



# Celtic Evensong and Communion

## The Third Sunday in Lent:

### 23 March 2025 4:00 pm

*We come from many places to be together for a little while.  
Each of us brings our own experience and traditions to this gathering.  
So here in this place, let us take time together to encounter the holy.*

*Please remember to silence all devices*

### The Opening Rite

#### Musical Meditation

*Shule Aroon*

#### Opening Meditation

I part the out thrusting branches  
and come in beneath  
the blessed and the blessing trees.  
Though I am silent  
there is singing around me.  
Though I am dark  
there is vision around me.  
Though I am heavy  
there is flight around me.  
- Wendell Berry

#### The Confession

**Lord Jesus, you come into our lives when we are least prepared for you. As you enfolded your betrayers so embrace us who struggle to love. Reconcile us with our sisters and brothers, and, for the sake of your love, forgive us all our sins.**

#### The Absolution

As far as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is Christ's loving response to those who are humble; so far does the Spirit's enduring strength uphold those who face the darkness within. As parents are concerned for their children, God comes to those who reach out in faith. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who offered himself for us, forgives your sins by the grace of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

#### The Invitatory and Psalm

Renew and strengthen us, eternal God,  
**as we prepare for resurrection.**  
Glory to the Holy Trinity,  
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

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**O Gracious Light** *Phos hilaron (to Erhalt uns, Herr)*

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone.  
Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you his holy Son.

Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night.  
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.

Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, life-giving Lord;  
Wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

**Psalm 63:1-8**

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.

3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.

4 So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.

5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

6 When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.

7 For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

8 My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

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## The Lessons

Listen now to the Word of God

### The First Lesson

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### Musical Response

*Down the Wild River*

### The Second Lesson

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

*Lector* For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,  
and for the Word of God within us,

*People* Thanks be to God.

### Reflection

Toni Artuso

### Music after the Reflection

*The South Wind*

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## The Prayers

*Leader* We pray for all who work through the power of Christ, serving the needs of the poor and healing the wounds of injustice, division and materialism in our society. Lord, in your mercy.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray for the elderly, the sick and the lonely among us: that they may receive comfort, companionship and care from those around them. Lord, in your mercy.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray that those who have been persecuted or seriously wronged by others may experience warmth and love with Christ, and be able to forgive those who have hurt them. Lord, in your mercy.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray that when we are discouraged, we may find strength in the signs of a loving and faithful God in those around us, and the joy of the Holy Spirit within us. Lord, in your mercy.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray for those whom we love but no longer see; those who have gone beyond the veil of this mortal life, that their souls and the souls of all the departed may rest in peace. Lord, in your mercy.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray for all those who have asked for our prayers and for those who have no one to pray for them. Lord, in your mercy.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Here, the people may add particular intercession and thanksgivings.*

### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Collect for James Solomon Russell**

O God, the font of resurrected life, draw us into the wilderness and speak tenderly to us, so that we might love and worship you as your servant James Solomon Russell did, in assurance of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Justice**

God, who made us in your infinite creativity, you have chosen the spectrum of the rainbow to be the sign of your blessing and protection. We pray for your children in the rains of inequality and oppression, that they would see your blessing. **Amen.**

*Leader* Jesus says, "Come to me you who are troubled and I will give you rest." So come, you who are broken in body or in spirit, you who are torn by relationships and doubt, you who feel deeply within yourselves the divisions of the world. Come, for Jesus invites us to bring our brokenness. From now until the end of the service, you are invited to come to the Lady Altar and light a candle and kneel at the rail for prayers. There is a healing space at the back of the Lady Chapel for you. Please move about as the Spirit leads you.

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**Music during Prayers**

*Hector the Hero*

**Hymn #469 in The Hymnal 1982**

*There's a wideness*

**The Grace** See that ye be at peace among yourselves, and love one another. Follow the example of good men and women of old and God will comfort you and help you, both in this world and in the world which is to come. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

### **The Holy Communion**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts

**People** **We lift them to the Lord**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**People** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right to thank you and praise you giver of life, beloved of the poor and forgotten. We praise you for the prophets who in spite of persecution spoke your challenging word. We praise you that in Christ you chose to be born in a stable and revealed to poor shepherds. We praise you for Mary, first witness of the resurrection; and for all the women and men who have been trusted and empowered by you. With all the unremembered, outcast, with the poor and needy, with the trusting and hopeful in all the ages we praise you saying:

**People** **Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant* We praise you for Jesus Christ, born of peasant parents, friend of lepers and tax collectors, who chose a life given up for others. On the night before he died he shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them saying:

**People** **“This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

*Celebrant* After supper he took a cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to them saying:

**People** **“This is my life-blood poured out for you. Do this to remember me.”**

*Celebrant* So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All** **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant* Come now Holy Spirit of God. Come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that in sharing this feast we may become the body of Christ. Break down walls of selfishness and fear and bring us all to the new age in which none go hungry and all are fed. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory now and forever. **Amen.**

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## The Lord's Prayer

## The Breaking of the Bread

## The Invitation

*Celebrant* This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,

You who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,

you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

## Communion

## Concluding Prayer

**All** God of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Amen.

**Blessing** May joy and nothing less find you on the way.

May you be blessed and a blessing.

And may light guide you, and countless others, on the way home.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

*Officiant* May the Lord grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Concluding Musical Meditation

*Morrison's Favorite*

## Worship Leaders

The Reverend Deborah Phillips

Ryan, Patten, Debbie Phillips, Eric Wagner

Paul Massari

Toni Artuso

Kai Freyleue

Marianne Cannon

*Officiant*

*Musicians*

*Assisting*

*Reflection*

*Prayers*

*Usher*

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### **Parish Prayer List**

Reny Sparapani, Gary Young, Amy, Paul, Chuck Brown, Heather and Prescott, Ariana, Sheridan, Javy, Faith Aroko and Family, Jesse Hurst and Family, Neal and Maureen Joyce, Arthur, Deb Young, Cindy Rhodes, Ron, Gerald Tucker, Allison Mascolo, Melissa Glassman, Max Joyce, Marc Britt, those battling cancer, especially Faith's friend and the Princess of Wales, for Mel, Corey MacNeil, Dianne, Michael Towey, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Priscilla Lemons, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their ministries; the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem, the Salem Public Schools and for an end to racism, war, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, gun violence and oppression. In thanksgiving, we pray for this community of faith, for God's grace and forgiveness, for those with the courage to stand up to tyranny, for creation, for the diversity of people, and for all the blessings of this life.

If you have additions or deletions to the prayer list, please email [prayerlist@gracechurchsalem.org](mailto:prayerlist@gracechurchsalem.org) by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news.

### **Welcome Everyone!**

**Welcome to those of you here for the first time.** Please feel free to move about the space during the service, lighting candles or praying at the Lady Altar.

**All are welcome by God to the heavenly banquet.** The Episcopal Church offers the sacraments to anyone baptized in any denomination who, through prayer and thoughtful consideration, desires them. Please come to the communion rail to receive the bread and wine, whether you are an Episcopalian or not, or to receive a blessing.

**Please join in the singing!** The songs are printed either in the leaflet or in our Hymnal.

**We are a self-supporting congregation,** so when you pass the plate at the back of the chapel, please be generous. Today's collection will support our ministries to the community.

**When coming to communion,** please note that the bread is **gluten free**.

**We ask that you sign the guestbook at the entrance of the church.** If you want more information, our web address is [www.gracechurchsalem.org](http://www.gracechurchsalem.org). Our weekly newsletter, called Grace Notes can also be found there. If you wish to receive the newsletter, simply go to the website, open Grace Notes and subscribe.

**We hope you find the service meaningful** and the community's hospitality inviting.

*Thank you for praying with us today.*

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## **James Solomon Russell: March 28**

James Solomon Russell was born into slavery on December 20, 1857, near Palmer Springs, Virginia. He became known as the father of St. Paul's College (one of the three historically Black Episcopal colleges) and was the founder of numerous congregations, a missionary, and a writer. He was the first student of St. Stephen's Normal and Theological Institute (which later became the Bishop Payne Divinity School) in Petersburg, Virginia. In 1888, one year after his ordination as a priest in the Episcopal Church, Russell and his wife Virginia opened St. Paul's Normal School in Lawrenceville, Virginia. Russell's vision for the school was to provide both a literary and an industrial education. Religion was a mandatory subject, and students attended chapel twice daily. Russell served as the school's principal and chaplain until his retirement in 1929. For 52 years of ordained ministry in the Diocese of Southern Virginia, he worked tirelessly to encourage Black candidates to offer themselves for ordination so that they could care for the growing numbers of Black Episcopalians. In 1893, Russell was named the first Archdeacon for Colored Work. Southern Virginia soon had the largest population of African American Episcopalians in the United States, thanks in large measure to Russell's evangelistic efforts. In 1927, Russell was the first African American elected bishop in the Episcopal Church. However, he declined election as Suffragan Bishop for Colored Work in the Dioceses of Arkansas and North Carolina, and he was glad that his action helped defeat the idea of subordinate racial bishops. Russell's ministry continued until his death on March 28, 1935. His autobiography, *Adventure in Faith*, was published the following year.



JAMES S. RUSSELL



**Defy Gravity**  
and join us for a  
**Movie and**  
**Sing-Along**  
with **Costume Contest**



**Friday, 4 April**  
**7:00 pm**

**\$5 per person**

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**385 Essex Street | Salem MA**



<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/grace-church/>

WEEKLY THEME

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

# LENT 2025

## *March Calendar*

This week, we invite you to reflect on “welcome”: how it feels and what it means to be welcomed.

This week, we invite you to notice and give thanks for the people who offer welcome in your communities.

Dear God, thank you **9** for all of the people who offer welcome, let them know our gratitude for their words and actions, even when we forget to acknowledge them.

**10** Running errands this week? Notice and respond to anyone who welcomes you as you enter a store.

**11** Are you a regular? Do you go to the same store or coffee shop each week? Do you go because you feel welcome? Tell the staff thank you!

This week, we invite you to consider and give thanks for organizations that welcome those in need of help.

Dear God, thank you **16** for all of the people who offer welcome to those in need in our community, from medical professionals to social service agencies. Bless and uphold them.

**17** Notice and give thanks for the free or low cost health offerings in your town such as Planned Parenthood or a free clinic.

**18** Notice and give thanks for those that offer welcome and help to the unhoused.

This week, we invite you to consider and give thanks for those who welcome immigrants, refugees, and migrants.

Dear God, we give **23** you thanks for encouraging us to be the sign of your love when we offer welcome and hospitality to the stranger. Uphold those that do this work on behalf of the church and help us support them in it.

**24** Today we give thanks and pray for the Episcopal congregations and ministries on the border of their country.

**25** Today we give thanks and pray for the Episcopal congregations and ministries offering welcome to migrants.

This week, we invite you to consider and give thanks for the ways we are welcomed by other cultures.

Dear God, we give **30** you thanks for the diversity of cultures and traditions in the world around us. Thank you for the richness this brings to our lives and communities.

**31** How is welcome and hospitality expressed in your culture? Give thanks for the way this has informed your life.

**Gratit**

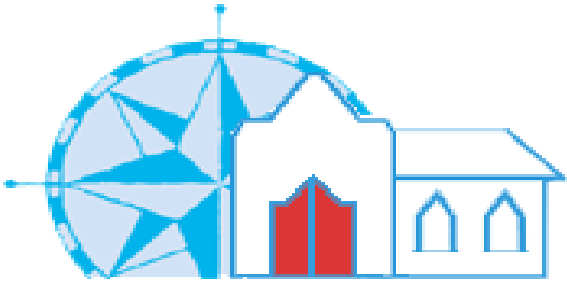
This calendar begins with reflecting with gratitude on Sundays will offer a prayer through opportunities to r on our social media platform [www.unitedthankoffering.org](http://www.unitedthankoffering.org).

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Ash Wednesday 5</b> Reflect on a time when you felt or experienced welcome. Why was that experience so memorable for you?	<b>6</b> Reflect on a time when you felt or experienced being unwelcome. Why was that experience so memorable for you?	<b>7</b> If you had to explain what "welcome" means to someone what would you say?	<b>8</b> <b>Self Care Saturday:</b> Do something today that helps you feel welcome at home, in your neighborhood, or in your body.
<b>12</b> Social Media invites? Say thank you to the community groups that organize events in your town to help connect people.	<b>13</b> Welcome wagon? Notice how your town welcomes people when they visit or move to town. How can or do you offer welcome?	<b>14</b> Enjoying a Friday night out? Notice and give thanks for the actions of others that help you feel welcome when you go out.	<b>15</b> <b>Self Care Saturday:</b> Do something today that helps you feel welcome at home, in your neighborhood, or in your body.
<b>19</b> Notice and give thanks for those that offer welcome and help to those suffering from substance use disorder: AA groups, overdose clinics, etc..	<b>20</b> Notice and give thanks for those that offer welcome and help to people in crisis: therapists, crisis hotlines, domestic violence shelters, etc..	<b>21</b> Notice and give thanks for those that offer welcome and help to those who are isolated: social workers, home visitors, etc..	<b>22</b> <b>Self Care Saturday:</b> Spend some time today cleaning out your house, donate gently used items to a local domestic violence shelter, or volunteer.
<b>26</b> Today we give thanks and pray for Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) and the refugees they welcome and support on our behalf.	<b>27</b> Today we give thanks for the contributions of immigrants to our community and society. Instead of scrolling the news, search for inspiring stories from these change-makers.	<b>28</b> Spend some time today thinking about the immigrant community in your area and learn how to say 'hello' and 'welcome' in their language.	<b>29</b> <b>Self Care Saturday:</b> Spend some time today learning about your family's story - were they immigrants, Indigenous people, or refugees?

### WELCOME is a journey...come journey with UTO and EMM this Lent.

Ash Wednesday and goes through Easter to help you spend a little time each day during Lent in the ways welcome is offered in our world. Each week will focus on a new area of welcome. To help us focus our thoughts, while Saturday will give an opportunity to care for ourselves, reflect, learn, grow, or engage. You can also receive these prompts via text message each day or join our weekly book group. For more information visit: [www.uto.org/lent](http://www.uto.org/lent)

# Grace Episcopal Church



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*Web: [www.gracechurchsalem.org](http://www.gracechurchsalem.org)*

*The Mission of Grace Church is to unconditionally invite all people to join us in building a faithful Episcopal congregation that goes out into the community and through prayer, presence, and partnering improves the quality of life by bringing everyone closer to God.*

## — Grace Episcopal Church —

*A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts*

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe  
The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth  
The Reverend Deborah A. Phillips  
The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler  
The Reverend Manny Faria  
Mark N. Peterson  
Tom and Karen Tucker

*Presiding Bishop*  
*Bishop Diocesan*  
*Rector*  
*Assisting Clergy*  
*Assisting Clergy*  
*Music Director*  
*Property Stewards*

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten  
Lisa Duffy  
Joanna Troy  
Melissa Barnes

*Senior Warden*  
*Junior Warden*  
*Clerk*  
*Treasurer*

Javy Awan, Marianne Cannon, Kai Freyleue  
Joanne Moar, Susan Tweed, Holly Willis

*Members of Vestry*