

Grace Episcopal Church

17th Sunday after Pentecost

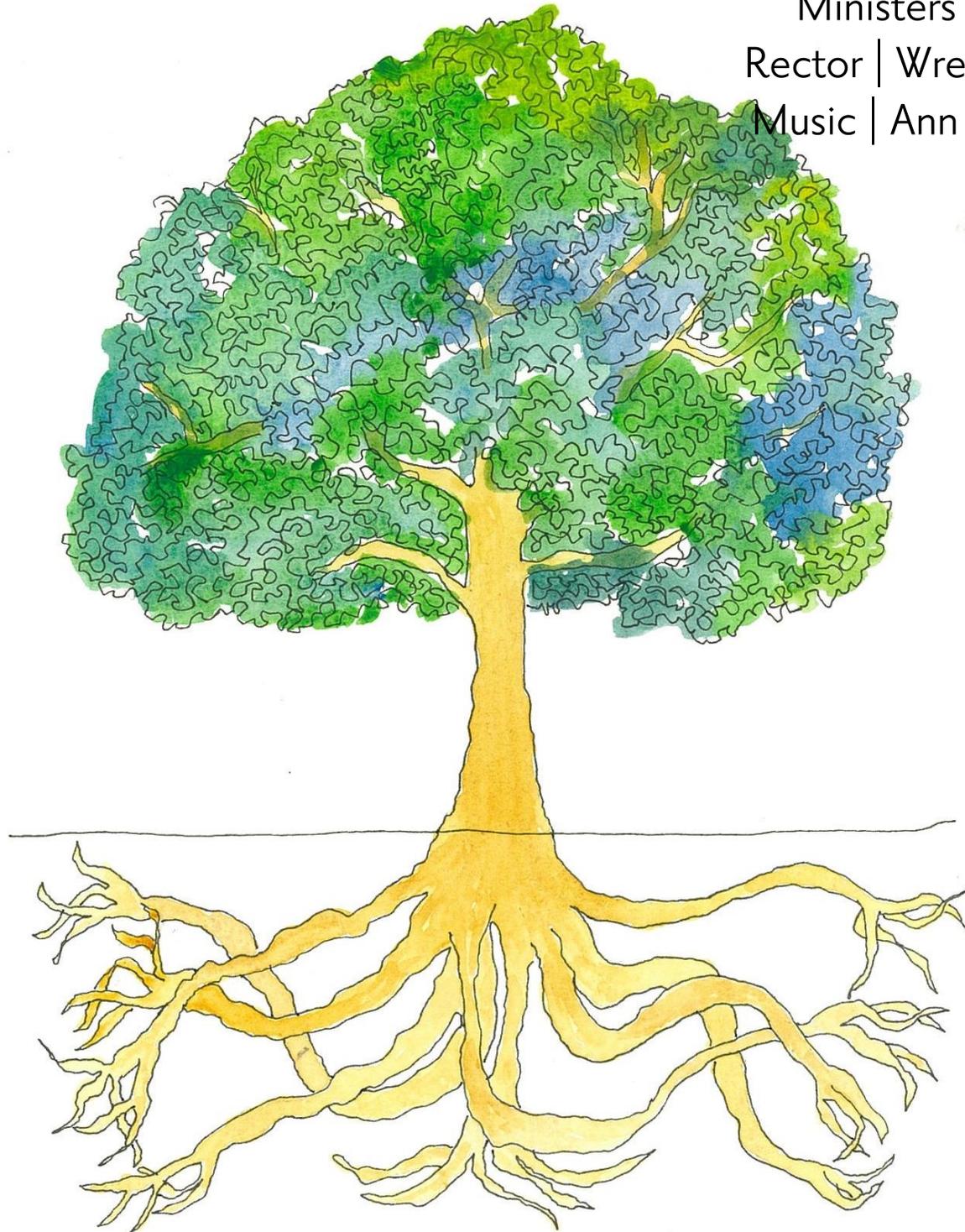
Homecoming Sunday

September 16, 2018 | 8 and 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Music | Ann Strickland



deepening roots, spreading branches

Shirley 2018

Home

I didn't know I was grateful
for such late-autumn
bent-up cornfields
yellow in the after-harvest
sun before the
cold plow turns it all over
into never.
I didn't know
I would enter this music
that translates the world
back into dirt fields
that have always called to me
as if I were a thing
come from the dirt,
like a tuber,
or like a needful boy. End
lonely days, I believe. End the exiled
and unraveling strangeness.
Bruce Weigl

A Measuring Worm

This yellow striped green
Caterpillar, climbing up
The steep window screen,
Constantly (for lack
Of a full set of legs) keeps
Humping up his back.
It's as if he sent
By a sort of semaphore
Dark omegas meant
To warn of Last Things.
Although he doesn't know it,
He will soon have wings,
And I, too, don't know
Toward what undreamt condition
Inch by inch I go.

Richard Wilbur
The New Yorker, February 11 & 18, 2008
Issue

A bell rings. We listen to the longing in our hearts. We remain seated.

Gathering Song | Home *Words & music: Diane McGrew*

Offered by Diane McGrew, Dusty Collings, & Marcus Lang

I woke, I knew it's no ordinary day.
A sign has come to show me the way.
A happy feeling that warms me to the bone.
Soft lights and summer nights are calling me home.
I can't wait another day. I've been much too long away.

My own horizons, the sunlight in my eyes,
The old familiar trees that borderline the skies.
It won't be long till the voices cast their spell,
When I hear the welcome from the ones that know me well.

I can't wait another day. Oh, I'm much too far away.

Chorus:

I'm going home so see the faces that I know,
To feel the peace of a place where I can grow.
I'm going home. I know I've been away too long.
Going home where I belong.
I'm going home, home where I belong.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Call to Worship

After the gathering song, the Celebrant invites us to stand.

Celebrant Open our hearts.

People **New every morning are your mercies.**

Celebrant Set free our voices.

People **New every morning is your song.**

Celebrant Guide our feet.

People **New every morning is your faithfulness. Amen.**

We remain standing and sing together.

Opening Song | This Little Light of Mine

Led by McCrea Curfman

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine
Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine
Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Hide it under a bushel, NO, I'm gonna let it shine
Hide it under a bushel, NO, I'm gonna let it shine
Hide it under a bushel, NO, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

You have made your home with us, O God, and we come to give thanks. Root us in the soil of your love that we might find our home and our life in you. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.
Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,
when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,
would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.

(The reading continues on the following page.)

For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

After the reading, the reader will say
The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm responsively.

Psalm | 19

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

**Their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world.**

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

(The reading continues on the following page.)

**The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever;
the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**Who can tell how often he offends?
cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue — a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

After the reading, the reader will say

All The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | Rise

Words and Music by Eddie Vedder, additional lyrics by Scott Lawrence

**Such is the way of the world, can never know.
Just where to put all your faith, and how will it grow.
Gonna rise up, burning black holes in dark memories.
Gonna rise up, turning mistakes into gold.**

**Such is the passage of time, too fast to fold.
Suddenly swallowed by signs, lo and behold.
Gonna rise up and find my direction magnetically.
Gonna rise up and throw down my ace in the hole.**

**Such are the stories we bring, telling the toll.
Laughter and tears fill the sky, echo below.
Gonna rise up and stand in the light that I cannot see.
Gonna rise up and live all the stories I know.**

**Such are the songs that we sing, fears to unfold.
Music, like water, wells up, unbending our soul.
Gonna rise up and fly from the tomb that's been holding me.
Gonna rise up and sing myself a new home.**

The Celebrant then introduces the Gospel by saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

The Gospel | Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

After the Gospel the Celebrant will say

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

The Homily

Affirmation of Faith

We stand and say

**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.**

We gather in prayer.

The Prayers of the People

Gathering

Leader “Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies.”

All Loving God, prune, weed, water us and nurture the Holy Spirit within us.

Relationships

Leader “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight.”

We pray for the gift of kind relationships for children, families and all people, including those who are estranged, alone, or in danger this day.

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

Leader Loving God,

All hear our prayers.

Prayer Requests

Leader “One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.”

We offer prayers for those on our prayer list and those we carry in our hearts.

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

Leader Loving God,

All hear our prayers.

Environment

Leader “Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs?”

God inspire us to hold your earth and its creatures sacred.

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

Leader Loving God,

All hear our prayers.

World and Faith Leaders

Leader “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.”
God, may all who carry authority and responsibility in the world, lead with your wisdom. Replace fear and prejudice with love and kindness.

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

Leader Loving God,
All **hear our prayers.**

Gratitude

Leader “The heavens declare the glory of God.”
God, thank you for loving us.

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

Leader Loving God,
All **hear our prayers.**

Closing

Leader “Look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.”

All **In this bountiful season, O God, open our hearts to love, to give, to serve.**

The Peace

We conclude these prayers with the sharing of God's peace.

Celebrant We turn to one another with outstretched arms, saying: the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

After the peace, we are seated.

Offertory Song | How Does a Moment Last Forever

by Mencken & Rice

Offered by Brearily Curfman

THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SACRED MEAL

The people are invited to stand. The Celebrant faces them and says

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 God thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Table, the Celebrant continues

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 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:

The musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first staff contains the following notes and lyrics:
Measure 1: Dm chord, notes G4, A4, Bb4, lyrics "Ho - ly,"
Measure 2: Bb chord, notes Bb4, C5, Bb4, lyrics "ho - ly,"
Measure 3: Gm chord, notes G4, A4, Bb4, lyrics "ho - ly."
Measure 4: C chord, notes C5, Bb4, A4, lyrics "ly."
Measure 5: Dm chord, notes D5, C5, Bb4, lyrics "Ho"
The second staff continues the melody:
Measure 6: Dm chord, notes D5, C5, Bb4, lyrics "san na,"
Measure 7: Bb chord, notes Bb4, C5, Bb4, lyrics "Ho san na,"
Measure 8: Gm chord, notes G4, A4, Bb4, lyrics "Ho - san - na."
Measure 9: C chord, notes C5, Bb4, A4, lyrics "na."
Measure 10: Dm chord, notes D5, C5, Bb4, lyrics "na."
The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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 favor 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 them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you. And whenever you drink it, 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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ 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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

We are now invited to share the gifts of Communion.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please know that at Grace Church all are invited to receive the bread and wine. This sacrament is God's free gift. Assist the Chalice Bearers by tipping the cup from the base. Please tell your server if you prefer a wafer that is free from gluten, soy, and dairy.

Music during Communion | Home

By Ann Strickland

ho - me ho - me ho - me ho - me

5
ho - me ho - me ho - me ho - me

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Home'. It consists of two staves of music in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics 'ho - me ho - me ho - me ho - me' written below the notes. A small number '5' is written at the beginning of the second staff.

*Following Communion we share silence with one another.
The quiet will last a few minutes and will begin and end with a bell.*

Song after Communion | I am Walking a Path of Peace

by Janet Bauman Tissandier

I am walk-ing a path of peace*, I am walk-ing a path of
peace*, I am walk-ing a path of peace*, lead me home,
lead me home. I am home.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'I am Walking a Path of Peace'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'I am walk-ing a path of peace*, I am walk-ing a path of peace*, I am walk-ing a path of peace*, lead me home, lead me home. I am home.' The music is simple and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

2. I am walking a path of love ...
3. I am walking a path of grace ...

GOING OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Our Prayer after Communion

We stand and say together

**Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Celebrant offers a blessing.

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you wherever he may find you.
May God guide you through the wilderness and protect you through the storm.
May God bring you home rejoicing at the wonders God has shown you.
May God bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you now and forever. **Amen**

Northumbria Community

Closing Song | The Mustard Seed

Words & Music: Kimberly Cockroft

Oh, from a tiny seed
God can grow a tree
With some water and a lot of love.

Oh, from a tiny seed
We can become a tree

And the birds of the air will make their homes with us.

Oh, from a tiny seed
God can grow a tree
With some sunshine and a lot of love.

Oh, from a tiny seed
We can become a tree

And the birds of the air will make their homes with us.
And the birds of the air will make their homes with us.

Birthday and Anniversaries

Announcements

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Autumn

Our garden calls to be
diminished –
dead-heads, gangly stalks,
scarlet leaves
preparing
to carpet the lawn,
waiting to be scooped up
and put in the compost pile,
to be still and change
and become something
quite new.

I am autumnal,
willing to let go
and be diminished
so that I can be still
and change
and become,
even at this late date,
something
quite new,
something quite warm
and nourishing,
looking toward tomorrow,
even as the days grow shorter.

William F. Maxwell
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