

Woodcut by Margaret Adams Parker



# Grace Episcopal Church

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 11, 2018 | 8 and 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Music | Martin Cockroft

Tribe | Cherry

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

## Gathering Song | Gather Your People

by Mary Louise Bringle and Tony Alonso



Gath - er your peo-ple, mer - ci-ful God,



gath - er the long - ing, the lost, and un-sure.



Gath - er your peo-ple, mer - ci-ful God,



name us and claim us as yours.

# 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 | Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

by Ken Medema

Lord lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing,

Lord send you spir - it in this place.

Lord lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Send us

love, send us power, send us grace.

# The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of new creation, your gifts are generous beyond our deserving. You give more than enough for life, for growth, for relationship, for joy. Inspire in us faithfulness, courage, and imagination to offer ourselves and our gifts generously to others and to you. **Amen.**

## We Tell The Story

---

*We are seated for the reading.*

### **The First Reading** | Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Naomi her mother-in-law said to Ruth, “My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.” She said to her, “All that you tell me I will do.”

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

*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 | 127**

Unless the Lord builds the house  
its builders will have labored in vain.

**Unless the Lord watches over the city  
those who keep watch will stay awake in vain.**

In vain you rise up early and go late to rest,  
eating the bread of anxious toil:  
for those whom the Lord loves are given sleep.

**Truly children are a gift from the Lord  
and offspring a reward from God's hand.**

Like arrows in a warrior's hand  
so indeed are the children of one's youth.

**Happy are those who have their quiver full of them  
they will not be put to shame  
when they meet their adversaries at the gate.**

We are seated for the second reading.

## The Second Reading | Hebrews 9:24-28

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We stand together and sing

## Gospel Song | 'Tis the Gift to Be Simple

Words: Shaker song, 18th cent. | Music: *Simple Gifts*, Joseph Brackett



'Tis the gift to be sim-ple 'tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the gift to come down  
where we ought to be And when we find our-selves in the place just right, 'Twill be in the val ley of  
love and de-light. When true sim - pli - ci - ty is gained to bow and to bend we  
shan't be a-shamed, To turn, turn, will be our de-light till by  
turn - ing, turn - ing we come round right.

*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 12:38-44

As Jesus taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

*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      “Jesus watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins.”

All          **Loving God, as nature around us prepares for winter, lead us into a time of quiet and contemplation.**

## Relationships

Leader "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you."

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 "Christ entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf."

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.**

## World and Faith Leaders

Leader "Unless the Lord builds the house, their labor is in vain who build it."

O God, may all who carry authority and responsibility worldwide, lead with your wisdom and love. 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 "Blessed be the Lord."

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 "For all of the rich have contributed out of their abundance; but the poor widow out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

**All We thank you, O God, for continuing to help us to 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 | Hear My Voice *by Kelly Hume*

*Offered by Holly White, Constance Culver, James Rufo-Hill, and Kelly Hume*

Can you hear my voice? Can you hear me sing?  
Can I reach you, Lord, from so far away?  
In a world of noise, can you hear my voice?  
I beseech you, Lord, hear my prayer today.

There's a darkness around us, a shadow on this land.  
There's a fire in the distance and a golden calf.  
When the truth is lies, will the righteous stand?  
Can you hear my voice? Can you hear my voice?

Oh Lord, I wonder when the meek shall inherit the earth.  
My Lord, I wonder, can a cry in the wilderness still be heard?  
Can you hear my voice? Can you hear my voice?

Lord, don't wait any longer. Help me turn what's wrong to right.  
Precious Lord, make me stronger, as I stand upon the mountain high.  
And let my song be heard, each and every word.  
Can you hear my voice? Can you hear my voice?

Help me speak my heart, when I make my choice.  
In a world of noise, Lord, can you hear my voice?

# THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SACRED MEAL

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

*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:

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

5

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 | Born Again *by Josh Garrels*

*Offered by Martin, Merry, and Elspeth Cockroft*

## Waiting on the World to Change

*by John Mayer*

Me and all my friends  
We're all misunderstood  
They say we stand for nothing and  
There's no way we ever could  
Now we see everything that's going wrong  
With the world and those who lead it  
We just feel like we don't have the means  
To rise above and beat it

So we keep waiting (waiting)  
Waiting on the world to change  
We keep on waiting (waiting)  
Waiting on the world to change.  
It's hard to beat the system  
When we're standing at a distance  
So we keep waiting (waiting)  
Waiting on the world to change

Now if we had the power  
To bring our neighbors home from war  
They would have never missed a Christmas  
No more ribbons on their door  
And when you trust your television  
What you get is what you got  
Cause when they own the information, oh  
They can bend it all they want

That's why we're waiting (waiting)  
Waiting on the world to change  
We keep on waiting (waiting)  
Waiting on the world to change

It's not that we don't care,  
We just know that the fight ain't fair

So we keep on waiting (waiting)  
Waiting on the world to change.  
And we're still waiting (waiting)  
Waiting on the world to change  
we keep on waiting (waiting)  
Waiting on the world to change.

One day our generation  
Is gonna rule the population

So we keep on waiting (waiting)  
Waiting on the world to change.  
We're still waiting (waiting)  
Waiting on the world to change

*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 | Just a Closer Walk with Thee

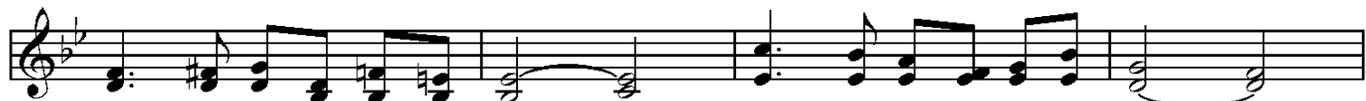
Traditional



1. I am weak, but Thou art strong; \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; \_\_\_\_\_
2. Through this world of toil and snares; \_\_\_\_\_ If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er; \_\_\_\_\_ Time for me will be no more; \_\_\_\_\_



I'll be sa - tis - fied as long \_\_\_\_\_ As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? \_\_\_\_\_ None but Thee, dear Lord, \_ none but Thee.  
Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er \_\_\_\_\_ To Thy kin - gdom shore, \_ to Thy shore.



Just a clo - ser walk with Thee, \_\_\_\_\_ Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, \_\_\_\_\_



Dai - ly walk - ing close to Thee, \_\_\_\_\_ Let it be, dear Lord, \_ let it be.

## 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.*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. And the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

## Closing Song | We Are Marching in the Light of God

*South African*

The musical score is written in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "We are march - ing\* in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God, march - ing in the light of the we are march - ing, light of God, we are march - ing, march - ing, we are Oo we are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God." The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes).

\* Alternate text: *dancing, singing, praying*

## Birthday and Anniversaries

## Announcements

## Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## Look and See

This morning, at waterside, a sparrow flew  
to a water rock and landed, by error, on the back  
of an eider duck; lightly it fluttered off, amused.  
The duck, too, was not provoked, but you might say, was  
laughing.

This afternoon a gull sailing over  
our house was casually scratching  
its stomach of white feathers with one  
pink foot as it flew.

Oh Lord, how shining and festive is your gift to us, if  
only look, and see.

~ Mary Oliver, from *Why I Wake Early*

## Why I Give to Grace These Days

I am profoundly grateful that there is a community of people who love my kids just because they're here, just because they're my kids. Being on the other side of that equation for so many years – grinning over a generation of Grace kids as pageant angels and shepherds, and then being irrationally happy to see them come home from college on Christmas Eve – did not prepare me for what it's like for my own kids to experience that blessing.

So in this era of my life, I give to Grace because I want this community to be here, here for my kids and here for the others growing up alongside them. In a world where they will receive a lot of messages about Christianity that I don't necessarily agree with, I want there to be someplace that tells them faith and science can not only coexist, but enhance each other. I want them to know through Grace that poetry and art and nature are as meaningful as scripture. I want them to understand how there is faith in the stories we tell each other at Grace.



*Ruben (left) and Marco Baisch*

And, at the most basic level, we do not have any of that at Grace if we do not have money to keep the lights on and the phones connected and to appropriately compensate the gifted staff who sustain Grace on a daily basis.

Giving to Grace is a way for me to believe in the future, to believe that this community will continue to nurture me and my family as it has for my entire adult life. To believe that even better times are ahead. To believe that Grace will be here for all of our kids, and all of us, for generations to come.

~ Lynette Baisch