

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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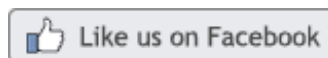
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#### EASTER FLOWERS!



...are donated each year by YOU - our parishioners and friends, to glorify God and decorate the Church for Easter! You may donate in memorial or thanksgiving and we will list this in the Easter service bulletins.\*

**Make your donation**

## March 4, 2018

The Third Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

Here we are, coming up on the Third Sunday in Lent, marking the mid-point in the season of penitence and fasting leading up to Easter. How is the Lenten journey going for you? Hopefully, you have undertaken some discipline that sets apart these weeks and makes them different from the rest of the year. Christians often use Lent to deny themselves certain pleasures. The goal, in a small way, is the imitation of Christ, who fasted forty days and forty nights in the wilderness. As I mentioned in this space three weeks ago, over the years I have tried "giving up" many of the traditional banned substances of Lent: desserts, alcohol, etc. My most recent foray of this sort was a few years ago when I gave up red wine (with the exception of Communion). Yes, I made it all the way through Lent. No, I did not emerge from the wilderness feeling any closer to Jesus than I did before.

I am doing something different this year. In my library is a book I've never read. It is a volume of selected sermons by the great 19<sup>th</sup> century preacher, Phillips Brooks. Today, Brooks is best remembered as the author of the Christmas carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." In fact, he was the Rector of Trinity Church, Boston, an edifice that architects name as one of the 10 most influential buildings in the country. The style is called Richardsonian Romanesque, and it is massive. As a preacher, Brooks' reputation was as massive as the building. He was a spellbinding orator and a commanding figure who stood 6'4" and weighed in at 300 pounds! On Sundays people would fill every one of the 1,500 seats in Trinity Church to hear Phillips Brooks.

[online now.](#)

(You may also donate by cash or check using an Easter Flower Offering envelope, found around the church or parish house hallway. Or simply mail your check, payable to Grace Church and marked "Easter Flowers," to the Parish Office.)

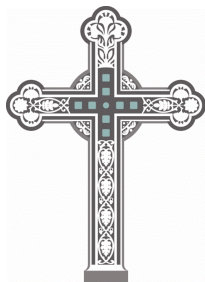
*\*For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Easter Day bulletins, we must receive it **by Palm Sunday, Mar 25th.***

As always, thank you!

**LENTEN E-  
DEVOTIONAL**  
(You can still  
sign up!)

Daily devotional guide written by Grace Church parishioners for each other. [Sign up, here!](#)

*Please pray  
for...*



*those who suffer*

Jack Browning  
Jason Russell and

At the beginning of this Lent, what I decided to do was read one Phillips Brooks sermon every day. How is it going? Well, the first thing I would say is that the sermons themselves are as massive as the man who wrote them and the building in which he preached them. They are invariably five-thousand words, more than twice the length of what we would call a long sermon today! Also, the style of his language and the rapport he clearly had with his congregations reflect a vastly different time in our country. Am I enjoying the sermons? Yes, but some of them take real commitment to get through; my mind wanders and I have to go back and read paragraphs over to stay on track. Nevertheless, it is a process I've given myself to, and I intend to see it through to the end. I can already say it has enriched my spirit.

Today's Phillips Brooks sermon that I will read this afternoon is entitled, *"The Egyptians Dead upon the Seashore."* Happy Lent!

See you in church.

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

**This Sunday**

**March 4th**

**9 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

**11 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Girls' Choir with HS Singers and  
Adults

**6 p.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. Mary Cat Young

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

**NEW PEW CUSHIONS** – If you suspect that the pew you are sitting in this week is more comfortable than it

family  
Josephine

*and those who  
have died*

Jennifer Rasmussen  
Julius Cole Rassin  
Madeline Colcord

was last week, that's because throughout the church we have replaced 23 of the most dilapidated pads with new pew cushions that should last for decades. Many thanks to our generous donors who have made the project possible – especially one couple who started the ball rolling, and the ECW who then joined in to match them. As you may notice, we still have many pew cushions that need to be replaced, so stay tuned for a post-Easter drive to get the job done.

**HOWARD THURMAN: MYSTIC, THEOLOGIAN, AND CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER – THE SUNDAY FORUM @ 10 AM.** – Remembered by many primarily as a mentor to Martin Luther King Jr., Howard Thurman was a prominent leader in his own right as a scholar, author, and church planter. It was his articulation of a theology of non-violence that inspired Dr. King and other civil rights leaders. In today's session, the Rev. Chase Danford will discuss highlights of Dr. Thurman's thought and spirituality. Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served.

**ECW SAYS THANK YOU BY HOSTING COFFEE HOUR** – The ECW will host the fellowship hour in Tuttle Hall today immediately following the 11 am service. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy a lovely spread of Victorian tea, sweets and sandwiches, prepared to say "thank you" to ALL who helped to make the Grace Christmas Fair a success – volunteers, cooks and bakers, and of course customers, too!!

**NOT TOO LATE TO START – LENTEN PRACTICE: UNITY HOUSE FUNDRAISER** – "Unity House" is the next house rebuilding project that Grace Church is doing through Habitat for Humanity, this time partnering with the Muslim community *Who Is Hussain*. We need to raise \$50,000 for Unity House, so this Lent you are invited to help raise these funds through your Lenten spiritual practice. Each day this Lent, you are invited to read the daily Bible reading, allow it to help you reflect upon your blessings, and then give thanks for your blessings by contributing financially to

Unity House. And together, as a community, we will make Unity House a success. There is a daily email and a paper calendar to help you do this; to receive the emails or get a copy of the calendar, or with any questions, please [email Martha](#).

## *Coming Soon*

**THE GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE: A LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** – We will read and discuss portions of the Gospel According to St. Luke on Monday evenings during Lent, from 6:30–7:30 pm in the Reception Room: Feb. 26 – March 26. 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. *This week we will discuss Chapters 4–9.*

**MAR 10 – HABITAT BUILD DAY** – We will be partnering with the Islamic community service organization "Who Is Hussain?" to work on a Habitat home in Queens. *For more information or to register, visit our [Outreach page](#) or [contact Martha](#).*

**MAR 12 – OPEN DOOR MINISTRY WINTER RECEPTION: VIVA ITALIA!** (Inquirers welcome!) This team of friendly volunteers provides a welcoming presence and answers to visitors' questions about Grace Church on weekends from 1–5 pm. Whether you are a current Open Door volunteer, or an interested potential new volunteer, you are very welcome to come for fellowship, fun and an Italian dinner in Tuttle Hall from 7–8:30 pm. (Enter at 802 Broadway, the Parish House.) *Please [email Singleton Cox](#) to RSVP or to learn more. Mangia!*

**MAR 17 – GRACE CHURCH/GO PROJECT VOLUNTEER DAY!** 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, March 17th, 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](#).*

**MAR 18 – NEWCOMERS' CLASS** – New people to Grace are warmly invited to our Newcomers Class on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> in the reception room at 12:30pm. Each session will discuss how to become a member of Grace, as well as this session we will be talking about *Holy Week and Easter*. 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. *Lunch will be provided, so [RSVP to Martha](#).*

**MAR 24 – ECW ONE-DAY RETREAT** – Join the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of Grace Church for a one-day retreat where we will reflect upon Jesus' final week together. 9:30 am to 2:30 pm in the Reception Room. Lunch is provided; \$5 suggested donation. Childcare can be provided if requested in advance. *For more information or to register, [contact Martha](#).*

**MAR 25 – 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.

**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](#).*

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

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[www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org)