

A member of the hijra community of Mumbai, Frédéric Soltan photo

# **Grace Episcopal Church**

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024 | 8:00 & 9:30 am
Ministers | All of Us
Rector | Eric Mason
Deacon | Scott Deasy
Guest Music Director | Martin Cockroft
Home Group | Agates

#### We Gather in God's Name

# Gathering

We take a moment to be still and know God. Our world is full of many noises, even as we sit together in silence. Let the noises be, and listen for the deep stillness that underlies all being. This moment will begin and end with the ringing of a bell.

# **Call to Worship**

We stand as we're called to worship.

Celebrant O God, Giver of Life, Bearer of Pain, Maker of Love,

All You accept in us what we find difficult to acknowledge;

You hold in your memory what we have tried to forget;

You show us the glory we dream of and imagine.

Celebrant Reconcile us to all we have rejected in ourselves,

that we may live lives of resurrection, wholeness and hope.

All Through Jesus Christ, our healer and our friend. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,

all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,

and worthily magnify your holy Name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Celebrant Then let us sing and celebrate the resurrection of all Creation.

# Opening Song | City of God



Text based on Is 9:60 1 Jn 1. Text and music © 1981, Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

#### **The Collect**

Celebrant May God be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of deep soil and luxuriant growth; you call us from our shallow selves to find our depth in you: may we abide in him alone who can teach us who we are;

through Jesus Christ, the true vine. Amen.

During the 9:30 service, children and youth are invited to come forward to the altar for a children's moment before joining their teachers for Sunday School. The children will return in time for communion. They are also welcome to remain with their families in the sanctuary if that is their choice.

# We Hear and Respond to the Story

We are seated for the first lesson.

# First Lesson | Acts 8:26-40

Reader A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

After the reading

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 22:24-30

We stand and speak the Psalm responsively.

My praise is of you in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek you shall praise you:

"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you, and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.

For yours is the royal power, O God;

you rule over the nations.

To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before you.

My soul shall live for you;

my descendants shall serve you;

they shall be known as yours for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that you have done.

# Second Lesson | 1 John 4:7-21

Reader A Reading from the First Letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

After the reading

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All Thanks be to God.

# Gospel Acclamation | Alleluia



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# Gospel | John 15:1-8

Deacon May God be with you.

All And also with you.

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

All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

After the reading

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

# **The Homily**

After the homily, we observe a moment of silence. This time begins and ends with the ringing of a bell.

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

We stand as we affirm the faith that's been handed down to us.

We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth,
of all humanity.

We believe in God beside us,

Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
Born of a woman's womb, servant of the poor,
he was tortured and nailed to a tree.

Knowing full passion and deep sorrow, he died forsaken.

He descended into the earth to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb.

He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his Kingdom will one day be known.

We believe in God within us,

the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church.
She is the Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of life everlasting. Amen.

# The Prayers of the People

We remain standing for the prayers. Our prayers are written by members of Grace; all are encouraged to join in these prayers, adding your own prayers after each intercession, silently or aloud. To submit names to our prayer list, and/or to receive weekly updates from our prayer team, email us at prayerlist@gracehere.org. We would love to include those you love in our prayers for thanksgiving, healing, support, or peace; and we also welcome your prayers for particular persons who have died.

# **Gathering**

"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches." We celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the chance for transformation in our lives.

We gather silently in prayer with deepened breath and intention.

#### **Environment**

"Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." God, give us wisdom to hold your earth and its creatures sacred by improving our natural environment.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Risen Christ

All Gather in our prayers

# Our Community, Nation, and the World

"The commandment we have is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also." Strengthen those who lead and those who follow. Guide us all to work for justice, and to cultivate harmony and peace with one another.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Risen Christ

All Gather in our prayers

#### **Families and Individuals**

"Since God loves us so much, we also ought to love one another." Help us as we seek to live with patience and love.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Risen Christ

All Gather in our prayers

# **Prayer Requests**

"By this we know that we abide in Christ and he in us, because he has given us his Spirit." We offer prayers for those on our prayer list and those whom we carry in our hearts. Knit us together by your spirit.

Those on our current prayer list are named. You are invited to speak aloud (or simply remember quietly) the names of those for whom you are praying. Please also pray for these persons on our long-term prayer list:

Healing for Jon, Marc, Katie, Vivian, James, Gretchen, Linda, Jon, Bob, Doug, Sam, Whitney and Eleanor Grace, Alyson,
Timothy, Margie, Harold, Jas, MJ, Mary, Patty, Scott, Marty, Judy, Mary Ann, Dick, Johan, Aunt Linda, Christine, Susan
M, Larry, Teri, Cathy, Debbie, Amy Sue, Rebecca, Ben, Lizzie, Mary Anne, Carrie, Tom, Susan, Mike, Frank, Pearle,
Nancy, Ted, Len, Dena

Support for Loanna, Haini, Connie, Matt & Gretchen and children, Linda's family, Kate & Neil, Delia, Suzy, Barb, Rich, Mollie, Ben, Samara, Isobel, Wendy, James, Macy, Lori, People in Ethiopia, Ted, Macy, Andrew, Nancy P, Charlie, Chelsea, Aunt Linda's family, Ann, Afghan friends and colleagues, Cindy, Henry, Amy Sue's family, Jody, Martha, Mary, Cecile, Rose, Cherry, Heather, Joe, Beth

**Peace** for Evelyn, Alan, April

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Risen Christ

All Gather in our prayers

#### **Gratitude**

"Those who seek God shall sing praises: 'May your heart live forever!'"We give thanks for the gifts of Grace. Knit us together by your spirit and fill us with patience and love.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Risen Christ

All Gather in our prayers

# Closing

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Abba is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." In the season of rebirth and new life, may we hold each other tenderly.

# **Collecting the Prayers of the People**

The Celebrant concludes the Prayers of the People.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

All And also with you.

All are invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another. Please respect others' choice to do so socially distanced.

We are seated after the Peace.

#### We Share in the Sacred Meal

# **The Offering**



Out of gratitude for all we've been given, we give ourselves back to God. Bread, wine, and money all symbolize the fruit of our labor. Together, our gifts make possible this community of inclusion, service, discovery, and gratitude. All worshiping in person are invited to place their offering in baskets as they are passed through the rows, but anyone in person or online may give via this link: www.gracehere.org/give/, or by accessing our OnRealm system with this QR code. Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and your presence with us today.

We remain seated while the bread and wine are brought forward.

#### Offertory Song | All Are Welcome 9:30am only 1. Let us a house dwell And build where love can 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And 3. Let us build a house where love is found In 4. Let us build where hands will reach Be a house 5. Let us build where all Their a house are named, all can safe - ly live, place where saints and words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban quet hall on yond the wood and stone To heal and strength-en, songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured, dren tell How hearts chil learn to for dare seek To dream God's reign to a Where ground, peace ho ly and jus tice Word they've And serve and teach, live the taught and claimed As words with - in the Built dreams give. of hopes and and vi - sions, Here the wit - ness new. cross shall stand as Here the Je - sus, meet. love of God, through known. Here the out cast and the stran - ger Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the And as sym bol of God's Here grace; as Is re vealed time and As we in space; Bear the im of age God's face; Let us Prayers of faith Let this and songs of grace, love of Christ shall end di vi - sions: one we claim the faith of Je - sus: All are wel-come, frees us: share in Christ the feast that bring end to fear and dan - ger: pro-claim from raft - er: house floor to

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Tune: TWO OAKS, 9 6 8 6 7 10 with refrain; Marty Haugen. © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

all are wel-come, all are wel-come in this

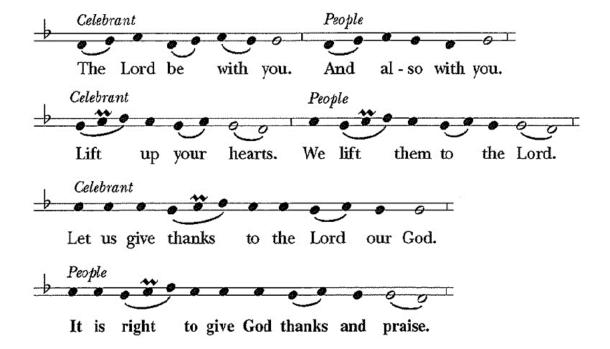
place.

# **Prayer over the Gifts**

All
Ever present God,
with this offering we present also ourselves:
all that we have been,
all that we are,
and all that we shall become,
and our resolve to walk in your way.
Accept us and our offering,
we pray for Jesus' sake. Amen.

# **The Great Thanksgiving**

We remain standing for the Eucharistic Prayer.



Celebrant

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being:

sun, moon and stars; earth, wind and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image, male and female, and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away.

And yet, as a mother cares for her children,

you would not forget us.

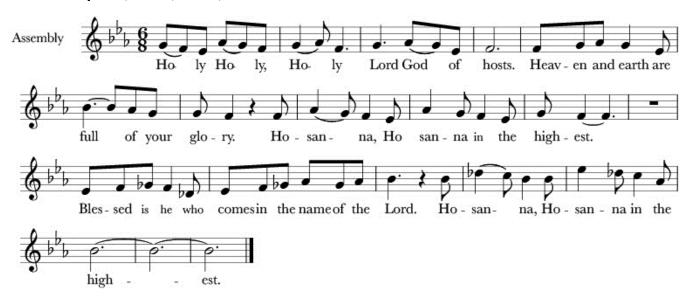
Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity

lifting our voices to you as we sing:

# Sanctus | Holy, Holy, Holy



Jason Liles.

#### Celebrant

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favour upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.
On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. and gave it to them, saying:

Take, drink; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, given for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Now, gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet of the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ.

By him and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**.

Celebrant And now as our savior has taught us, we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

#### The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the Bread and a period of silence is kept. The silence is broken with these words.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All Thanks be to God.

All are welcome to come forward into the circle to receive Communion. Please tell the bread minister if you prefer to receive a wafer that is free from gluten, soy, and dairy. Please tell the chalice bearer if you prefer non-alcoholic wine. If you prefer not to receive wine at all, cross your arms in front of your chest, and when the minister brings the chalice near you, they will simply say the words, "The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation," and you may then return to your seat. Finally, if you prefer to receive a blessing instead of Communion, cross your arms over your chest and the bread minister will ask God's blessing on you.

# Communion Song | We Will Take What You Offer 9:30am only

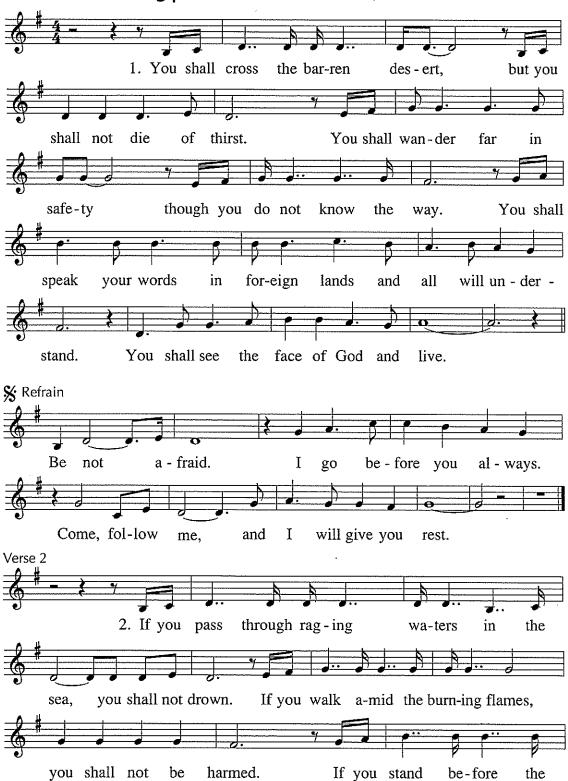






Words and Music by John L. Bell.

# Communion Song | Be Not Afraid 9:30am only





Text: Isaiah 43:2-3, Luke 6: 20ff; Bob Dufford, SJ, b. 1943. Tune: Bob Dufford, SJ, acc. By Sr. Theophane Hytrek, OSF, 1915-1992. © 1975, 1978, Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and OCP Publications.

After communion, we share in silent reflection and prayer, begun and ended by the ringing of a bell.

### **Our Prayer After Communion**

We stand and pray.

All

God of compassion, through the life and model of Jesus, you have shown reconciliation to your people. May we follow him with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Celebrations 9:30am only

After we share milestones, please join us in singing, "God Grant Them Many Years."

#### We are Sent into the World

# **Blessing of Easter**

Celebrant May God who has redeemed us and made us

sons and daughters through the resurrection of Jesus, bestow on you the deep riches of God's

blessing.

All Amen.

Celebrant May God, who through the water of baptism

has raised us from loss into newness of life, make you holy and sacred and united to Christ

for ever.

All Amen.

Celebrant May God who has brought us out of bondage

into true and everlasting freedom, bring you

deeper into life.

All Amen.

Celebrant And now may the blessing of the God of

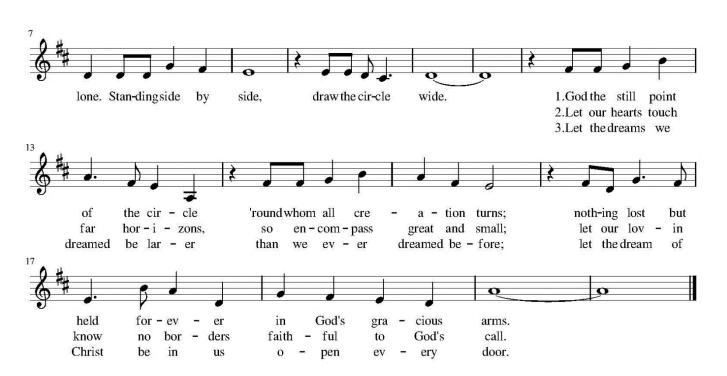
Abraham and Sarah; and of Jesus born of our sister Mary; and of the Holy Spirit who broods over Creation like a Mother over her children;

be upon us and remain with us always.

All Amen.

# Closing Song | Draw the Circle Wide 9:30am only





Music by Mark A. Miller © 2008 Abingdon Press. Words by Gordon Light © 2008 Common Cup Company.

### **Dismissal**

Deacon Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power

of the Spirit!

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### **Acknowledgments of Artists, Authors, and Sources**

Art: A member of the hijra community of Mumbai, Frédéric Soltan, Getty Images.

**Poem:** "Abide in Me" by Steve Garnaas-Holmes. From unfoldinglight.net.

Collect: From Prayers for an Inclusive Church, Steven Shakespeare (Church Publishing Inc., 2009).

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The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 2 from Enriching Our Worship.

Music: Used by permission. One License #A-706845.

# Abide in me

Abide in me —John 15.5

Living Christ, I live in you. You are my breath, breathing in me. You are my bones and I am your flesh, you my nerve, and I your muscle.

Living Christ, community of the whole, Body of the One, I belong to you.

My life is gathered into you, all my actions happen inside you.

I see the world through your eyes, love the world through your broken, joyous heart. I am the fingers of your hand.

In confidence and humility I abide in you, held in your peace, loving with your love, rejoicing with your joy.

Breath prayer: Abiding ... in you

—Steve Garnaas-Holmes

# News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island | April 28, 2024

#### ★ You may find more details about these events, and other news, in our weekly newsletter and on our website: www.gracehere.org/news ★

**Welcome to Grace!** If you are visiting, we hope you have felt welcomed. If you have questions or queries — however large or small — feel free to contact Liz Powell at *lizpowell165@comcast.net*.

**TODAY is Service Sunday** | Following the 9:30 a.m. service, each of us will have an opportunity to assemble our April donations and notes of encouragement into Blessing Bags. Join us at coffee hour for discussion, then take home Blessing Bags, ready to give to those in need.

**Sunday programming for children** during the 9:30 a.m. service in the Family Hall:

- Ages four and under are welcome in our beautiful, interactive nursery with adjoining playground under the supervision of trained staff.
- Children ages 3 or 4 through 12 begin with their families in the sanctuary for a children's moment with our priest, after which they go to their classrooms for rich and creative programming, and then return to the sanctuary for communion with their families.

**Youth Gatherings** Youth in grades 6-12 may stay after the 9:30 a.m. service (or arrive at 10:30) and check out our brand-new youth room, at the end of the Children & Families hallway on the left. **NEEDED: A small team of people to put together the Foosball Table for our Youth Room!** Please contact Kim Cockroft.

**Bishop Candidates Meet & Greet | Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Grace:** We need volunteers to assist with parking, greeting, set-up and take-down, serving dinner to the candidates and those accompanying them, and meal clean-up. If you are willing to help out, please contact John Kydd at: john@kyddlaw.com. More details may be found at www.gracehere.org/events.

**Rogation Sunday at the Gifts of Dirt Garden** | Everyone is invited to a special day of dedication and blessing at Grace's Gifts of Dirt Garden after church on **Sunday**, **May 5**. Rev. Eric will bless the garden, as it once again will provide bountiful produce to share with our neighbors in need. Come tour the garden and enjoy fellowship and delicious treats. Carpooling is encouraged. Driving directions will be available that day at church, or you can email office@gracehere.org.

**Book Group | Four Thursdays in May: May 9, 16, 23, 30 at 11:00 a.m.** *The Good Immigrant: 26 Writers Reflect on America* presents 26 powerful stories with various viewpoints on the controversial topic of immigration — and addresses the questions of who is welcome, why, and who will speak for them? All are welcome! For questions, and to RSVP, contact Florrie Munat or Kim Cockroft. Books and reading schedules are available in the Narthex for a suggested donation of \$16.

**Conversations About Death | Tuesday, May 14 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** In this facilitated, informal, small group discussion, we'll explore our personal relationship with death. RSVP required. Sign up at www.gracehere.org/events, or contact Kim Cockroft (kim@gracehere.org).

You Are Invited to be a Grace Night Owl. Each member of the Night Owl team volunteers for a week at a time. We walk the exterior of the building, verify all the doors are locked and latched, and that all windows and the gate are closed and latched. The team members arrive after 9:00 p.m. or a bit later, after all the folks involved in a rental or other Grace activities have left. This takes about 15-20 minutes. Email or call Eric Matthews: (206) 718-2254. There is a link to sign up in our newsletter.

**Open Mic for Caregivers will take a break in May** | Our next meeting will be on Friday, June 7 from 4 – 5 p.m. on Zoom, when Shannon Moore, Grace member and palliative care physician, will present on a topic regarding End-of-Life. For more information, or to volunteer to be a speaker, please contact Florrie Munat (fmunat@aol.com).

Home Groups at Grace | Looking to Connect with Others at Grace Church? Getting involved in a Home Group at Grace is one of the best ways to meet people, develop friendships, and discover more of what Grace has to offer you and your family. Over 200 people are involved in seven different Home Groups. They gather periodically for fellowship and fun, serve together on Sundays, and offer support to one another when needed. Do you want to meet some near neighbors? Many of our groups are geographically based. Do you want to meet other families with young children? Then our "Family Group" might be for you. If interested in learning more, contact Jeff Bassette (jeff.bassette@gmail.com), our Home Group Coordinator.

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**Grace Episcopal Church** • Bainbridge Island, WA inclusion service discovery gratitude