

“Sticks and Stars” by Jan Richardson



Grace Episcopal Church

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 7, 2018 | 8 and 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Preacher & Presider | Jim Phinney

Music | Wendi Olinger

Tribe | Alder

“... the moon and the stars you have set in their courses ...” Psalm 8:4

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

Gathering Song | What Wondrous Love

by Ann Strickland

What won-drous love is this? What won-drous love is this?

3
What won-drous love is this? — O my soul. O my soul.

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 | Will Your House Be Blessed

by John Spenser

Let it go, let it go, let it go go go, Let your
Of - fer prayer, of - fer prayer, of - fer one small prayer to your
Turn your cheek, turn your cheek, turn your o - ther cheek, May your

3
sword of ven- geance rest, Do the blind lead the blind, Don't be
un - in - vit - ed guest, Don't de - ny him the right make him
mer - cy man - i - fest, When the hawk and the dove fly in

6
cruel to be kind, On - ly then will your house be blessed.
welcome through the night, circles 'round your love,

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Nothing can separate us from your love, O God. You who set the stars in their courses and call all living creatures by name, are always more ready to hear than we to pray. Give us wisdom to call things by their right name, faithfulness to receive your gifts with reverence, and power to love those close to us as you love us. Amen.

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

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 | 8

○ Lord our Governor,
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

**Out of the mouths of infants and children
your majesty is praised above the heavens.**

You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,
to quell the enemy and the avenger.

**When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**

What is man that you should be mindful of him?
the son of man that you should seek him out?

**You have made him but little lower than the angels;
you adorn him with glory and honor;**

You give him mastery over the works of your hands;
you put all things under his feet:

**All sheep and oxen,
even the wild beasts of the field,**

The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

○ Lord our Governor,
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?

You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Words: Bianco da Siena; tr. Richard Frederick Littledale | Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

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 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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 “People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them.’”

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

Relationships

Leader "As for me, I will live with integrity."
We pray for the gift of kind relationships with children, families and all persons 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 "For your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you."
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 "Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides."
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 "For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father."
O God, may all who carry authority and responsibility worldwide lead with your wisdom and love.
We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

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

Gratitude

Leader "I may go in procession round your altar, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving."
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 "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them."

All In this time of beginnings and growth, 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 | I'll Stand by You

by Thomas Kelly | Christine Hynde | Billy Steinberg

Offered by Wendi Olinger

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.**

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:



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 | Pachelbel Canon in D

Love in My Soul

Words: Meditation arranged by Kathie McCarthy | Music: Caroline R. Clucas

Love in my heart.

Love in my soul.

Love in my hands, that I may work with tenderness.

Love in my arms that I may embrace without fear.

Love in my soul, that I may know what I long for.

May the love that longs to fill you find you.

Love in my heart, that I may be touched.

Love in my mind, that I may see what is true.

Love on my lips, that I may speak with power.

Love in my face, that I may shine with God.

*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 | Ubi Caritas

Setting: Jacques Berthier, from *Songs and Prayers from Taizé*

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

The musical score is written for piano in 2/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics in Latin and English. The first system includes a trill on the word 'mor' and a triplet on 'i - bi est'.

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.

Closing Song | The Works of the Lord

Words: Ecclesiastes 42-43; Christopher Idle. | Music: Neder-landtsch Gednckclank; harm. by Edward Kresmer



1. The works of the Lord are cre - a - ted in wis - dom!
2. Not e - ven the an - gels have ev - er been grant - ed
3. The sun ev - 'ry morn - ing lights up all cre - a - tion,
4. The wind is his breath and the clouds are his sig - nal,
5. The song is un - fin - ished; how shall we com - plete it,



We view the earth's won - ders and call him to mind;
To tell the full sto - ry of na - ture and grace;
The moon marks the rhy - thm of months in their turn;
The rain and the snow are the robes of his choice;
And where find the skill to per - fect all his praise?



We hear what he says in the world we dis - cov - er,
But o - pen to God is all hu - man per - cep - tion,
The glit - ter - ing stars are ar - rayed in God's hon - or,
The storm and the light - ning, his stan - dards and her - alds,
At work in all plac - es, he cares for all peo - ples—



And God shows his glo - ry in all that we find.
The mys - ter - ies of time and the se - crets of space.
A - dom - ing the years as they cease - less - ly burn.
The crash of the thun - der, the sound of his voice.
How great is the Lord to the end of all days!

Birthday and Anniversaries

Announcements

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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