

## Charles Grafton

Charles Grafton was born April 12, 1830 in Boston, and attended Harvard Law School. He was confirmed at Church of the Advent— then a leading parish implementing the principles of the Oxford Movement— where he began seriously to explore his vocation. After graduation he moved to Maryland to study with the Tractarian Bishop William Whittington who eventually ordained him deacon on December 23, 1855, and priest on May 30, 1858.

Grafton served a number of parishes in Maryland but experienced a growing attraction to the religious life. In 1865, he left for England specifically to meet Edward Bouverie Pusey. In the following year, after a series of meetings held at All Saints, Margaret Street, Grafton and two others took religious vows and the Society of St. John the Evangelist had its beginning. In 1872, Grafton returned and was elected fourth Rector of the Church of the Advent, Boston.

In 1888, Grafton was elected second bishop of Fond du Lac. His consent process was difficult as many thought him too ritualistic, but he soon became known not only as an Anglo-Catholic but also as an ecumenist, deeply committed to improve relations with the Orthodox and Old Catholics. He founded the Sisters of the Holy Nativity.

Perhaps the most famous event during Grafton's long episcopate was the ordination of his successor in 1900. He invited the Russian Orthodox Bishop Tikhon and the Old Catholic Bishop Anthony Kozlowski to participate. The service stirred up furor across the country with the publication of a photograph (called derisively "The Fond du Lac Circus") that showed all eight Episcopal bishops and the two visiting bishops in cope and miter. It caused a church-wide furor over ritual and vestments that lasted for over six months, with accusations and threats of ecclesiastical trial flying from all corners, and with scurrilous attacks and virulent justifications. When the dust finally settled, the legitimacy of traditional catholic ritual and vestments had thereafter gained a permanent place in the liturgy in the Episcopal Church.

Bishop Grafton died August 30, 1912.

*Leader:* Peace on each one who comes in need,  
*All:* ***Peace on each one who comes in joy.***

*Leader:* Peace on each one who offers prayers,  
*All:* ***Peace on each one who offers song.***

*Leader:* Peace of the Maker, Peace of the Son,  
*All:* ***Peace of the Spirit, the triune one.***

## **Psalm 134**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, •  
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary •  
and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth •  
give you blessing out of Zion

*Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

## ***Prayer***

*Leader:* O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding, which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes to the wonder and beauty of creation,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* For your love for us, wild and freeing, which has awakened us to the energy of creation: to the sap that flows, the blood that pulses, the heart that sings,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* For your love for us, compassionate and patient, which has carried us through our pain, wept beside us in our sin, and waited with us in our confusion,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* For your love for us, strong and challenging, which has called us to risk for you, asked for the best in us, and shown us how to serve,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* O God we come to celebrate that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us, and at the heart of all life. Forgive us when we forget your gift of love made known to us in Jesus, and draw us into your presence.

## **Reading: John 10:11–16**

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

## *Sharing of the day*

### *Prayer*

*Leader:* We bring to God someone whom we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray  
----- Holy One, *We ask your blessing.*

*Leader:* We bring to God someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer -----  
Holy One, *We ask your blessing.*

*Leader:* We bring to God a troubled situation in our world tonight -----  
Holy One, *We ask your blessing.*

*Leader:* We bring to God, silently, someone whom we find hard to like or forgive or trust  
Holy One, *We ask your blessing.*

*Leader:* We bring ourselves to God that we might grow in generosity of spirit,  
clarity of mind, and warmth of affection.  
Holy One, *We ask your blessing.*

## Hymn 646 The King of Love

1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never.

I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

## ***Closing responses***

***Leader:*** O Trinity of Love, You have been with us at the world's beginning,

***All:*** ***Be with us till the world's end.***

***Leader:*** You have been with us at our life's shaping,

***All:*** ***Be with us at our life's end.***

***Leader:*** You have been with us at the sun's rising

***All:*** ***Be with us till the day's end. Amen.***

***All:*** ***Lord, make us instruments of your peace.***

***Where there is hatred, let us sow love.***

***Where there is injury, pardon.***

***Where there is doubt, faith.***

***Where there is despair, hope.***

***Where there is sadness, joy.***

***O Divine Master.***

***grant that we may not so much seek***

*to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
it is in dying that we are born again  
to everlasting life. Amen.*

*Leader:* And now may the God of hope bring you such joy and peace in believing that you overflow with hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*All:* ***Amen.***

