

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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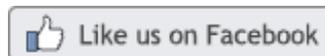
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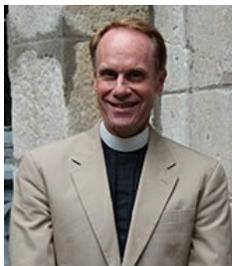
ALL THINGS  
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL



Grace Church in New York  
2018 Annual Campaign

## November 19, 2017

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday is supposed to be a happy day. At the 11 am service it will be Grace Church School Sunday, the annual occasion when the church and school celebrate our common history and mission. The combined choirs will sing. The new Assistant Head of GCS - the Rev. Robert "Robbie" Pennoyer, II, will preach. Then after the service a festive reception will await us in Tuttle Hall. At the same time we will be collecting the home cooked pot roasts lovingly prepared by many parishioners for the meal we will provide at the NYC Rescue Mission. If all that isn't enough, the Bishop of New York, Andrew Dietsche will be preaching at the 6 pm Eucharist in the chantry as part of his visitation to Canterbury Downtown, the Episcopal campus ministry that meets here.

One might hope that for a happy day we would have happy readings from the Scriptures. Not so! The Old Testament reading (Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18) and the Epistle (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11) are decidedly dark, apocalyptic texts about the judgement of God and the end of the world. Yes, the Gospel reading is the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), but even this familiar story ends with a worthless servant being thrown into the outer darkness, "where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." These are the type of texts we might want to hide from the unchurched world, not feature. We might want to replace them with cheerful texts to show that religion isn't really such a bad thing after all.

I propose that it would be dishonest to scrub up the readings to match our happy day. We all know that dark

Last month we launched the annual campaign in support of the Lord's work through Grace Church in 2018. Annual giving achieves two goals that are important to the spiritual health of every Christian: saying "thank you" to God for life's many blessings with a tangible expression of gratitude, and empowering the ministries of God's church.

You may read more about pledging by clicking the image above. You may make your pledge [here](#). Questions about pledging? Contact James V. Romanik at 212-254-2005 or [here](#).

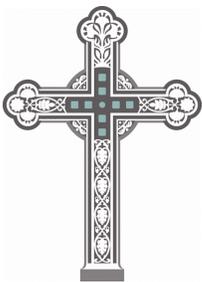
undercurrents are swirling beneath the surface of 21<sup>st</sup> century life: nuclear weapons, global warming, a deeply divided country, etc. What is more, the curtain is being pulled back to reveal the extent to which sexual harassment and abuse are part of the work place. One after another, prominent politicians and celebrities (all male) are being exposed as living deeply hypocritical lives. The image of themselves they project on the surface is not true to a dark reality underneath. Make no mistake, it is good that the truth is being told. But it is disillusioning. The fact that in some cases the political stances or artistic output of these men may have been admirable leaves everyone feeling compromised.

So let's toss all these hot potatoes to our guest preacher on Sunday! Robbie will also be leading the Sunday Forum at 10 am, with an equally apt subtitle: "The Dangerous Theology of Certainty." I am looking forward to a happy day, but also a day in which we are not afraid to speak the truth that sets us free.

See you in church.

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

*Please pray  
for...*



*those who suffer*

Louise Zonis  
Debbie McAdams  
Isabella  
Alejandro Mota  
Ernest Hansen  
Anna Ring  
Heather and Michael  
Dollenger  
Josephine Ferraiuolo

## This Sunday

November 19th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Grace Church School Sunday

Sermon: The Rev. Robert Pennoyer II

Music: Alumni of the Choirs with

The Choir of Men and Boys and The Girls' Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rt. Rev. Andrew Dietsche, Bishop of  
New York

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

*and those who  
have died*

Vienna Savino  
Mel Zonis  
Paige Mercer

**GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY** is the day we celebrate the common history and mission of Grace Church and Grace Church School. We'll welcome The Rev. Robert Pennoyer II, Assistant Head of School and Director of Studies at Grace Church School, as our guest preacher at the 11 am service and Sunday Forum presenter at 10 am. Music will be offered by the Alumni of the Choirs with The Choir of Men and Boys and The Girls' Choir. After the service, please come to Tuttle Hall for a festive reception.

**LINCOLN'S DEATH AND THE DANGEROUS THEOLOGY OF CERTAINTY – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM** – Abraham Lincoln was shot on Good Friday, and he died the next morning. That Easter Sunday, preachers throughout the North tried to comfort their congregants and make sense of the president's assassination. The sermons that survive include several that are deeply unsettling to modern ears. The Rev. Robert Pennoyer II, will speak about those sermons, about Lincoln's own theology, and about how Episcopal schools are well suited for grappling with matters like these. The Rev. Robert Pennoyer II is the Assistant Head of School and Director of Studies at Grace Church School. Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served.

**GRACE CHRISTMAS FAIR – THANK YOU!** The ECW wishes to thank all who contributed to another wonderful event! Stay tuned for details, as well as plans for ECW events in 2018.

**PARISH RETREAT** – If you are wondering where Martha Korienek, our intrepid Associate Rector is today, she is leading a spiritual retreat for 12 parishioners at the Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY.

**BISHOP DIETSCH** will be preaching the sermon and presiding at the 6 pm Eucharist tonight as part of his visitation to Canterbury Downtown, the diocesan campus ministry that meets at Grace Church and is run

by the Rev. Mary Cat Young.

## *Coming Soon*

### **Thanksgiving Eve**

**WEDNESDAY, November 22**

**6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry**

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The combined Senior Choristers of the Boys'  
and Girls' Choirs

### **Thanksgiving Day**

**THURSDAY, November 23**

**11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry**

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

**DEC 1, 2 – THE CHORAL SOCIETY ANNUAL HOLIDAY  
CONCERTS** J.S. Bach: Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248/1 (first  
cantata), Britten, Mendelssohn, audience carol sing and more.  
Friday, Dec 1 at 8 pm and Saturday, Dec 2 at 3 pm at Grace  
Church. Tickets available [here](#). Please email  
[choralsociety@mac.com](mailto:choralsociety@mac.com) with questions. We hope to see you at  
the concert!

**DEC 2 – GRACE CHURCH/GO PROJECT VOLUNTEER DAY**  
Have you ever considered volunteering with the GO Project, but  
not sure you can make a year-round commitment? How about  
signing up for a one-day event? GO invites all Grace Church  
members and friends to participate on Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 9  
am-12:30 pm. Come and see this wonderful program in action,  
meet the students served by the program and pitch in to help!  
*Sign up by e-mailing Olivia Nunez [here](#).*

**DEC 3 – ADVENT BEGINS – COME AND MAKE A WREATH!**  
Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks prior to  
Christmas is a great way to keep our thoughts focused on the  
coming of Christ, and to help teach our children the real meaning  
of Christmas. On the first Sunday of Advent, Dec 3rd, after the 9  
am, 11 am or 6 pm services we'll have all the materials ready for  
you. All are welcome! Experienced wreath-makers are  
encouraged to help others! Sign up as a volunteer by contacting  
Fr. Chase [here](#). (Sugg. donation per wreath: \$15-25.)

**DEC 3 – THE ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS** for local

charities will begin on Sunday, Dec 3rd, with a collection of travel size toiletries for the Seamen's Church Institute Christmas at Sea project. On Sunday, Dec 10th, we will collect hats, scarves, and gloves for the Church of the Ascension food pantry. On Sunday, Dec 17th, we'll collect new men's underwear (larger sizes) and socks for the NYC Rescue Mission. Donations will be collected in the baskets at the back of the church at all services. Please give generously this Advent!

**DEC 3 – ADVENT PROCESSION OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Readings of scripture foretelling the coming of Christ are interspersed with beautiful music of the season from the four corners of the church. Sung by The Adult Choir at 4 pm in the Church.

**DEC 6 – THE COMMUNITY CAROL SING** All are welcome to come and sing with The Combined Boys' and Girls' Choirs in this festive annual event! 12:15 – 12:45 pm in the Church.

**DEC 9 – EPISCOPAL ASIAN SUPPER TABLE (EAST)** Guest speaker Fr. Gideon Jebamani, an Episcopal priest who has fought for the rights of the Dalit people (the so-called "Untouchable" caste of India), will speak on "Religious Cultural Diversity and the Challenge of Creating an Inclusive Faith Community." EAST celebrates the dignity of Asian and Asian-American spirituality. Our monthly events are a welcoming space to share stories, seek God, and bridge diverse cultures. We are a growing ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Saturday, Dec 9, at 5:30 pm in Tuttle Hall. *RSVP: [EAST@dioceseny.org](mailto:EAST@dioceseny.org).*

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**DEC 10 – GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING** – Decorate a holiday gingerbread house with your children or grandkids after the 9 and 11 am services. \$20 minimum suggested donation per house, which will help support "The House that Grace Built" Habitat for Humanity project. [RSVP to Chase](#) is required by *Tuesday, Dec. 5th to make sure we have enough supplies.*

**DEC 10 – NEWCOMERS CLASS** – New people to Grace are warmly invited. Each session will discuss how to become a member of Grace, as well as this session we will be talking about *Advent and Christmas Traditions*. We recommend that you attend at least three classes throughout the year, as a way to get acquainted with the clergy, with other new members, and to grow in your faith. Held in the Reception Room at 12:30. Lunch will be provided, so please [RSVP to Martha here](#).

**DEC 10 – A CEREMONY OF CAROLS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN**

will be offered by The Girls' Choir with Alumni of the Choir and members of The Adult and Parish Choirs at 4 pm in the Church.

DEC 16 – HABITAT BUILD DAY – Grace Church is working with Habitat for Humanity to preserve and maintain affordable housing within Manhattan. We will be doing home maintenance repair for a co-op on the Lower East Side. To sign up, please visit the website [here](#) or e-mail Martha Korienek [here](#).

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

802 Broadway New York NY 10003 (212) 254-2000  
[www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org)