



remember

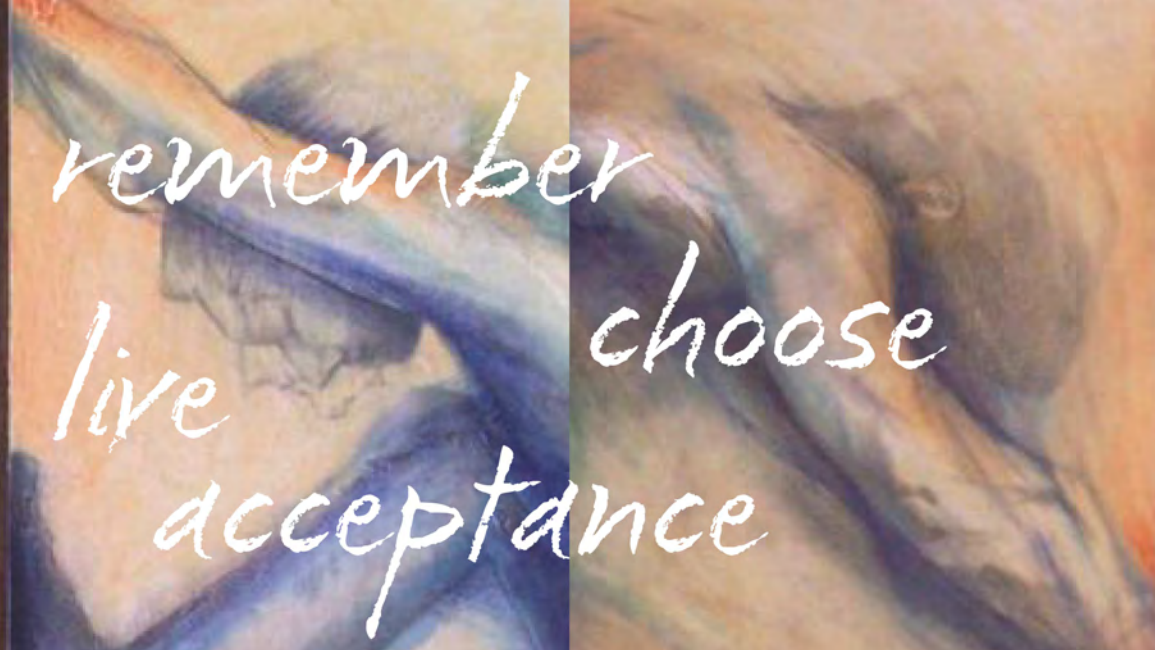
live

acceptance

choose

Lent, Holy Week & Easter at Grace

Poetry, Programs
& Service Times
for the Season



Choices

We have choices. Even as this season of Lent invites us to “let go” and release what has been, we have both power and possibility—and responsibility—in the choices we make. Our worship during this season will help us explore the spirit of choice—through our prayers, music, poetry and preaching we’ll have the chance both to affirm and confront the choices we make.

“Surely this word is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart . . . I call heaven and earth to witness today that I have set before you life and death. Choose life, so that you may live.” Deuteronomy 31:19

Ash Wednesday: Choose This: Rejection. Release. Acceptance. Affirmation.

The First Sunday of Lent: “Choosing to Remember”

The Second Sunday of Lent: “Choosing Acceptance”

The Third Sunday of Lent: “Choice and Consequences”

The Fourth Sunday of Lent: “Choosing the Lost and Found”

The Fifth Sunday of Lent: “Choosing to Live”

Palm Sunday: “We Chose This”

Easter Day: “God’s Choice”



consequences

God's choice
lost & found

Choose

THE single clenched fist lifted and ready,
Or the open asking hand held out and waiting.

Choose:

For we meet by one or the other.

Carl Sandburg



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Ash Wednesday Services

February 17, 10:30AM and 7PM

The service for Ash Wednesday centers on words that make us stop in our tracks: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. This, we say is, good news. And it is. We fall, we fail, God knows, it’s all good. Come and see.

Please take note: no Wednesday Prayer or Bible study on Ash Wednesday

Evening Healing Prayer

March 4, 8PM,

A contemplative service blending song, story, ritual and prayer with the intention of opening our hearts, mind and bodies to a healing presence. Designed and led by Kathie McCarthy and Ann Strickland.

Please take note: no Healing Prayer on April 4, Maundy Thursday.

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28, 8 AM & 9:30AM

Holy Week has its ups and downs. Just as we give ourselves to the giddy joy of a Palm Sunday parade, the story darkens. We are shocked to see parts of ourselves in the betrayers and in the betrayed. As the crowd tramples the palms and banners underfoot, we don’t quite know where the story is headed, but we have a feeling it’s going to get worse before it gets better.

Bring: ribbons on poles, flowering branches, walking shoes and warm coats.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 1, 7PM

We sit at a table in a lovely, quiet room. The food is wonderful—a soft murmur of voices regales us with wisdom, poetry. We hear Jesus say “Love one another. Like this...” Gently, he stoops to wash our feet—and shows us how to do likewise. But the betrayers are back, and this time they’ve brought reinforcements. In minutes, everything we know and love is stripped away.

Where have they taken him? What will we do? We’re rooted to the spot.

AND YES, THERE IS A RICHNESS CHILDREN CAN EXPERIENCE THROUGH THIS EVENING SERVICE. FOR KIDS, 8 AND OLDER—PERHAPS THE TENDERNESS OF THE MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE WILL LEAVE A LASTING IMPRESSION. †



consequences

God's choice
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The Watch

April 1, 9PM - APRIL 2, NOON

Can we—will we—watch with this night? We'll try. From the end of the service on Maundy Thursday to the start of the service on Good Friday, we can stand with Jesus as he struggles to take the step of love.

Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex at Grace beginning March 7.

Good Friday

Friday, April 2, two services, Noon & 7PM

Why do we call it "good?" A day of such challenge and sadness. Today, we'll try to answer that question. Come at noon to conclude the Watch or come in the evening. Time to tell the sad story once again and then listen to the echo in your heart. Through the story, and through our hearts, we experience the goodness.

The Noon Good Friday Service will include hammers and nails, as is our Grace tradition. The evening service will weave the ancient service of Tenebrae—candles, story, darkness—a traditional Good Friday service. Both services promise to be rich and powerful.

Easter Sunrise

Sunday, April 4, 6AM

We'll gather in candlelight to sing, pray, and wait in silence. This dawn service is quiet, simple, with easy chants to sing and stretches of silence broken by story.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4, Two Services: 9AM & 11AM

From small signs and quiet beginnings, the seeds of hope and reflection we've planted bear fruit and flowers and sky blue eggs. The cross blooms, the earth blooms, and we find ourselves eye-witnesses to God in the present moment!

Bring: Cut flowers

and please take note: We do not have an 8 AM service on Easter Sunday.

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Lenten Meditations from ERD

world is hurting. But we, as individuals, personal scars from childhood traumas, challenges have all taken their toll.

It's important to bring ourselves into helping others. The theme we came up with ourselves and a hurting world"... not the most catchy phrase to direct a design effort, nor is it exactly true that we can heal ourselves.

But we can work to raise our conscious awareness that we need healing, need forgiveness, need God. I hope these meditations help with that.



The are also hurting. Economic woes, illness, and the simple weariness of constant daily

some kind of balance so we are capable of

**(for ERD's 2010 meditations) was "healing*

— Sr. Claire Joy,
Community of the Holy Spirit

*The season of Lent is soon upon us and we invite you to share in this annual time of reflection to consider our lives and our relationship with the world around us. Sr. Claire Joy of the Community of the Holy Spirit has blessed us with her spiritual insights for our 2010 Lenten Meditations. Sign up today to receive the 2010 Lenten Meditations by Episcopal Relief & Development. Each day during Lent you will receive an email meditation to inspire, encourage and challenge you. Link to sign-up for the 2010 Daily Lenten Meditations on the front page of our grace website at gracehere.org

And as Episcopal Relief & Development continues responding to the earthquake in Haiti and praying for those affected, we are so grateful for your compassion and ongoing support.

Please keep holding the people of Haiti in your prayers and visit er-d.org/HaitiCrisis Thank you.

interactive pdf link
to sign-up for lenten
meditations.

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God's choice
lost & found

Poetry for the Season

Tree

by Jane Hirshfield

*It is foolish
to let a young redwood
grow next to a house.*

*Even in this
one lifetime,
you will have to choose.*

That great calm being,
this clutter of soup pots and books—

Already the first branch-tips brush at the window.
Softly, calmly, immensity taps at your life.

Choices

by Tess Gallagher

I go to the mountain side
of the house to cut saplings,
and clear a view to snow
on the mountain. But when I look up,
saw in hand, I see a nest clutched in
the uppermost branches.

I don't cut that one.

I don't cut the others either.

Suddenly, in every tree,
an unseen nest

where a mountain
would be.

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Tuesdays at Grace— Seasonal Offerings

Soul School continues to offer hope and inspiration in the quiet dark of winter. Through Tuesdays with Grace we learn together from inspirational speakers and each other about our faith journey. Child care is always available; let us know in advance if possible.

The Bishop is Coming . . .

. . . which is not at all like saying the “Red Coats” are coming.

But, the Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel will indeed be visiting Grace this June. While Greg has visited Grace informally, this will be his first official visitation on a Sunday morning—so mark June 27th as a day of celebration for all of us. And to add to the joy, that day is also the Bishop’s birthday!

Traditionally, when a Bishop visits, there is the chance for members of the community to be blessed by him. If you would like to formally join the Episcopal Church through Confirmation or Reception, or if you would simply like to re-affirm your faith when Bishop Rickel is here, please let Bill Harper know right away.

Lenten Evenings at Grace — A Simple Meal and Honest Conversation

Four Tuesdays in Lent, 7 PM to 8:30 PM, Includes light supper

This year the focus of our Tuesday evenings in Lent will be: Re-Membering Grace: Believing, Belonging, Membering and Serving. These 4 evenings of presentations and conversation, lead by Bill Harper, will invite us to talk about belonging together and belonging to Grace. Whether Grace has been your home for many years, or just for a few weeks, these evenings will bring both information and inspiration. We’ll learn about each other, Grace Church, the Episcopal Church, and even the Great Big, World Wide Anglican Community. We’ll start each night with soup at 6:30, and the program will begin at 7 and end with Compline at 8:30.

Tuesday, March 2: Believing (in general)

Tuesday, March 9: Belonging (do I?)

Tuesday, March 16: Membering (joining? Really?)

Tuesday, March 23: Serving (believing is doing)

If you’ve ever wondered what it just might mean to “join” Grace, these evenings are for you. And if you’d like to be Confirmed or Received by the Bishop—well, these great nights will be an essential part of that commitment.