpetual shine upon him.*

## GRACE CHURCH/HABITAT BUILD DAY

**TOMORROW!**

**MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! COME OUT AND JOIN US!**



**CAR-POOL RIDES AVAILABLE** from the front of the church. We are partnering with Habitat to rehabilitate a condemned house in St. Albans, Queens for a family in need. Volunteers have been hard at work since last summer and would love to have you join them! Come on out tomorrow, or on April 22, May 6, May 20 or future days. *Information and registration [here](#) or contact Martha Korienek [here](#).*

**This Sunday**

**April 2nd**

**9 a.m. A Penitential Order & Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. Martha S. Korienek  
Music: The Parish Choir

**11 a.m. A Penitential Order & Holy  
Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. Martha S. Korienek  
Music: The Adult Choir

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

Sermon: The Rev. Mary Cat Young  
Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

**THE ORGAN RETURNS NEXT WEEK!** Prep work on the ceiling has actually begun, and it is going to create dust – the enemy of musical instruments, especially pipe organs. Therefore, the Bicentennial Organ is tarped and shut down until Palm Sunday, April 9, when it will sound again for [Holy Week, Easter](#), and the remainder of the program year. In its place we have been using the small chamber organ. One more Sunday to go!

**WHAT'S ON THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR? – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM.** The preacher of the day will lead a conversation on the scripture readings of the day. This will be a chance for them to share thoughts that they couldn't fit into their sermon, the things that ended up "on the cutting room floor." Sundays through Apr 2.

**A SUNDAY EVENING LENTEN SERIES "Holy Week 101"** concludes the series. Held in the Chantry immediately following the 6 pm service (approx. 7 pm).

**CANTERBURY DOWNTOWN CAMPUS MINISTRY**

All college students are welcome to come to the 6 pm service in the Chantry, followed by student meet up time and a home-cooked meal during the semester.



Visit [www.canterburynyc.org](http://www.canterburynyc.org) for more information or contact Chaplain Mary Cat Young [here](#).

## *Coming Soon*

### **APR 4 – FRIENDLY PEOPLE WANTED! OPEN DOOR MINISTRY WINTER RECEPTION (Inquirers welcome!)**

This team of friendly volunteers provides a welcoming presence to weekend visitors, answering questions about our beautiful building and church community. Please join us for dinner, fellowship and answers to your questions about volunteering. Tuesday, Apr 4, 7–8:30 pm in the Reception Room. *RSVP and/or info: contact Singleton Cox [here](#).*

### **APR 8 – JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR MOVIE VIEWING AT 3PM & 7PM – Hosted by the ECW.**

Since watching a movie is an experience of mindfulness, we can turn our movie viewing into a spiritual practice by being mindful of God's presence throughout the story. This Lent, you are invited to practice this spiritual mindfulness by watching *Jesus Christ Superstar* in community while eating a meal, then participating in a group discussion afterwards. **The movie will be watched with a Last Supper themed seated meal**, to create an immersive experience. *Jesus Christ Superstar* is a musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, based upon Jesus' Last Week. There will be a screening and food serving at both 3pm and 7pm in the Reception Room. The meal will be prepared by Ysanne Spevack. To cover the cost of ingredients there is a suggested donation of \$20 per person. Saturday, April 8th at 3pm and 7pm. *Space is limited, so to reserve your seat at the table please [e-mail Martha](#) by March 26<sup>th</sup>.*

**APR 9 & 16 – SUNDAY SCHOOL CHANGES** – On **Palm Sunday** at 9 am, children will begin in church rather than Sunday school to participate in the Liturgy of the Palms. They will then be escorted to class. On Easter Sunday, there will be no Sunday school, but

children's activity bags will be distributed at the main entrance.

**APR 9 – NEWCOMERS' CLASS** – Newcomers to Grace Church are warmly invited! Held on the second Sunday of each month in the Reception Room at 12:30 pm, each class will discuss how to become a member of Grace Church, as well as a variety of special topics (**this month: The ministries of Grace Church**). We suggest that you attend at least three classes throughout the year, as a way to get acquainted with the clergy, meet other newcomers, and grow in your faith.

**APR 9 – EVENSONG with 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.

**APR 12 –TENEBRAE: A SERVICE OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT.** This service of Tenebrae (Latin for "shadows") will provide an experiential entrance into our Lord's passion and crucifixion while pointing us to the hope of his Resurrection. Begin your Triduum (three days before Easter) in reflective quiet with other members of the Grace Church community as we pray and read Scripture together in candlelight and peace.

**APR 15 – CHILDREN'S EASTER EVE WALK** – Join us on Holy Saturday, April 15, from 10:30 am-1:30 pm, as we experience the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus through interactive storytelling, crafts, lunch, and an Easter egg hunt. Activities are designed for kids ages 4-12, but the whole family is welcome (and teens often volunteer as helpers). [RSVP to the Rev. Chase Danford.](#)

**APR 15 & JUNE 4 – BAPTISMS** – The next baptismal service for adults and children will be at the Easter Vigil on April 15 at 7 pm. The following date is

Pentecost Sunday, June 4, at 11 am. Please [contact the Rev. Chase Danford](#) for further details.

**APR 22 – VOLUNTEER AT "HOPE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED"** the food ministry of Church of the Village (201 W. 13<sup>th</sup> St.). We will be serving a hot meal to those who need it on Saturday, April 22nd from 12–2:20 pm. To sign up, please email Martha [here](#).

**APR 28–30 –LIFT UP THINE EYES KICK–OFF WEEKEND** Join us for a joyous weekend celebration for our capital campaign, *Lift Up Thine Eyes*. In addition to the Annual Spring Choir Concert and reception on Friday evening, Apr 28th, we will also enjoy a festive event immediately following the 11 am service on Sunday Apr 30th, including the premiere of our campaign video and festive fellowship for all. Please mark your calendars!

**APR 28 – THE ANNUAL SPRING CHOIR CONCERT** with the Men and Boys, Girls', and Adult Choirs takes place on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. The program celebrates music by New York City composers: Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Harold Friedell, Calvin Hampton, Gerre Hancock, Anthony Piccolo, Ned Rorem and *David McKay Williams*. The concert is free and open to all. There will be a festive reception in the Chantry following the concert to benefit the Choir Special Projects Fund.

**APR 29 – EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN'S ONE–DAY RETREAT** – On Saturday, April 29th, the women of Grace Church are invited to a one–day retreat on the theme of "Sabbath." How can we create a rhythm of rest in the midst of our busy lives? The retreat is 9am–5pm at House of the Redeemer (95th, between Madison and 5th). There is a suggested donation of \$45/person. Space is limited to 20 people. *To sign up, please email Martha [here](#).*





**LIFT UP THINE EYES** is the theme of our upcoming capital campaign to fund restoration of the nave ceiling. The campaign committee (co-chaired by Doug Evans and Sarah Cogan, and Owen and Meg Boger) chose the theme because it is Biblical (see Isaiah 60:4), it is inspiring, it is literally what we need to do to see the ceiling, and it is God's call to us in confusing times. Stay tuned for more details on the campaign. (*See above, under "Coming Soon," April 28-30 the Kick-off!*)

*To find service information,  
you may visit [www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org), updated weekly.*

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