



Grace Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist II

Prelude: *Siciliana & Charconne on "The Call"*

Douglas Wagner/Gregory Hamilton

Welcome and Announcements

At the tolling of the tower bell, the congregation is asked to stand.

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

People **The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Opening Hymn: *Christ is made the sure foundation*

518

Collect for Purity

Gloria

Cassarino

Glo-ry to God in the Highest and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Lord God, Hea-ven-ly King, Al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we

worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, On - ly son of the fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us; you are seated at the

right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, for you a - lone are the

ho - ly one, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the most high,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit in the Glo - ry of God the

Fa - - - ther. A - - - - - men.

The Collect of the Day

The people sit.

BCP 225

Children's Moment

Candle Prayer

The priest lights the Christ Candle from the Altar

Celebrant We send you forth with the light of Christ;

People **We are bound together: one congregation, one Lord, one worship.**

Music in Procession: *This is the day* (from *Songs of Grace*)

66

THE WORD OF GOD

The First Lesson: Acts 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

From those who seek to / **do me harm,**
O set your / **servant free.**

Let your face shine full / **on me,**
your servant / **in your grace;**
In loving-kindness / **save, O Lord,**
and keep me / **in your peace.**

The Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn: *Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life*

487

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel: John 14:1-14

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the

Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

The Reverend Robert Hartmans

The Creed



1. We be-lieve in God al-might-y, Au-thor of all things that be. Ma-ker of the earth and hea-vens,
 2. We be-lieve that Je-sus suf-fered, scourged & scorned & cru-ci-fied; ta-ken from the cross, was bu-ried;
 3. We be-lieve in God's own Spi-rit, bond-ing all the saints with-in one church, cath-o-lic and ho-ly,



Keep-er of the sky and sea. We be-lieve in God's son, Je-sus, now for us both
 True Life there had tru-ly died. We be-lieve that on the third day Christ was raised up
 where for-give-ness frees from sin; in the bod-y's res-ur-rec-tion, for the break-ing



Lord and Christ, of the Spi-rit and of Ma-ry, born to bring a-bun-dant life.
 from the grave, then as-cen-ded to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 of death's chain gives the life that's ev-er-last-ing. This the faith that we have claimed.

The Prayers of the People

Reader In the Glory of the Paschal light, we pray to God.

Reader God, awake those who sleep, raise us from death.

People **Christ will give us life!**

Reader God, you walked with the Disciples on the road to Emmaus, in this season of resurrection, give the Church the grace to recognize you anew, that we might serve you with courage and grace.

People **In the new Easter light we proclaim your redeeming work.**

Reader You redeemed Peter at breakfast by the fire. Bring new hope to your world, O God, that all might know the goodness of your Love.

People **Make us instruments of your peace.**

Reader Lead us from the empty tomb to proclaim your grace in this nation, and inspire our leaders toward peace and cooperation.

People **In Easter we learn to honor one another and serve the common good.**

Reader The courageous women ran from the empty tomb to proclaim new life. The resurrected Christ is a mission of hope to those who suffer, we especially pray for Linda & David Adams, Joan & Allyn Aldrich, Judy Rhodes Baroody, Martha Boyette, Anne Jarema, Todd Kaderabek, Mike Miller, Walt & Joyce Noble, Natalie & Andrew Owens, Wayne & Laura Parton, Elaine Potter, Kyle Rhodes, Ann Robinson, Jeff Russell, Nancy Sink, Becky & Bill Smith, Laura, Tsz-yan (G-Yen) and Roger Snyder, Rita Spragg, Lydia Vander Voort & Andy Steele, Jennifer Witt, Ed & Marla Woeckener... and all those you now name.

(All are invited to pray silently or aloud)

God, resurrect us.

People **So that we may know the healing power of your love!**

Reader After you were raised you ate and drank with the disciples. Bring us, and all who have died, peace and assurance of the Resurrection. We especially pray for Ray Lutz, and on the anniversary of their deaths we pray for Pat Anderson and Mae Siler, and for those who still grieve them...Are there others?

(All are invited to pray silently or aloud)

God who resurrects;

People **Remind us daily to share in your eternal Kingdom.**

Reader In the Easter light, change our hearts that we might grow larger in faith and hope. Let us give thanksgiving for those celebrating birthdays, especially Lucy Bowen.

People **Help us to reach out with Christ's life-giving hands.**

Priest Christ has burst forth from the tomb, making all things new. Grant that we may now live by faith, and with joy behold the coming of your resurrection work in the world around us.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem: *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

American Folk Hymn/arr. William Moore

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God above you heavenly host, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 3

(from *Enriching Our Worship*)

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.

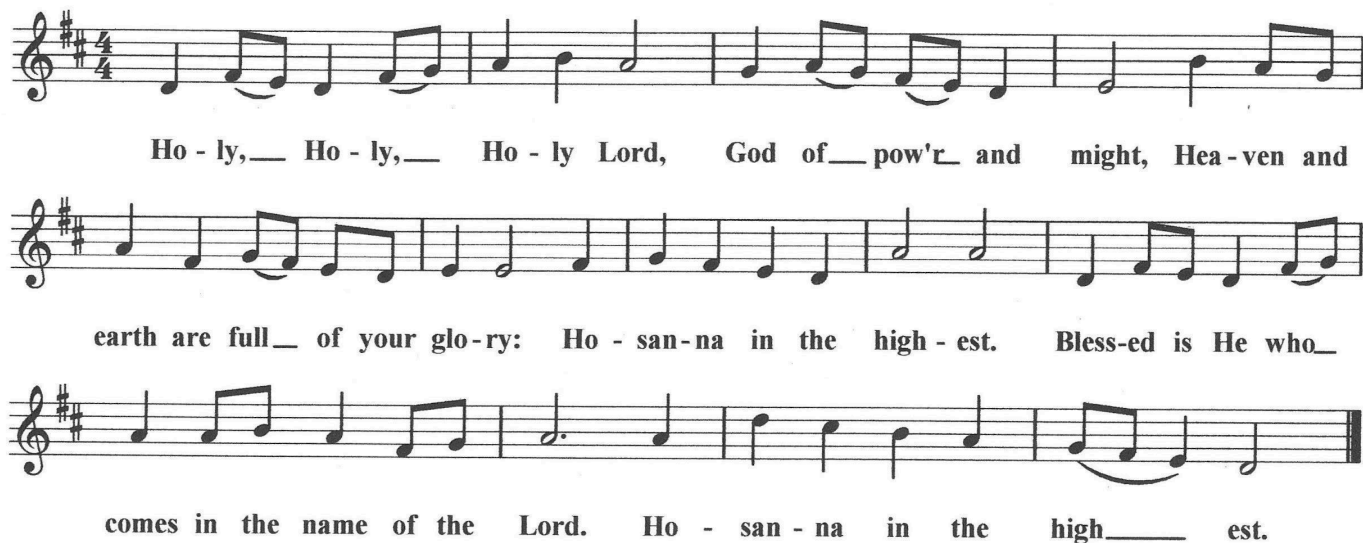
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus

Cassarino



Ho - ly, — Ho - ly, — Ho - ly Lord, God of — pow'r and might, Hea - ven and
earth are full — of your glo-ry: Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He who —
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high — est.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Celebrant continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

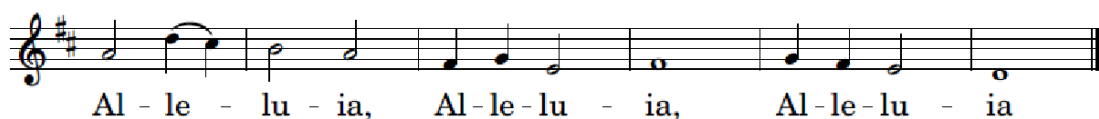
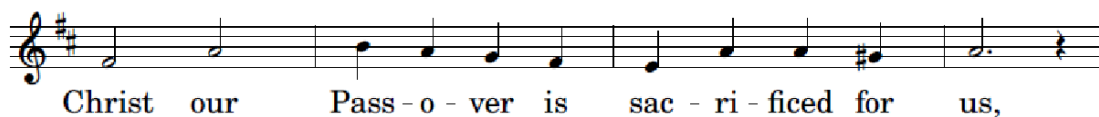
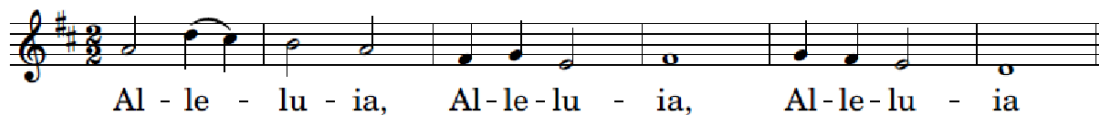
The Lord's Prayer *(Traditional)*

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Cassarino



Invitation to Communion

(gluten free wafers available upon request)

Communion Hymn: *Gift of finest wheat (Songs of Grace)*

14

Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors

When a Eucharistic Minister is to be sent forth, the following is said

Celebrant (Cliff/Lorie/James), in the name of God and this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom You go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.

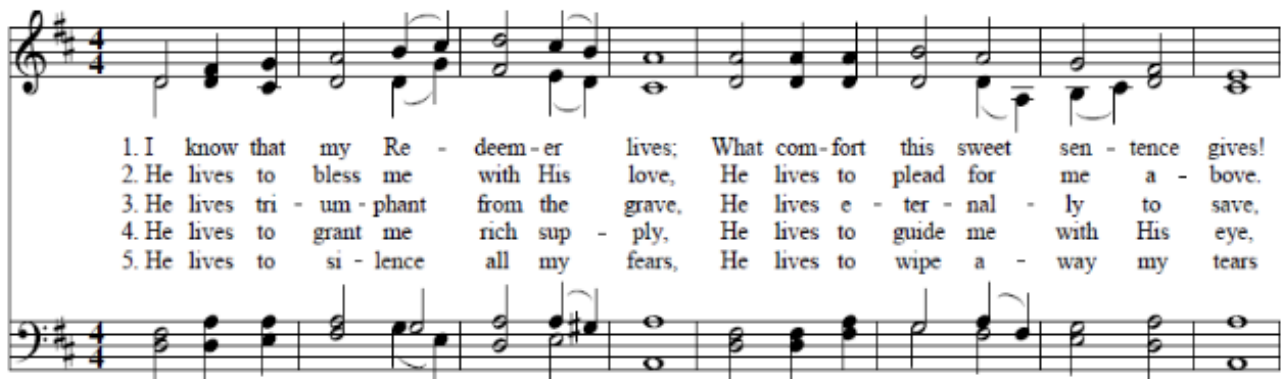
People We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.

Post Communion Prayer

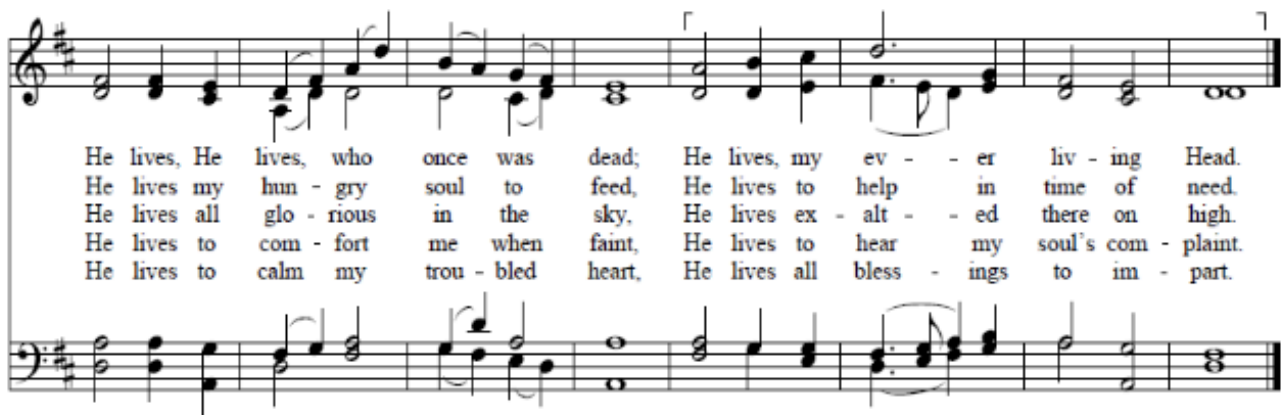
BCP 365

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: *I know that my Redeemer lives*



1. I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort this sweet sen - tence gives!
2. He lives to bless me with His love, He lives to plead for me a - bove.
3. He lives tri - um - phant from the grave, He lives e - ter - nal - ly to save,
4. He lives to grant me rich sup - ply, He lives to guide me with His eye,
5. He lives to si - lence all my fears, He lives to wipe a - way my tears



He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ev - - er liv - ing Head.
He lives my hun - gry soul to feed, He lives to help in time of need.
He lives all glo - rious in the sky, He lives ex - alt - - ed there on high.
He lives to com - fort me when faint, He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
He lives to calm my trou - bled heart, He lives all bless - ings to im - part.

Dismissal

Postlude: *How Firm a Foundation*

Jason Payne



The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by
Kim & Rick Hayes in thanksgiving for their Grace Church family.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Carol & Steve Booth in
loving memory of David, Barbara and Angela.



LAY MINISTERS

Crucifer: Kyle Rhodes Torches: Lucy & Charlie Rhodes

Chalicer: Steve Birkhofer Lectors: Kristen Dusenbery, Elise Cassarino

Intercessor: Sara Howard Presenters: Greg Townsend

Ushers: Todd & Katherine Kaderabek

Greeters: Carole Lentz, Diane Wilkey, Melanie Druckenmiller

Streaming: James Cannon

Vestry Member of the Day: Monty Wooten

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Sunday Offering

Today is the first Sunday of the month, when our open plate offering (undesignated cash, change and checks) goes to support the clergy's discretionary fund, enabling them to respond quickly to the emergency needs of others. Please be generous.

Rev. Robert's Office Hours

Rev. Robert can be found at the church on Tuesday afternoons, Monday and Thursday mornings, and by appointment. He can be reached in person or at hartmansrobert@gmail.com or by his cell 423-400-0826 for any pastoral care concerns.

Children's Chapel

Every Sunday, the 10:30 service will begin with a Children's Moment followed by a procession to the Children's Chapel for ages 5-12. Children will return during the passing of the peace. Children are welcome to join the chapel or remain with their grown-ups in the congregation. If you would like to get involved, please email Casey Miller, casandra.miller@gmail.com.

Christian Formation Planning Sessions

Robert Hartmans and Deb Rice are hosting two sessions geared toward generating ideas about how to structure Christian education and formation at Grace Church. All are welcome to join one or both sessions. The conversation will last approximately an hour.

Session I: 9:00 a.m. Sunday, May 3 in the Library.

Session II: 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 6 in the Library.

Irving Street Property Update

Part of the Irving Street property Grace sold in 2025 has been placed back on the market. Just days before the listing went public, the seller approached our church to make us aware of their plans. The vestry was informed and they plan to take no action. If you have any questions or are interested in understanding more about this, please reach out to the Senior Warden, Paul Vest, or Priest-in-Charge Robert Hartmans. The Vestry is working with the Buildings and Grounds team on the continued use of proceeds from the 2025 sale. More information will be available after the May 18 Vestry meeting.

Church Access

Now that the new door lock is working, the church building can be accessed during business hours and around regularly-scheduled worship services. If you need to get in at other times, please call the office at 828-254-1086.

May PubSing! Meeting

PubSing will meet on Mother's Day, **May 10**. We will gather at the home of David & Sally Withers, **55 Rocky Laurel Hill, Swannanoa**. We will play and sing from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. Afterwards, the Withers are doing a cookout with burgers and hotdogs. Please bring sides to accompany the meal. Also, bring a chair and a song about mothers. Hope to see you there!

Advocacy and Action

Join us at noon on the fourth Sunday of the month in the downstairs conference room. All are welcome. If you're interested in meeting with a group of like-minded Grace members and friends to discuss how we might help bring justice in a more effective and joyful way, together rather than alone, please send an email or text to Tahani Sticpewich (828-301-0550; tahaniweb@gmail.com).

Jones Elementary School Annual Food Drive

April 19-May 24 – Donate items listed below for the end of school year food drive for 50 families in need from Jones Elementary. Grace is collecting the donations and Mosaic Realty group will be packing and delivering bags to the 50 family homes in June. We need 50 of each item: Oatmeal, Rice, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Beans, Soup, Proteins, Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Fruit and Canned Vegetables. Contact Sarah Beasley at sdkbeasley@gmail.com with questions.

Flower Guild Donors

The Flower Guild is looking for a donor for May 17. Flowers are \$60.00.

Pastoral Care Team

You might not know that there is a dedicated group of lay people who meet every week to pray for those on our parish prayer list and coordinate pastoral care. They are led by Lorie Tola and Cliff Albertson and they direct our clergy and other resources to meet people at Grace in difficult moments. If you are interested in their work please talk to Cliff, Lorie, or to Rev. Robert. We would love to plug you into the care network at Grace.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: *Sundays a.m.; Mondays p.m.* We offer the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for our children *Sundays between 9:00 and 10:15 a.m.*, and a *Monday afternoon class from 3:30-4:30 p.m.* Children may attend either one or both at any time. Contact Shannon Townsend for further information at gstownsend@att.net or 828-713-5081.

Monday Morning Bible Study: *Mondays at 10:30 a.m.*

We study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday service. Please join us virtually by clicking on the button at graceavl.com.

Chair Aerobics: *Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m.*

All are invited! Join Susan Robinson for a chair exercise class in the Parish Hall. Bring a pair of dumbbells. There is no fee to participate. This class is appropriate for people of all abilities. It can be done standing or seated. If you have questions, email Susan at SusanMac2@gmail.com.

Taizé: *Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.*

Weekly Taizé services are held in the sanctuary. Healing prayer is offered throughout the service for oneself or on behalf of someone else. For more information on Taizé at Grace, visit: graceavl.com/taize-grace.

Soaking Prayer: *Wednesdays at 12:00 noon*

Our Soaking Prayer Service continues every Wednesday from noon to 12:45. Come and see if this might be that special spiritual discipline that you have been looking for. All are welcome!

Women Walking the Way: *Thursdays at 8:20 a.m.*

Meet in the Bird Sanctuary parking lot by Beaver Lake for a walk around the lake and some spiritual reflection with like-minded women. For more information, contact Ann Lewis at annaflewis7@gmail.com or call her at 815-441-2282.

GRACE'S PRAYER LIST

For Congregants: **Linda & David Adams, Judy Rhodes Baroody, Anne Jarema, Todd Kaderabek, Mike Miller, Natalie & Andrew Owens, Wayne & Laura Parton, Elaine Potter, Kyle Rhodes, Ann Robinson, Jeff Russell, Becky & Bill Smith, Laura, Tsz-yan (G-Yen) and Roger Snyder, Lydia Vander Voort & Andy Steele, Jennifer Witt.**

For Homebound Congregants and Those in Healthcare Facilities: **Joan & Allyn Aldrich, Martha Boyette, Walt & Joyce Noble, Nancy Sink, Rita Spragg, Ed & Marla Woeckener.**

For Others: (Names will remain on the list for six weeks unless we hear otherwise). **Allen** (brother of Cheryl Aull); **Geraldine Allen** (aunt of Carole McClellan); **the Anderson Family** (friends of Bonnie Kistler); **Aubrey** (friend of Joe & Cheryl Aull); **Betsy Baldwin** (mother of Karen Baldwin); **Bob Brennan** (relative of Anne Jarema); **Channon, Mark & Tiffany Brown** (friends of Robert Hartmans); **the Brongel family** (daughter and family of Jackie Schauer); **Christa Brigman** (friend of Ginny Moser); **Betty Ann Bryant** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Marcie Coleman** (cousin of Linda McCredie); **Elizabeth & Mike Cogsdale** (friends of Fr. Timothy); **Presley Foxx** (granddaughter of Susan & Mark Sudimak); **Kathy Gerhardt** (daughter of

Nancy Clark); **Brady Gotwald** (great-nephew of Vicki & Paul Vest); **Tom Hunnicutt** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Robert & Katie Lyons** (friends of Ginny Moser); **Sally Mackay** (mother of Leslie Heiser); **Daniel McRee** (son of Fr. Timothy McRee) and **David** (husband of Daniel McRee); **Judy Wells Meehan** (friend of Rusty Herman); Brian Moore (Nephew of Rusty Herman); **Robert Noble, Jr.** (brother of Walt Noble); **Meredith Peppers** (aunt of Carol McClellan); **Val & Kip Pritchard** (friends of Cliff Albertson); **Kevin Randall** (friend of Ron & Jeanne Sims); **Sarah Ray** (cousin of Doug McClellan); **Sarah Schuman** (niece of Fr. Timothy McRee); **Wiley Thornton** (cousin of Carol McClellan); **Susan Thigpen** (friend of Jennifer Witt); **Tom & Joan** (friends of James Cannon); **Stephanie Tugurian** (daughter of Ron & Jeanne Sims); **Bev Whiting** (friend of Rusty Herman).

For the recently departed: **Ray Lutz.**

For those celebrating birthdays: **Lucy Bowen.**

For Those in Service to Our Country: **Tommy Brown** (grandson of Ed & Marla Woeckener); **Matt & Martha Cardenas** (daughter & son-in-law of Hannah Buckner); **John Davids** (nephew of Elaine Potter); **Matthew George** (son of Zoe Davis); **Jason Marino** (son of Lynda McCredie); **John Massey** (son-in-law of Mary Foster); **Brady Paschall** (granddaughter of Gael Paschall); **Sarah Jane Wilkey** (daughter of Diane & Tony Wilkey).

For Those in the Episcopal Church: **Sarah**, Archbishop of Canterbury; **Sean**, our presiding Bishop; **José**, our Bishop; **the clergy, vestry, staff, ministries, and people of this parish**; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for **The Church of Ireland**; and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, **Church of the Good Shepherd, Cashiers**; **Church of the Good Shepherd, Hayesville**; **Church of the Good Shepherd, Tryon.**

For our Nation and the Wider World: For the President and his Cabinet; for Congress; and for our country; for victims of violence around the world; for local agencies and those who work for relief of the poor; for stewardship of the environment; for resolution of crises throughout our world.



Grace's Mission Statement

Grace Church exists as a diverse community of the Body of Christ, to serve Jesus Christ our Lord. Our mission is to nurture and develop each individual to reach out and share God's love.



Grace Episcopal Church

871 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28804

828-254-1086 * graceavl.com

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

office@graceavl.com

The Right Reverend José McLoughlin, *Bishop of WNC*

The Reverend Robert Hartmans

The Reverend Timothy McRee

The Reverend John Rice

Clergy

James Cassarino, *Director of Music*

Cathy Adkins, *Organist*

Anne Spruance, *Office Administrator*

Katie Douglas, *Finance Manager*

Angel Stoudt, *Sexton*

Paula Foggo

Caroline Parson-Chambliss

Trinity Mickens

Nursery Workers