

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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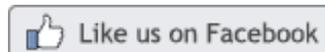
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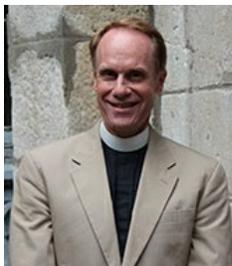
Last day!
**EASTER
FLOWER
OFFERINGS**



*(PALM SUNDAY IS
THE LAST DAY
to get your
dedications in the*

March 25, 2018

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday



Dear Friends,

Let's begin today with an oxymoron and a confession. First, the oxymoron. As you know, an oxymoron is a figure of speech that pairs two seemingly contradictory words or ideas together in one phrase. Think "jumbo shrimp," or "friendly Chihuahua," or "Mets winning streak." The oxymoron I am thinking about today is this: "successful Lent."

Here we are on Day-33 of Lent, which means that we are nearing the end. How is it going? How have you done with your Lenten discipline of giving up or taking on this or that? Are you having a successful Lent? You may recall that a few weeks ago I wrote about a spiritual discipline that I was undertaking this Lent. I have a book of sermons by the great 19th century preacher Phillips Brooks, and my intention was to read one of them every day, to ponder its mysteries, and connect deeply with a great, faithful mind of over a century ago. I was actually quite pleased with my little scheme. One might even say I was proud of it.

Am I having a successful Lent? It's confession time. NOPE. I read the sermons for about a week. Then one day I realized I hadn't picked up the book in 3-4 days. I commenced again and carried on through sheer force of will, only to lapse again into my slothful, self-indulgent appetites and ways. I have excuses at the ready: the sermons are long and dry. I have sermons of my own to think about and write. I'm not getting anything out of this. I'll read one tomorrow, etc. The

*Easter Sunday
service bulletins!)*

Bedeck the church in beautiful spring flowers this year to give thanks or to honor a loved one.

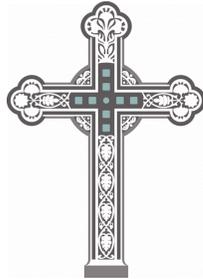
Make your [online donation now!](#)

(If your online gift is dedicated "in honor of" or "in memory of," please list this in the comments box.)

Or use a flower donation envelope found in the Parish House hallway.

As always, thank you!

*Please pray
for...*



those who suffer

Mark Whitney Allen
Lauren Snyder
Kimberly Snyder
Albert Statman
Flordelisa Mota
Josephine

*and those who
have died.*

Mary Jo Budenholzer

truth is, I set out to do something this Lent, and I haven't done it. Successful is not a word that I can use to describe my performance.

Perhaps that's the point. A "successful Lent" is an oxymoron for a good, spiritual reason. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday, many assumed he was coming to congratulate the successful. The people were proud of being God's chosen race, proud of the Temple, and proud of the way they adhered to the Laws of Moses. But Jesus was coming with the double-edged sword of judgment and salvation. No, even when we think we've had a successful Lent, we do not "succeed" at being the people God calls us to be. Therefore, Jesus the Messiah comes with salvation - to do for us what we are unable to do for ourselves.

It is precisely because we are unsuccessful at saving ourselves that we begin Holy Week on Sunday with shouts of "Hosanna." The word means "save now." *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

See you in church.

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

**Saturday, March 24: Episcopalians
Stand Up to Gun Violence at the
NYC March For Our Lives.**

Meet up with the Rev. Chase Danford, Assistant Rector, at 9 am, Saturday, March 24, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (1047 Amsterdam Ave), at the Poets Corner. Tell the Cathedral Visitors Service you're there for the march. [Contact Chase](#) with questions or to let him know you plan to attend.

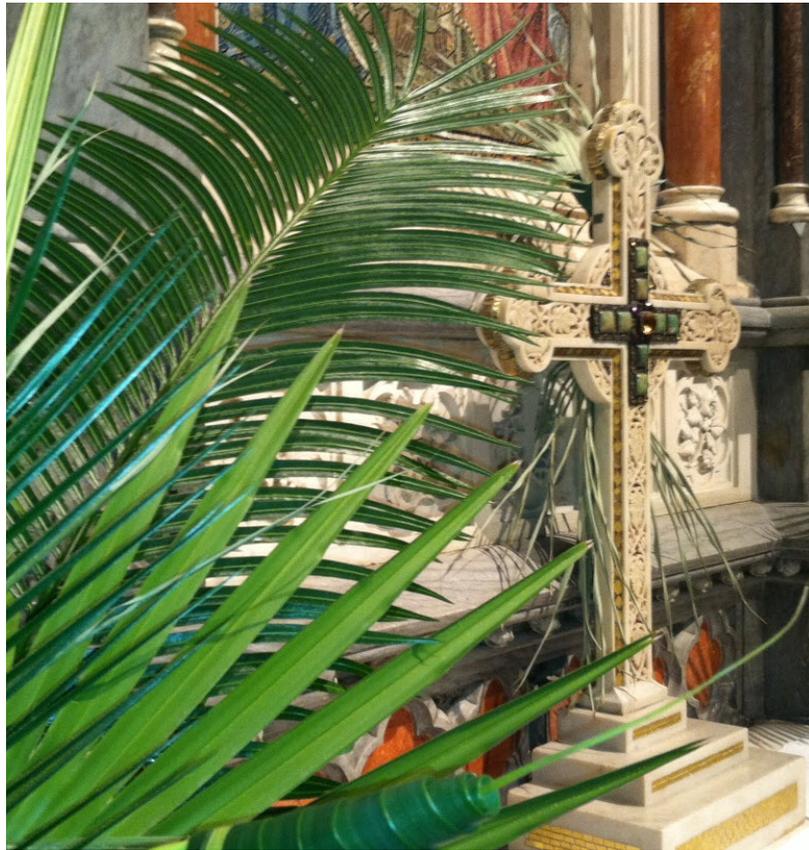
This Sunday - March 25th

**The Sunday of the Passion: Palm
Sunday**

**9 a.m., 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. in the Church
Palm Sunday Liturgy & Holy Eucharist**

Preacher: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
At 11 a.m.: Music by *Gibbons & Guilman*;
Dramatic readings of
the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
at all 3 services.
The Adult Choir.

4 p.m. in the Church—Choral Evensong
with excerpts from Part II of *Handel's*
MESSIAH
The Adult Choir



**"UNITY HOUSE," HOLY WEEK & A CHALLENGE
GRANT!**

We are excited to announce that a generous parish family has stepped forward with a \$25,000 challenge grant to help us fund our half of "Unity House," the next rebuilding project through Habitat for Humanity, with our Muslim partner organization [*Who Is Hussain*](#).

Throughout Lent, the community of Grace Church has been raising funds for "Unity House" through

their daily devotions. Now that we've come to Holy Week, we are asking everyone to consider their many blessings and, in honor of those blessings, make a contribution towards Unity House. With the addition of our challenge grant, **each dollar you contribute, up to \$25,000 will be matched!** Bring your check to church on Easter day, or [give online now](#). Groundbreaking on Unity House is Saturday, April 28th, so time is of the essence!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHANGES – On Palm Sunday (Mar 25) 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 (Apr 1), there will be no Sunday school, but children's activity bags will be distributed at the main entrance.

THE SUNDAY FORUM – is on recess for Palm Sunday and Easter Day.

Coming Soon

A full list of [HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES](#) (Mon, March 26 to Easter Day, Sun, April 1) can be found [here](#).

MAR 26 – LENTEN BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE – Whether you have never read the Bible before or you are a New Testament scholar, you are welcome to join in as we explore the story of Jesus and learn about different ways to approach scripture. Come to any or all sessions as your schedule allows. Mondays, Feb 26 – Mar 26, 6:30–7:30 pm in the Reception Room.

MAR 26, 27 – MUSICAL MEDITATIONS FOR HOLY WEEK (Mon.–Tues.) – SEPT CHORALS–POÈMES POUR LES SEPT PAROLES DU CHRIST. The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross (1935). Composed by Charles Tournemire. Dedicated to Ernest Mitchell, organist of Grace Church 1922–1960. Monday, Mar 26 at 7 pm. LEÇONS DE TÉNÈBRES POUR LE MERCREDI SAINT. Tenebrae Readings for Holy Wednesday (1714). Composed by François Couperin. Amy Bartram, soprano, Ruth Cunningham, soprano, Patricia Ann Neely, viola da gamba. Tuesday, Mar 27 at 7 pm.

MAR 28 –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. Come to observe Holy Wednesday in reflective quiet with other members of the Grace Church community as we pray and read Scripture together in candlelight and peace. Wednesday, March 28th at 6pm, in the Church.

MAR 31 – CHILDREN'S EASTER EVE WALK – Join us on Holy Saturday, March 31, from 10:30 am–1 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 8 – EVENSONG WITH EXCERPTS FROM PART III OF HANDEL'S MESSIAH @4 PM – The Adult Choir with the Parish Choir will offer Choral Evensong featuring excerpts from Part III (the Easter Portion) of MESSIAH.

APRIL 15 – GO PROJECT SUNDAY– This spring the GO Project celebrates its 50th anniversary. At Grace Church, in honor of our parishioners who have helped to make this program such a success and everyone who has contributed to its thriving, and to give thanks for the important work it does in our community, we will celebrate the GO Project on Sunday, April 15th with a special reception after the 11am worship service.

APR 22 – NEWCOMERS CLASS – New people to Grace are warmly invited to our Newcomers Class. Each session will discuss how to become a member of Grace, as well as this session we will be talking about *The Ministries of Grace Church*. 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. Sunday, April 22 at 12:30 pm in the Reception Room. Lunch will be provided; [RSVP to Martha](#).

APRIL 28 – "UNITY HOUSE" IS ALMOST HERE! We begin this new building partnership with *Who Is Hussain* on Saturday, April 28th. Together we will rebuild a home in Queens through Habitat for Humanity. Please [contact Martha](#) for more information or to learn how to sign up.

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

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