

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Ash Wednesday

Low Mass and Imposition of Ashes

February 14, 2024



Grace Episcopal Church

55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Office: 860 233-0825 Fax: 860 233-5082

E-mail: church@gracehartford.org Web site: www.gracehartford.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GECHartford

We are a diverse community united by our commitment to Jesus Christ and our desire to live the Christian life. Our prayers and the Sacraments help us find Christ in church and in the world. Seeing Christ in each other and in the faces of strangers, we are inspired to reach out in love and service.

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, *Rector*

Cell phone: 203-209-4178 Church office: 860-233-0825

Email: RevRowena@gracehartford.org

The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon, *Associate Priest*

The Rev. Canon Annika Warren, *Associate Priest*

The Rev. Joseph L. Pace, *Associate Priest*

Mr. Kyle Swann, *Choirmaster and Organist*

The Vestry

Douglas Bowman, *Senior Warden*; Thomas Phillips, *Junior Warden*

Katharine Rovetti, *Parish Clerk*

Mark Lacedonia, *Treasurer*; Barbara Galbreath, *Assistant Treasurer*

Adrienne Brown, Josephine Dominguez, Pamela Glasner,

Claudia Gwardyak, Nadia Holmes, Sandra Morgan



WELCOME to all who are joining with us virtually as we observe *ASH WEDNESDAY*. We hope you feel at home with us and that you find the love, peace, inspiration, and strength to meet the challenges of your daily life.

We hope that you will take part in our worship by making the Peoples' responses as indicated and joining in the hymn-singing.

If you would like more information about Grace Church, or the Episcopal Church, please communicate with our Rector, The Rev. Rowena Kemp, or make an appointment with her to discuss any questions you have.



Ash Wednesday

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ash Wednesday

Low Mass and Imposition of Ashes

February 14, 2024

9:15 A.M.



Entrance Rite and Liturgy of the Word

On this day, the Celebrant begins the liturgy with the Salutation and the Collect of the Day.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

ALMMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Old Testament Lesson: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17 [*NRSV*]

BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near — a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

The Word of the Lord.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.

Tract *Domine, non secundum*

O LORD, deal not with us after our sins: nor reward us according to our wickedness. O Lord, remember not our old sins, but have mercy upon us, and that soon: for we are come to great misery. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy Name, O Lord: O deliver us and be merciful unto our sins, for thy Name's sake.

The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21 [RSV]

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People's response: ✠ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

"BEWARE of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. "Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People's Response: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, *Rector*





Imposition of Ashes and Penitential Rite

The Exhortation

DEAR People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept for a time, all kneeling, then the Celebrant says the following prayer over the ashes:

ALmighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by thy gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

*[All who wish to receive ashes should now come to the altar rail.
The ashes are imposed with these words:]*

Remember that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.



Psalm 51 (*said by all*) *Miserere mei, Deus*

HAVE MERCY UPON ME, O GOD, after thy great goodness:
According to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults,
and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight,
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou shalt judge.

Behold, I was shapen in wickedness,
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.

But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts,
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness:
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Turn thy face from my sins,
and put out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God:
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence:
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

O give me the comfort of thy help again,
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked:
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health,
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.

Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall show thy praise.

For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee,
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.



Litany of Penitence (*said by all*)

MOST HOLY AND MERCIFUL FATHER:
We confess to thee and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought word and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.



The Celebrant continues, the People's response is in italics:

WE have not loved thee with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

We have been deaf to thy call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

We confess to thee, O Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For our waste and pollution of thy creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let thine anger depart from us:

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of thy salvation,

That we may show forth thy glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of thy Son our Lord,

Bring us with all thy saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Absolution

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the Name of the Lord.



The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. *Psalm 50: 14*

Offertory *Exaltabo te*

Celebrant: I will magnify thee, O Lord, because thou hast set me up, and not made my foes to triumph over me: O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.

Presentation of the alms and oblations

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

Orate

Celebrant: Pray that this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People: May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his holy Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.

Sursum corda

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant says,

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus and Benedictus (*said by all*)

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

BLESSED is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Canon of the Mass

Celebrant: Let us pray.

ALL GLORY be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ✠

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." ✠

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, ✠ be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

BY whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen.*



The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei (*said by all*)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Prayer of Humble Access (*said by all*)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his Blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

People: Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

Communion *Qui meditabitur*

Celebrant: He who doth meditate on the law of the Lord day and night: will bring forth his fruit in due season.



Prayer of Spiritual Communion (*said by those worshipping virtually*)

IN UNION, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of Thy Church, where Thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to Thee. And since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from Thee. Let me live and die in Thy love. Amen.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these Holy Mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical Body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing and Dismissal

THE PEACE OF GOD, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

The People respond: Thanks be to God.



Remember, man, that thou art dust, and into dust thou shalt return

† LENTEN PROGRAMS 2024 †

COME WALK THE WAY OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS IN LENT, beginning February 16th

5:45 P.M. Lenten Organ Meditation (*also on Facebook Live*)

6:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross & Benediction (*also on Facebook Live*)



4:00 P.M. Five Fridays, February 23 to March 22

Please join us for our Lenten discussion

"BEARING WITNESS"

a Biblical text-based program using video statements
from people living in Jerusalem and beyond

(from the *American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem*)

Tea, coffee, baked goodies, and sandwiches provided

All are welcome!

It's LENT, and you wish to have a loved-one memorialized. What can you do?

Please consider purchasing a memorial Sanctuary Candle, in lieu of flowers.

The suggested price is \$10.

This is a year-round option, but particularly useful during LENT.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Thursday, February 15 *Lenten Feria*

10:00 a.m.: "A Place of Grace" food pantry distribution

6:30 p.m.: **Vestry Meeting on Zoom**

Friday, February 16 *Lenten Feria*

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Office Hours

5:45 p.m.: Lenten Organ Meditation (*also on Facebook Live*)

6:00 p.m.: STATIONS OF THE CROSS & BENEDICTION (*also on Facebook Live*)

Sunday, February 26 *The First Sunday in Lent*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

10:30 a.m.: Solemn High Mass (*also on Facebook Live*)



Visit "Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford CT" on FACEBOOK.

Please join, and help us spread the good news online!

