

“For What Binds Us” by Jan Richardson



Grace Episcopal Church

All Saints' Day

November 4, 2018 | 8:00 a.m.

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Music | Wendi Olinger

Lydia's Song

She was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. —Acts 16:14

A heart opens,
unfolds like a bolt of fine purple cloth.

And there is God,
wrapped in the body's best linen,
tangled tight within a woman's woven heart,
stretched wide to meet the threadbare world.

David Wright

Prayer for All Saints and All Souls Day

And if ever there was evidence of the wry genius of Catholicism it's right here, with these two days of prayers and remembrance, back to back. The first acknowledges, up front and publicly, that we pray for saints known and unknown – the latter faaaaar outnumbering the former; and how true and real and honest this is, for there are and have been millions of saints who trudged along humbly beneath immense loads, sharing their mercy and cheer and song and food and drink and courage and hope with everyone they met, and now their names are as dust; but we remember them today, and thank them, and ask their mercies on the tumult of the world; as we sing also the saints we know, the brave testy ones, the quiet ones who smiled under the lash, the bold ones who saw what we could be and spoke us closer to that bright country. And then the next day we pray for all those who have gone back into the Dream from which they came, all the billions of holy beings who strove and struggled and soared or sank; all of them our brothers and sisters, all of them our teammates on the road to light; we pray even for the worst among them; those blinded by blood, that Your mercy drowned their evil, washed them of their sins, and set them to work in Your vineyard, from which all blessings flow. This we pray in the Name of the One Who came among us, and took our form, and draped His incomprehensible soul with the flesh and bones of a young teacher; may we someday reach the house where He waits for us all. And so: amen.

*Brian Doyle, from A Book of Uncommon Prayer: 100 Celebrations of the Miracle & Muddle of the Ordinary,
published by Sorin Books in 2014*

A bell rings. We stand and sing.

Opening Song | Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Traditional African American Spiritual

Swing low sweet char - i - ot___ Com-ing for to car - ry me home,

5
Swing low swet char - i - ot___ Com-ing for to car - ry me home,

9
1. I looked o - ver Jor - dan and what did I see

12
Com - ing for to car - ry me home, A band__ of an - gels

15
com - ing af - ter me___ Com - ing for to car - ry me home.

2. If you get there before I do, ... Tell all my friends I'm coming too, ...
3. The brightest day that every I saw, ... When Jesus washed my sins a way, ...
4. I'm sometimes up and sometimes down, ... But still my soul feels heavenly bound, ...

CELEBRATING ALL SOULS AND ALL SAINTS

A Call to Worship

Celebrant God's spirit is with us.
People God's love surrounds us here.

Celebrant Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, remembering that,
People God's love surrounds us here.

Celebrant Nothing can separate us from the love of God.
People Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of love, you surround us with so great a cloud of witnesses. Thank you for making us people whose every breath depends upon others and on you. As we share communion with your saints through your Spirit, guide us to courageously follow those who've walked in love before us. **Amen.**

Adapted from a prayer by Sam Wells.

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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 | 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and all who dwell therein.

**For it is he who founded it upon the seas
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**

"Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? "
and who can stand in his holy place?"

**"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud.**

They shall receive a blessing from the Lord
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."

**Such is the generation of those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

**"Who is this King of glory?"
"The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle."**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

**"Who is he, this King of glory?"
"The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory."**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Revelation 21:1-6a

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Naming Saints

*We stand one by one and name aloud those whom we love and see no more.
Please remain standing as we conclude with the song below.*

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | Remember Me

Traditional African American Spiritual

Re - mem - ber me, Re - mem - ber
me, O Lord, re - mem - ber me.

The Celebrant then introduces the Gospel by saying

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

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

The Gospel | John II:32-44

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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 “Mary knelt at Jesus’ feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother Lazarus would not have died.’ Jesus, greatly disturbed, came to the tomb and said, ‘Take away the stone.’”

We gather silently with deepened breath and intention

Relationships

Leader “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein.”

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 Holy Spirit,

All give us peace

Prayer Requests:

Leader “Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’”

We pray 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 Holy Spirit,

All give us peace.

Environment

Leader “God founded the earth upon the seas and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.”

God, thank you for the beauty of your world. Give us wisdom and encourage to cherish and care for your creation as we long for its renewal.

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

Leader Holy Spirit,

All give us peace.

World and Faith Leaders

Leader The one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’”
God, guide those who carry authority and responsibility in our world to lead with your wisdom and love. We pray especially for those who were killed at the Tree of Life Synagogue last week: Rose, Joyce, Richard, Jerry, Bernice, David, Cecil, Sylvan, Daniel, Melvin, Irving.

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

Leader Holy Spirit,
All **give us peace**

Gratitude

Leader God, thank you that nothing can separate us from your goodness and your love.

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

Leader Holy Spirit,
All **give us peace.**

Closing

Leader “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his people, and God himself will be with them.’”

Leader Holy Spirit,
All **lead us home.**

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.**

THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SACRED MEAL

We stand as the table is set with the gifts of our hearts and hands.

The celebrant faces us 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, My heart, my heart a - dores you. My
San - to, san - to, san - to, Mi cor - a - zon te/a - dor - a. Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, My heart, my heart a - dores you. My

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heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly Lord.
cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to/e - res Se - nor.
heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly Lord.

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

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

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.

God give you grace to follow the saints in faith, hope, and love. And the blessing of the Triune One, who was and is and is to come, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Redemption Song

Finally fall.
At last the mist,
heat's haze, we woke
these past weeks with

has lifted. We find
ourselves chill, a briskness
we hug ourselves in.
Frost greying the ground.

Grief might be easy
if there wasn't still
such beauty — would be far
simpler if the silver

maple didn't thrust
it's leaves into flame,
trusting that spring
will find it again.

All this might be easier if
there wasn't a song
still lifting us above it,
if wind didn't trouble

my mind like water.
I half expect to see you
fill the autumn air
like breath —

At night I sleep
on clenched fists.
Days I'm like the child
who on the playground

falls, crying
not so much from pain
as surprise.
I'm tired of tide

taking you away,
then back again —
what's worse, the forgetting
or the thing

you can't forget.
Neither yet —
last summer's
choir of crickets

grown quiet.

by Kevin Young
from The Art of Losing: Poems of Grief and Healing

Be Ahead of All Parting

Be ahead of all parting, as though it already were
behind you, like the winter that has just gone by.
For among these winters there is one so endlessly winter
that only by wintering through it will your heart survive.

Be forever dead in Eurydice - more gladly arise
into the seamless life proclaimed in your song.
Here, in the realm of decline, among momentary days,
be the crystal cup that shattered even as it rang.

Be - and yet know the great void where all things begin,
the infinite source of your own most intense vibration,
so that, this once, you may give it your perfect assent.

To all that is used-up, and to all the muffled and dumb
creatures in the world's full reserve, the unsayable sums,
joyfully add yourself, and cancel the count.

by Rainer Maria Rilke

*The Sonnets to Orpheus, 11,13 from The Enlightened Heart, an anthology of sacred poetry
edited and translated by Stephen Mitchell*