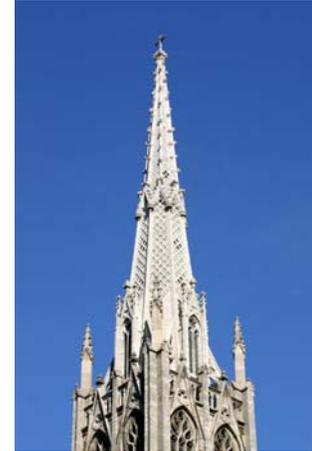


The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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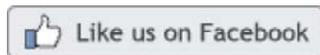
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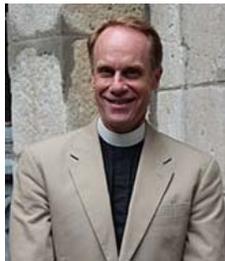
Glorious EASTER FLOWERS for the CHURCH



...are donated each year by YOU – our

March 19, 2017

The Third Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

One of my favorite stories in the Gospels is traditionally called "the Parable of the Chief Seats ([Luke 14:7-11](#)). I recall that it was one of my earliest preaching assignments just out of seminary, and on a sweltering

summer day with no air conditioning, I served up an infinitely forgettable sermon to my first flock. But I digress. The reason I am thinking of the parable today is because it applies specifically to us at Grace Church over the next three weeks.

The parable is about a wedding banquet. At the appointed hour the invited guests came and they all scrambled for the places of honor at the reception. Sadly, when the host saw someone brazenly sitting at the head table, he had to make a public scene of bumping the presumptuous interloper down to one of the outer tables by the kitchen and men's room. "Don't be like that guy," warns Jesus. Instead, when you arrive go and sit in the lowest place so that when the host comes, he'll say for all to hear, "Friend, go up higher." The counter-intuitive lesson is this: you'll never go amiss in society by practicing humility. It will come around to bless you.

Episcopalians generally take the parable to heart. In church, we sit in the back. Way, way in the back. Well done, good and faithful servants. But for the next three weeks I want you to hear the words of the host of the banquet (that would be Jesus): "Friends, come up higher."

parishioners and friends! You may donate in memorial or thanksgiving and we will list this in the Easter service bulletins. Simply find an Easter flower donation envelope around the church and parish house starting this week.

Or click [HERE](#) to donate now.
*(If your gift is dedicated "in honor of" or "in memory of," please list this in the comments box and it will be included in the Easter service bulletin. **Donation must be received by Palm Sunday, 4/9.**)*
 As always, thank you!

Sign up to help TOMORROW 3/18 @ HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/GRACE CHURCH BUILD DAY!

Our work with Habitat continues as we rehabilitate a condemned house in St. Albans, Queens for a family in need. We are on duty tomorrow;

Really. Sit up front. Way, way up front. We are in the second of four Sundays when we won't have the big organ to accompany our singing due to dust from prep work on the nave ceiling. Grace Church is a big space, and the sound of the little chamber organ drops off quickly. So try something new. Leave behind your lowly pew and come up higher.

See you in church.

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



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.

THE ORGAN

Prep work on the ceiling has actually begun, and it is going to create dust. Dust is the enemy of musical instruments, especially pipe organs. Therefore, the Bicentennial Organ is being tarped and will be shut down until Palm Sunday, April 9, when it will sound again for Holy Week, Easter, and the

come and join us! The next build days are Saturdays, April 1, April 22, May 6, and May 20. Information and registration [HERE](#) or contact [Martha Korienek](#).

remainder of the program year. In its place we will use the chamber organ and, if needed, the piano.

This Sunday

March 19th

9 a.m. A Penitential Order & Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. A Penitential Order & Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The Adult Choir

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

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

PRAYING AS A PARISH FOR LENT
Daily devotions by e-mail.

Written by Grace Church parishioners for each other and delivered daily (Mon-Sat) to your e-mail inbox.

You can still sign up! Click [here](#).

WHAT'S ON THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR? – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM. On the Second through Fifth Sundays in Lent 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. *This Sunday, Mar 19th, the Rev. Chase Danford.*

Please pray for...



Those who suffer

Elisa Galjour
Ramzi Abed
Rayma Hayes

A SUNDAY EVENING LENTEN SERIES March 19, "The Spirituality of *Silence*." March 26: "Anti-Semitism in the Passion Narratives." April 2: "Holy Week 101." Held in the Chantry immediately following the 6 pm service (approx. 7 pm).

Coming Soon

MAR 22, 29 – CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER – Led by parishioner Currie Estreich, contemplative, or

The Michael Family
Larry Birns
Nita and Max Slover
Robert Zaytoun
Josephine Ferraiuolo
Howard Small
Trish Lawrence

"centering prayer" is an ancient Christian practice of being still and quiet and connecting with the Spirit of God dwelling in each of us. Held in the Chantry at 5:30 pm, just prior to the 6 pm Eucharist on Wednesdays, Mar 22 & 29. For more information, contact Currie [here](#).

and those who have died

Tony Minichino

MAR 24 – 20'S AND 30'S-*ish* LENTEN SUSHI FRIDAYS at Grace and other NYC Episcopal churches. Grace will host at 7 pm on Friday, Mar 24, with a tour of the church (perfect opportunity to invite a friend!), sushi, salad, and the brief but beautiful service of Compline (Night Prayer). [Contact Fr. Chase](#) for details on Sushi Friday opportunities with the diocesan Young Adult Network in other weeks during Lent.

APR 4 – 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 26th.*

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 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. 13th 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](#).

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

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