



Grace Notes

May/June 2022

From the Curate

Dear Grace Church,

Alleluia! He is risen! Below is an adapted version of the sermon I gave on John 20:1-18 for the First Sunday of Easter, the Feast of the Resurrection.

“Whom are you looking for?” Jesus asks Mary Magdalene, in the garden, in his first appearance after the Resurrection. “Whom are you looking for?”

Who and what are we looking for in church this Easter season? Why have we come?

Do we come looking for candy? Or music? These are good and holy things to look for during a feast, but in John’s gospel there is no chocolate that morning when Mary discovers the empty tomb. There are no trumpets, there’s no organ, no singing—only the quiet sounds of the world before dawn. Birdsong.

Do we come to church looking for a sense of calm? In John’s gospel there is no calm—in the stillness of those pre-dawn hours the disciples are running, afraid, weeping, grieving, running from the tomb to their homes to the tomb and back again.

Do we come looking for clear answers? In our gospel reading there are no clear answers. Only a stone removed. Some linen burial wrappings on the floor. Fear. Grief. Confusion. Angels who ask Mary Magdalene about her tears. Jesus, unrecognizable to Mary until he calls her by name.

Do we come to church looking for fellowship? For community? In this story of that first morning after the Resurrection, we do find this. In Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved, we see the community of the first disciples, and we can find fellowship with them and with one another at church, no matter why we have come, no matter what or whom we are looking for.

Some of us may feel kinship with Peter, who has abandoned and denied Jesus and now enters the empty tomb and sees the linen cloths, turns around, leaves, and goes home.

The text doesn’t tell us what Peter thinks or feels. And maybe we don’t know what to think or feel this Easter season. Maybe we’d rather not face the prospect of an empty tomb and what it might mean, maybe we need more time, maybe we’re not ready, maybe we’d rather simply turn around and go home. This is a perfectly normal and human reaction, and if we’re feeling this way, Peter is with us.

Others of us may feel a connection with the unnamed disciple whom Jesus loved, who sees the empty tomb and the burial cloth and simply believes, without question, without understanding, without seeing Jesus. The text doesn’t tell us what he believes, only that he does. Perhaps this is how some of us are feeling this

Eastertide, or how some of us long to feel.

And some of us may feel close to Mary Magdalene this Easter. After her fellow disciples have left, she stays at the tomb and weeps. Mary who is grieving the death of her beloved teacher and now what she supposes to be the theft of his body. Mary who has stayed with Jesus through his suffering and death on the cross now stays at the empty tomb. And this is where Jesus meets her. At the tomb, in her grief.

We are grieving, too. The losses of these last years, when we could not be together on Easter—for good reason, as we stayed apart to care for one another—these losses are enormous, immeasurable, and they continue. It is this place of immense grief and loss where Jesus meets Mary Magdalene and us, this Easter, and asks, “Why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

Do we come to church looking for hope? Looking for joy? Hope and joy are different from happiness—they are deep feelings that cannot be separated from the deep feeling of grief, and hope and joy are present in John’s Resurrection morning gospel. It is hope in Mary’s voice as she responds to Jesus calling her by name. Hope and joy are in her voice as she fulfills the role Jesus has given her as the apostle to the apostles, as she makes the first Gospel proclamation: “I have seen the Lord!”

Do we come to church looking for Jesus? Do we come to see Jesus? This is a place where we can find him this Eastertide, resurrected, changed, transformed. We find Jesus here, in our holy scriptures, calling us by name, asking us to bear witness to the power of God’s love through the

broken seal of his tomb. We find Jesus in the Eucharist, at his table, feeding us through the broken bread of his body.

And we find Jesus, here at Grace Church and out in the world, among us, in the faces and bodies of one another and of our neighbors, in the brokenness and blessedness of our own lives, of our own deaths—we encounter Jesus in and through the power of God’s love, a love that would transform, redeem, and resurrect us all.

“Whom are you looking for?”

We have seen the Lord!

With blessings for these Great Fifty Days of Easter,
Melissa †

Liturgy & Liturgical Ministry

By Jerré Croteau, Verger

Easter to Pentecost

As you already know, the first two Sundays in May, the **Third & Fourth of Easter**, fall within the two weeks of repose that our Parish chose as recommended by our Bishops. Our first weekend back to regular services will be May 14-15, The **Fifth of Easter**, with Holy Eucharist on Saturday and **Children’s Eucharist** on Sunday.

The next weekend May 21-22 will be the **Sixth of Easter** with regular services. Then May 28-29, the **Seventh of Easter** completes the Easter Season. This Sunday is also called the **Sunday after the Ascension**; the Feast of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, is the Thursday before.

Then on June 4-5 we celebrate the Holy Spirit and the dissemination of the Gospel to all the world with the **Feast of Pentecost**, one of the important feasts of the year. At the Sunday Festival Eucharist the Gospel is proclaimed in many languages, to symbolize the chaos and wonder of the crowds as the Apostles began to preach at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, in the languages of all those assembled. The color is **red**, like the tongues of fire that symbolized the Holy Spirit’s inspiration. On the ceiling of the chancel, one sees a circle of flames around the symbol of Christ the Chirho, the first two Greek letters in the spelling of Christ: ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ.

The following weekend, June 11-12 is **Trinity Sunday**, the honoring of the Blessed Trinity, the mystery of God in Three Persons. The color is **white**. It will be the last Sunday of the program year and the last at 10am until the new Program Year begins in September.

Beginning with **June 18** the Sunday service will be at **9am** at the Cary Altar in the Crossing for the rest of the summer. The Sundays are numbered from the Feast of Pentecost and the color is **green** for what is considered liturgically as “ordinary time.”

Lay Ministry Subdeacons, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Acolytes, Usher-Greeters

As of April 1, new diocesan guidelines were put in place necessitating changes in the procedures. These changes were gradually introduced during Holy Week, and those Lay Ministers whose role in the services was affected by these changes were informed of them.

Please try to be there for your report time, as many in the congregation arrive earlier than the start-time of the service, and it is difficult not to have ushers in place before the congregants arrive and to give instructions to others when they arrive late.

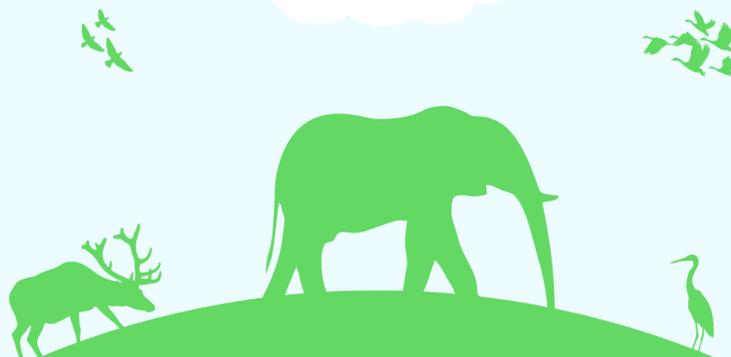
Re: **Changes, Trades, and**

Substitutions: The Verger makes every effort to honor all requests and limitations you may have before publishing the schedule and to distribute Sundays among you in a fair and equitable manner. But we realize that circumstances may arise once the schedule has been published which may necessitate your absence on a particular Sunday. If you know ahead of these changes, whether or not you have found someone with whom to trade or to substitute for you, **please inform the Verger no later than the Tuesday before the Sunday in question**, so that reminders and readings get to the right person, and the leaflet is accurate. If an emergency or unforeseen circumstance comes up after Tuesday, call the Verger as soon as possible and he will provide a substitute. **If anyone is interested in joining one of the Lay Minister Guilds, please contact the Verger, Jerré Croteau. We need lectors, ushers, and Acolytes.**

The Summer Schedule begins June 18 and runs through September 4. If you have requests or restrictions as to which Sundays you can serve, please let Jerré know by May 27 in order for it to appear on the Summer Schedule. Again, thank you all for your loyal service to your Parish Family.

WHO ARE OUR NEIGHBORS?

YOU ARE INVITED TO A RAFFLE FUNDRAISER, SPONSORED BY GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S YOUTH GROUP, WITH ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND



When: Sundae Sunday, June 12th, 2022, at 11:15am
(after the 10am church service)

Where: Grace Episcopal Church

Why: In this time of climate crisis, we are called to love and care for all of our neighbors—humans, animals, and plants.

How to help: Join us to eat ice cream and participate in the raffle, with prizes donated from local businesses.

You can also donate directly: online at gracechurchnb.org, with cash, or by writing a check. Please be sure payments are made out to Grace Episcopal Church with "World Wildlife Fund" in the memo line or written on the envelope.

SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship applications are available on the Grace website or by request to the office via email office@gracechurchnb.org. Scholarship applications must be submitted to the office by June 15th for consideration.

Two Poems for Eastertide

Here are two poems that invite us to encounter resurrection.

The first, by Marie Howe, re-imagines the story of Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb (John 20:1-18) as a contemporary cemetery scene.

The second poem, by Ross Gay, was shared on a Lenten poetry email list I subscribe to. The list's compiler, Sara Kay Mooney, writes that she chose this poem for Easter because although it is not specifically religious, it holds many "signs and scenes of resurrection" and " marvels at everyday wonders in the natural and human world."

With prayers of love and wonder,
Melissa †

Magdalene at the Grave

By Marie Howe

That long gone year, that late summer afternoon
driving toward the cemetery

and when the rain started falling hard – and then harder
turning back toward home

and then – as if something were pulling me –
pulling into a driveway and back again toward the grave.

Ridiculous as it was to park and kneel where he'd been
buried

– to kneel in the rain – I laughed out loud!

After a few minutes, I looked up and saw the other car
idling,
the driver's window rolled down.

The tears I wept were not tears of grief.
How many times must it happen before I believe?

Source: *Magdalene: Poems* (W.W. Norton, 2017)

Sorrow Is Not My Name

By Ross Gay

—after Gwendolyn Brooks

No matter the pull toward brink. No
matter the florid, deep sleep awaits.
There is a time for everything. Look,
just this morning a vulture
nodded his red, grizzled head at me,
and I looked at him, admiring
the sickle of his beak.
Then the wind kicked up, and,
after arranging that good suit of feathers
he up and took off.
Just like that. And to boot,
there are, on this planet alone, something like two
million naturally occurring sweet things,
some with names so generous as to kick
the steel from my knees: agave, persimmon,
stick ball, the purple okra I bought for two bucks
at the market. Think of that. The long night,
the skeleton in the mirror, the man behind me
on the bus taking notes, yeah, yeah.
But look; my niece is running through a field
calling my name. My neighbor sings like an angel
and at the end of my block is a basketball court.
I remember. My color's green. I'm spring.

—for Walter Aikens

Source: *Bringing the Shovel Down* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011)

Gifts March-April 2022

Community Breakfast

Gifts of James Bisagni

Martha's Pantry at Grace

Gift of Ken & Mary Lou Garrett **in Thanksgiving**

Gift of Cooper Insurance Company, Walter E. Dearing, Artie Hodge & Lavard Blanche, Arbella Insurance Foundation, Judy & Harland Knox, James Buck

Rector's Discretionary Fund

Gift of Priscilla Guillemette **in memory of Rosalie Hutchinson**

Gift of Michael Medeiros, Gift of Jean Brown, Memory Holloway & James Bisagni, Nancy & David Faria, Artie Hodge & Lavard Blanche, Juliette Berthiaume, Jean Brown

Gift of Gerry Lopes **in memory of Muriel Medeiros**

Flowers & Flower Fund

Gift of John Graça **in memory of José & Laura Graça**

Gift of Judy & Harold Isaksen **in thanksgiving for All Our Family and Loved Ones**

Gift of Nina Willever **in memory of our parents Donald B. White & Ellen H. White**

Gift of Shirley Beck **in memory of Dennis E. Beck and Dennis Beck II**

Gift of David King **in memory of Nathan R. King**

Gift of Pam & George McNamara **in memory of Regina Walker, Cecile, George F. & Don McNamara, John Moriarty, Bonnie & Keats Boyd**

Gift of Kingsley & Janet Doe **in memory of Berniece & James Miller, Mazelle Tilton, Anne Weidner, Judith Miller Phelps, Richard Phelps, Allen Doe, Norma Kreamer**

Gift of Joan Swain **in loving memory of my husband Paul Patrick Swain, my parents Tom & Alice Walsh, and All Deceased Family Members and Friends**

Gift of Nancy & David Faria **in memory of Henry P. & Anna Brindle, Paul & Mary G. Faria**

Gift of Maureen & Allen Decker **in memory of Mary Davis Virtue, Paul Edward Virtue, Mary Bernhardt Wolfe Decker and James Dewitt Decker II**

Gift of Gerry Lopes **in memory of Norman Lopes**

Gift of Rosa Pacheco **in memory of Milagros Pagán**

Outreach

Gift of Allen & Maureen Decker

Grace Cares

Gift of the Episcopal Church Women

Children & Youth

Gift of Jerré Croteau **in honor of the Ministry of Charlene Ryder**

Envelopes

Gift of Charlene Nelson, Donald Driesen

Memorial Fund

Gift of Thomas Spence III & Cynthia Spence and the Episcopal Church Women **in memory of Muriel Medeiros**

Gift of Karen & Gregory Kamon **in memory of Muriel Thompson Medeiros**

Gift of Norma Olivier **in memory of Dick Warburton**

Interchurch Council

Gift of Nancy & David Faria

Miscellaneous

Gift of John & Patricia Oliver, Mr. & Mrs. J. Andrew Frazee

Church Staff

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Curate	Rev. Melissa Howell
Director of Music	Brian Roderick
Parish Administrator	Katie Brengle
Verger	Gérald Croteau

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Junior Warden	Charles Green
Treasurer	Sharlene Begley
Assistant Treasurer	Karen Maciulewicz
Clerk	Sean Corwin

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 Andrea Medeiros
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