

# Grace Episcopal Church

All Saints' Day

9:30am

November 4, 2018

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Music | Wendi Olinger

Tribe | Snowberry

*"For What Binds Us" by Jan Richardson*



Liturgy of Holy Baptism  
Beatrix Fern Cockroft

## 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 faaaaaar 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 listen to the longing in our hearts. We remain seated.

## Gathering 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

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

Celebrant In all of time and in every place,  
there is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God, Creator of all. Amen**

We remain standing and sing together.

# Opening Song | For All the Saints

Words: William How | Music: Ralph V. Williams



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who to the  
2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might: you, Christ, the  
3 Still may your people, faith-ful, true, and bold, live as the  
4 Ringed by this cloud of wit-ness-es di-vine, we fee-bly  
5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the



world their stead-fast faith con-fessed, your name, O Je-sus,  
hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you  
saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a  
strug-gle, they in glo-ry shine; yet in your love our  
ear the dis-tant tri-umph song, then hearts are brave a-



be for-ev-er blessed.  
were their one true light.  
glo-rious crown of gold. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
faith-ful lives en-twine.  
gain, and faith grows strong.

## 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

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*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.**

*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 first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a repeat sign. The melody starts on a whole note chord of G2-Bb2, followed by a half note chord of G2-Bb2, then a quarter note G2, a quarter note Bb2, and a quarter note G2. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It begins with a whole note chord of G2-Bb2, followed by a half note chord of G2-Bb2, then a quarter note G2, a quarter note Bb2, and a quarter note G2. The system concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

## 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.*

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

The second system of musical notation is identical to the first system, featuring two staves with the same melody and accompaniment.

*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 11:32-44

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**

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### **The Homily**

*The children are invited to come to the center of the sanctuary for a brief conversation with Wren. Afterwards they may go to the classrooms and return for Communion.*

# PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

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*The candidate for Baptism comes forward.*

*The Celebrant says*

The candidate for Baptism will now be presented.

*The Families and Godparents say*

**We present Beatrix Fern Cockroft to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

*The Celebrant asks the Parents and Godparents*

Will you be responsible for seeing that this child you present is nurtured in the Christian life of faith, hope and love?

*Parents and Godparents*

**We will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant*

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents and Godparents*

**We will, with God's help.**

*The Celebrant asks the following questions. The parents and Godparents speak on behalf of Beatrix.*

Do you renounce all spiritual forces that rebel against God?

**Answer We renounce them.**

Do you renounce all the evil powers that harm and destroy the creatures of God?

**Answer We renounce them.**

Do you renounce those desires that draw you from the love of God?

**Answer We renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Savior?

**Answer We do.**

Do you put your trust in God's grace and love?

**Answer We do.**

*The Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Beatrix in her new life in Christ?

**All We will!**

Celebrant Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant. Do you believe in God?

People **We believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth,  
maker and sustainer  
of all life, of sun and moon,  
of water and earth, of all humanity.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **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.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship in, breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **We will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **We will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **We will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
**People We will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
**People We will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Let us now pray for Beatrix who is to receive this Sacrament of new birth.

## Prayers for the Candidate

Leader Open her heart, O Lord, to your grace and truth.

**People Hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill her with your holy and life-giving spirit.

**People Hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep her in the faith and communion of your church.

**People Hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**People Hear our prayer.**

Leader Send her into the world in witness to your love.

**People Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring her to the fullness of your peace and joy.

**People Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant God of mercy and love, new birth by water and the Spirit is your gift, a gift that none can take away. Grant that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection, be filled with the joy of your presence, and the fruit of your Spirit. **Amen.**

# Shall We Gather at the River

by Robert Lowry



1. Shall we ga - ther at the ri - ver, Where bright an - gel feet have trod; \_\_\_\_  
4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing ri - ver, Soon our pil - gri - mage will cease; \_\_\_\_



With its cry - stal tide for - e - ver Flo - wing by the\_\_ throne of\_\_ God?  
Soon our hap - py hearts will qui - ver With the me - lo - dy of\_\_ peace.



Yes, we'll ga - ther at the ri - ver, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful\_\_ ri - ver;



Ga - ther with the saints\_ at the riv - er That flows by the throne of\_\_ God.

# Thanksgiving and Blessing of the Water

*Celebrant blesses the water.*

Celebrant     The Lord be with you.

**People       And also with you.**

Celebrant     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People       It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your son Jesus was baptized and was named the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us through his life, death, and resurrection, into a everlasting life you.

We thank you, God, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death and by it we share in Christ's resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, Jesus, we bring into his company those who come in hope and faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Triune One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Now bless and sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that those who are here washed and born again will continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory now and forever. **Amen**

# The Baptism

*The Celebrant baptizes the candidate saying, as water is poured*

I baptize you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Following the baptism, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray. Faithful God, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed on Beatrix the gift of forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant then takes oil and marks the child's forehead with the sign of the cross, saying*

Beatrix, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

*Then the Celebrant says*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*The Celebrant and People then say these words of welcome*

**We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

Celebrant     The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People        **And also with you.**

*Please greet the newly baptized at the door as you return to your seat.*

*After the peace, we are seated.*

**Offertory Song | Going Home** *offered by Dusty Collings & Marcus Lang*

*by Asgeir*

*At the close of the offertory, we remain seated as a candle is lighted from the Paschal candle and handed to Beatrix as the celebrant says*

Receive the light of Christ.

# 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 | Long Time Traveler**

*Offered by Elizabeth Cromwell, Lisa Mandelkorn, and Wendi Olinger*

*Traditional, arr. by The Wailin' Jennys*

# Legacy

by Terry Garthwaite



1. I will lay down the bur-dens of my mo - ther and car-ry on the le-ga-cy\_\_ of  
love. If I stum - ble and fall,\_\_\_\_ help me  
up one and all, And we will car - ry on\_\_\_\_\_ with love.

2. I will side step the sorrow of my father  
and carry on the legacy of joy.

3. I will understand the anger of my sister  
and carry on the legacy of peace.

4. I will let go of the ego of my brother  
and carry on the legacy of grace.

5. I will honor the intentions of my teachers  
and carry on the legacy of light.

6. I will attend to the nurturing of my children  
and carry on the legacy of hope.

7. I will listen to the call of my relations  
and carry on the legacy of life.

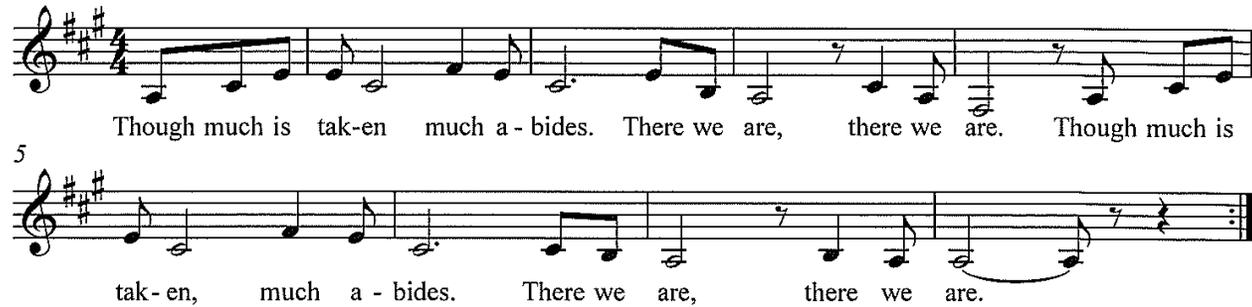
8. I will lay down the burdens of my mother  
and carry on the legacy of love.

with love.  
with joy.  
with peace.  
with grace.  
with light.  
hope.  
life.  
love.

*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 | Much Abides

by Ann Strickland, from "Ulysses" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson



Though much is tak-en much a - bides. There we are, there we are. Though much is  
5  
tak - en, much a - bides. There we are, there we are.

## GOING OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD

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### 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.**

# Closing Song | When the Saints Go Marching In

*Traditional African American Spiritual*

Oh, when the saints go marching in,  
Oh, when the saints go marching in,  
Lord, how I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in

Oh, when they gather 'round the throne,  
Oh, when they gather 'round the throne,  
Lord, how I want to be in that number,  
When they gather 'round the throne.

And on that hallelujah day,  
Oh, on that hallelujah day,  
Lord, how I want to be in that number,  
On that hallelujah day

Oh, when the saints go marching in,  
Oh, when the saints go marching in,  
Lord, how I want to be in that number,  
When the saints go marching in!

## Birthday and Anniversaries

## Announcements

## 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*

## What the Living Do

Johnny, the kitchen sink has been clogged for days, some utensil probably fell down there.  
And the Drano won't work but smells dangerous, and the crusty dishes have piled up

waiting for the plumber I still haven't called. This is the everyday we spoke of.  
It's winter again: the sky's a deep, headstrong blue, and the sunlight pours through

the open living-room windows because the heat's on too high in here and I can't turn it off.  
For weeks now, driving, or dropping a bag of groceries in the street, the bag breaking,

I've been thinking: This is what the living do. And yesterday, hurrying along those  
wobbly bricks in the Cambridge sidewalk, spilling my coffee down my wrist and sleeve,

I thought it again, and again later, when buying a hairbrush: This is it.  
Parking. Slamming the car door shut in the cold. What you called that yearning.

What you finally gave up. We want the spring to come and the winter to pass. We want  
whoever to call or not call, a letter, a kiss — we want more and more and then more of it.

But there are moments, walking, when I catch a glimpse of myself in the window glass,  
say, the window of the corner video store, and I'm gripped by a cherishing so deep

for my own blowing hair, chapped face, and unbuttoned coat that I'm speechless:  
I am living. I remember you.

*by Marie Howe, from What the Living Do, (c) 1998 by Marie Howe, W. W. Norton & Company*