

# Grace to You

Grace Episcopal Church  
The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby,  
Priest-in-Charge  
May, 2017

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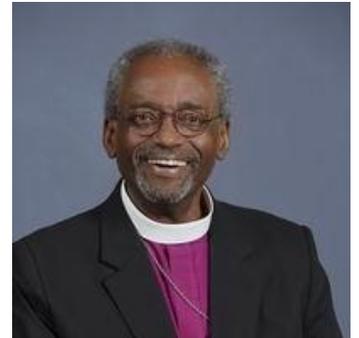
**Church circuit number: 715 434-1040**

Our vision: "Come to know and live with God at our table."

The mission of Grace Church is to have a church committed to God and our neighbors, sustained by individuals dedicated to providing spiritual opportunities to enhance the feelings of family and community.

## Easter 2017 Message

It's taken me some years to realize it, but Jesus didn't just happen to be in Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. He wasn't on vacation. He wasn't just hanging out in town. Jesus was in Jerusalem on purpose. He arrived in Jerusalem about the time of the Passover when pilgrims were in the city. When people's hopes and expectations for the dawn of freedom that Moses had promised in the first Passover might suddenly be realized for them in their time. Jesus arranged his entrance into Jerusalem to send a message. He entered the city, having come in on one side of the city, the scholars tell us, at just about the same time that Pontius Pilate made his entrance on the exact opposite side of the city. Pilate, coming forth on a warhorse. Pilate, with soldiers around him. Pilate, with the insignias of Rome's Empire. Pilate, representing the Caesars who claimed to be son of god. Pilate, who had conquered through Rome the people of Jerusalem. Pilate, representing the Empire that had taken away their freedom. Pilate, who represented the Empire that would maintain the colonial status of the Jewish people by brute force and violence. Jesus entered the city on the other side, not on a warhorse, but on a donkey, recalling the words of Zechariah:



*Behold your King comes to you  
Triumphant and victorious is He  
Humble and riding on a donkey*

Jesus entered the city at the same time as Pilate to show them, and to show us, that God has another way. That violence is not the way. That hatred is not the way. That brute force and brutality are not the way. Jesus came to show us there is another way. The way of unselfish, sacrificial love. That's why he entered Jerusalem. That's why he went to the cross. It was the power of that love poured out from the throne of God, that even after the horror of the crucifixion would raise him from death to life. God came among us in the person of Jesus to start a movement. A movement to change the face of the earth. A movement to change us who dwell upon the earth. A movement to change the creation from the nightmare that is often made of it into the dream that God intends for it. He didn't just happen to be in Jerusalem on that Palm Sunday. He went to Jerusalem for a reason. To send a message. That not even the titanic powers of death can stop the love of God. On that Easter morning, he rose from the dead, and proclaimed love wins. So you have a blessed Easter. Go forth to be people of the Resurrection. Follow in the way of Jesus. Don't be ashamed to love. Don't be ashamed to follow Jesus. Have a blessed Easter. And bless the world. Amen.

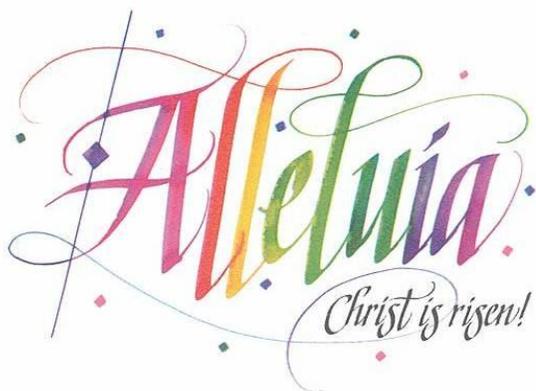
**The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry**  
**Presiding Bishop and Primate**  
**The Episcopal Church**

**Bishop's Easter Letter to the Diocese of Eau Claire**  
**April 15-16, 2017**

Dear Friends and Family of the Episcopal Diocese of Eau Claire,  
By the time we are five years old and on we become aware of death. We see death in animals and in other humans who touch our lives. We know that one day our time will come. The threat of death is one of the most powerful means by which the mighty impose their will on the weak. It is appropriate that we connect sin with death. In Chapters 2 and 3 of the Book of Genesis we had access to the Tree of Life but forfeited it in disobeying God and seizing the forbidden fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. As a result human life is one of knowing what is right and wrong and, in spite of this understanding, making wrong choices. Into this sad human condition comes Jesus Christ. The word Christ means Anointed One. When Samuel anointed David as the new King of Israel in 1 Samuel 16, it was a sign of God's favor. David was a child, an unknown, but God knew what was in his heart. David became a great leader but also a great sinner. In spite of the things he did wrong, David would never end his relationship with God. He would repent and seek forgiveness. In return God never withdrew his favor. David was his anointed. In this context Jesus is more than Christ. He is more than the Anointed One. The disciples came to understand that Jesus was more than favored by God but was God himself. Jesus was God incarnate—made flesh. He was Emanuel—God with us. He also in knowing good and evil chose the good—always. He therefore was without sin. Jesus' death on the Cross was an attempt by authorities, both Jewish and Roman, to shame and humiliate him. They believed the horrible death of crucifixion would silence not only the person of Jesus but his message as well. It was an old and familiar story. "We don't like you and what you say. By killing you we don't have to listen anymore." The Cross is also a statement that humans control this world, and God is someone humans only imagine exists. The Easter event blows up this conventional thinking. Jesus carries the marks of the Cross but appears before Mary Magdalene and the disciples. He has crossed from death into a new, heavenly life. The Gospels and Epistles now have the disciples and early Church members trying to make sense of Jesus' Resurrection. As humans we first have to accept this new information as fact. Then we have to make sense of it. We need to interpret it and incorporate this new reality in our view of the world and of ourselves. The primary teaching of Jesus' Resurrection is that it isn't only for Jesus. It is promised to us. If we do our best to live as Jesus did on earth, we too will be raised from the dead. In the language of the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2 and 3, Jesus leads us through the death symbolized by the flaming swords of the cherubim established by God to block re-entry to the Garden (Genesis 3:22-24) and returns us to the Tree of Life. This means death is conquered, and we are restored to a wonderful relationship with God. Like the Prodigal Son, we have returned to and been embraced by the Holy Family! May this Eastertide fill you with joy and new life with Jesus the Christ, the Son of God! Alleluia! With my love and best wishes, I remain,



**Your brother in Christ,**  
**W. Jay Lambert**  
**VI Bishop of Eau Claire**



## *Your Vestry*

Paul Chase, Sr. Warden  
Marv Thompson, Jr. Warden  
LaVonne Thompson, Clerk  
Tom Yeakley, Treasurer  
Janelle Gruetzmacher (2018)  
Suzanne Funck (2018)  
Ann Roeder (2019)  
Eileen Yeakley (2019)  
Lynn Fowler (2020)  
Steve Harback (2020)

From the Transition  
Committee

Watch your email or mailbox next week for the church survey results. We will be meeting on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> for a general discussion of these results. Don't miss this opportunity to share your ideas and to hear what others in our congregation are thinking about the future of Grace Church.



This beautiful Easter banner was designed and constructed by our organist, Heidi Olson. The colorful butterflies signify the Risen Christ. What a lovely addition to our place of worship, Heidi, Thank you for surprising us with this gift **and** above all, thank you for sharing your year-round gift of music.

## *Prayer Chain*

Requests may

- Emailed to Mary Thompson at [marthomp45@gmail.com](mailto:marthomp45@gmail.com)
- Submitted on our website: [www.gracechurch-ricelake.org](http://www.gracechurch-ricelake.org)

## *Can't Make it to church??*

Use our church circuit. Just dial 715 434-1040 on your land line or cell phone and you will hear the service in its entirety. Put it on speaker phone for hands-free listening. We can accommodate up to 20 callers on this line at one time.



## Sharing in Life's Moments

### May Birthdays

- 2 Bev Burnap
- 6 Father Kirby
- 13 Craig Fowler
- 20 Aurora Moline

### May Anniversaries

- 6 *Fred & Cindy Hansen*
- 6 *Nancy & Donald Plourde*
- 17 *Bambridge & Joy Peterson*
- 23 *Nate & Lee Levenhagen*
- 31 *Ted & Greta Franti*

Calling all  
2017  
graduates...  
We will honor high  
school graduates  
and any individuals receiving  
advanced or technical degrees. Please  
contact the Church office if you or a  
member of your family qualify. All  
will be honored at a Sunday service  
this spring.



## Remembering...

Arlen Rue "Skip" Carlson

4/22/2017

Arlen Rue "Skip" Carlson, age 82, of Rice Lake, WI passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, WI surrounded by his family and Father Scott Kirby.. Please join us to Celebrate Arlen's Life on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at Grace Episcopal Church, 119 W. Humbird St., Rice Lake, WI. Service begins at 11:30 AM with visitation prior from 10 - 11:30 at the Church. Lunch will be served at the Church after the service followed by inurnment and Military Honors at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spooner, WI where Military Rites will be accorded by the Rice Lake Veterans Center Honor Guard.

Our love and condolences are extended to Liz and the family.

# May Ministry Schedule, 2017

The Service	May 7 The 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun. in Easter Holy Eucharist	May 14 The 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun. in Easter Holy Eucharist	May 21 The 6 <sup>th</sup> Sun. in Easter Morning Prayer	May 28 The 7 <sup>th</sup> Sun. in Easter Holy Eucharist	June 4 The Day of Pentecost Holy Eucharist
Celebrant	The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby	The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby	Paul Chase, Worship Leader	The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby	The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby
Organist	Kathy Schultz		Heidi Olson	Heidi Olson	Heidi Olson
Crucifer	Joe Burnap	Craig Fowler	X	Jon Olson	Paul Chase
Lector	Bev Burnap	Jane Bender	Suzanne Funck	Mary Marsh	Greta Franti
Eucharistic Ministers & Torch Bearers	Bev Burnap Mary Marsh	Lynn Fowler Eileen Yeakley	X	Paul Chase Nancy Pelish	Marv & Mary Thompson
Ushers	Tom & Eileen Yeakley	Ty & Janelle Gruetzmacher	Marv & Mary Thompson	Jim Pelish Mary Marsh	Craig & Lynn Fowler
Counters	Joe Burnap Nancy Bender	Ty Gruetzmacher Mary Ellen Filkins	Marv Thompson ?	Jim Pelish Ty Gruetzmacher	Lynn Fowler Nancy Bender
Coffee Hour Hosts	Stacey Tubbs	<b>Donuts provided Men make coffee and serve the ladies, please.</b>	Nancy Bender	Janelle Gruetzmacher	Mary Marsh

**If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please try to find your own substitute.**