

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



In This Issue

[Dedicate an Easter Flower!](#)

[Parish Prayers](#)

[This Sunday](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

Quick Links

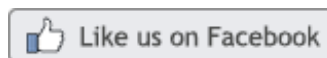
[GIVE to Grace](#)

[Make Your PLEDGE](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

[More About Us](#)

[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)



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 11, 2018

The Fourth Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

If you paid attention to the news this week, you may have heard "Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury" mentioned in the head lines. If the name sounds familiar, it should. We pray for him every Sunday at the

Eucharist in the Prayers of the People, and at Morning Prayer in the Intercessions. Why? Because the Archbishop of Canterbury is the spiritual leader of the world wide Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church is a member.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has been in the news because on Tuesday he baptized and confirmed TV's own Meghan Markle. As you likely know, Ms. Markle is engaged to Prince Harry, grandson of Queen Elizabeth II of England. Since the 1500s the reigning monarch of England is also the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, which is the mother church of the Anglican Communion. To cut to the chase, the British royal family and the Church of England are deeply entwined, and since Ms. Markle is about to join the former, she thought it wise also to join the latter. Various news articles even used the word "convert," and then described how the Archbishop of Canterbury formalized the process during "a secret ceremony" using water from the Jordan River. Meghan Markle is now an Anglican, a member of the Church of England.

What was she before? In the interest of keeping up with celebrities, with members of the royal family, and especially with celebrities who are about to become

[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.)

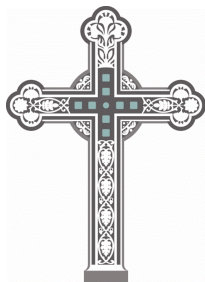
For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Easter Day bulletins, we must receive it **by Palm Sunday, Mar 25th.*

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

Flordelisa Mota

Jack Browning

members of the royal family, I dug a little deeper. At the time of her engagement to Prince Harry, Ms. Markle identified as "Protestant," the church of her mother. Her father is an Episcopalian (also Protestant, and also Anglican, by the way). Finally, while growing up she attended Catholic schools.

The way the press described things, one might easily infer that Ms. Markle's recent baptism into the Church of England *replaced* a prior baptism, either Protestant, Episcopal, or Roman Catholic. This would not be the case. The only thing that makes sense is that she had never been baptized before in any church. As for her confirmation, it's clear that she had never participated in this rite either. Had she been baptized earlier in life, and then confirmed in either the Episcopal, Lutheran, Orthodox, or Roman Catholic Church, the Archbishop of Canterbury would have *received* her into the Anglican Communion. It's not that the Anglican Communion doesn't recognize other orders, or considers our own initiation rites the only true way into the kingdom of God. Rather, Ms. Markle simply represents the background of a great many people these days: spiritual, but not formally religious.

I write this today not to fill your head with church trivia, but to clarify some confusion the media coverage may have raised. At the least, it's nice to see the Anglican Communion in the news, and it's not about a fight. And it goes without saying that we welcome Ms. Markle into the fold!

See you in church. By the way, we don't have any "secret" ceremonies.

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

Rector

This Sunday

March 11th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Josephine

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

*and those who
have died.*

Peter Schultheis

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

WHEN IS IT TIME TO LET GO? – THE SUNDAY FORUM @ 10 AM – Some people facing end-of-life decisions want to "try everything" so long as death is deferred. Others want to approach the end thoughtfully – mending fences and expressing gratitude. Yet there are many roadblocks to deciding that it is time to let go, from cultural expectations, to full acceptance of palliative care by the patient and their families. Dr. Frederick Smith, director of clinical ethics at North Shore–LIJ Health System, will explore the possibilities of a conscious, intentional approach to dying. Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served.

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 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

MAR 12 – 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. We will discuss Chapters 10–14 this week.

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](mailto: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](mailto:Olivia.Nunez).

MAR 18 – REFOCUSING THE CAREGIVER–PATIENT CONVERSATION – THE SUNDAY FORUM @ 10 AM – Despite modern medicine's infatuation with high-tech gadgetry, the single most powerful diagnostic tool in the medical armamentarium is the doctor–patient conversation. However, what patients say and what doctors hear are often two vastly different things. This presentation examines how refocusing the caregiver–patient conversation can lead to better health outcomes. Danielle Ofri, author of the recently published *What Patients Say, What Doctors Hear*, is an associate professor of Medicine at NYU, and Editor, *Bellevue Literary Review*. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

MAR 18 – NEWCOMERS' CLASS – New people to Grace are warmly invited to our Newcomers Class on Sunday, March 18th 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](mailto: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](#).*

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.*

802 Broadway New York NY 10003 (212) 254-2000
www.gracechurchnyc.org