



# Grace Episcopal Church

First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2020 | 8 and 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Preacher | Sara Hayward

Music | Martin Cockroft

Tribe | Cherry

Mercy would be a beginning, so mercy it is, the first word  
to rumble out of the ground,  
to run up, bitter or pure, from a struck open rock.

Hover down, mercy, like a shadow, a long-legged  
shadow to secret bodies from the sun.

An outcropped rock curls like a hand,  
a hollow to hide in, a hollow to die in.

Mercy begins in a desert, runs under bedrock.

Mercy takes a deep drill to vibrate loose.

Mercy juts up sharp and unexpected,  
cuts a trench to catch a downpour,  
low as a gash in the landscape can be  
before becoming a canyon, a gorge, a riverbed.

Justice punctures too deep, rises too high,  
ruins the way for mercy.

So begin. Crack open the earth's crust like bread,  
and ask again for a hard mercy to rise  
between soft hands.

~David Wright

From *A Liturgy for Stones* (DreamSeeker Books, Telford, PA © 2003)

This week, children join their families for the first part of worship. After a short conversation with Wren, they will process out for the Little Community, and share in child-led prayers and music. At Grace, children of all ages are invited to participate in the Little Community on the first Sunday of every month.

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Songs & readings omitted at the 8:00 service are marked with an \*

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

## Gathering Song | How Long O Lord

by Gerard Chiusano

How long, O Lord, 'til we see your  
face? O God, we hope in  
you.

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## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

Celebrant God above us, God beside us, God beneath us,  
**People God at our center, God at the edge, God with us.**  
Celebrant God, you are gracious and full of compassion.  
**People Your mercy endures forever.**

We remain standing and sing together.

## Opening Song | Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days \*

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman | Music: St. Flavian; adapt. and harm. Richard Redhead



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,  
3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,  
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,  
5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,



1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.  
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.  
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.  
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

## The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

God our companion, you know temptation and fear. Meet us in our weakness. Embrace us with your mercy, and strengthen our trust in your love, that we may encourage hope in others. **Amen.**

# WE TELL THE STORY

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*We are seated for the reading.*

## **The First Reading** | Genesis: 2:15-17, 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All    Thanks be to God.**

*We stand and say the Psalm.*

## **Psalm | 32**

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and did not conceal my guilt.

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

**You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.

**Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will not stay near you."**

Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

*We are seated for the second reading.*

## **The Second Reading** | Romans 5:12-19 \*

*Our youth reader will read a version of this scripture other than what is printed below. Please listen as she reads.*

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned — sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*We stand together and sing*

## **Gospel Song** | **What We Need is Here**

*by Amy McCreath*

What we need is here

What we need is here

*The Celebrant then introduces the Gospel by saying*

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

**People**      **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

## **The Gospel** | Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*After the Gospel the Celebrant will say*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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## **OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY**

### **The Homily**

*At the 9:30am service, children are invited to join Wren for a brief conversation at the beginning of the homily. Afterwards, children are invited to process out together to gather for the Little Community. They will return for Communion.*

# 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

*Stefan Waligur*

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,  
Lord, have mer - cy, on us.

Leader “Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.”

We come to you today, aware of our hunger. We are famished for justice; for wise leadership, for ecological restoration. We hunger for peace between nations, within our land, in our homes, churches, and neighborhoods.

*We pause for prayers to be offered silently or aloud.*

Leader We pray for these gifts of your mercy,  
**All hear our prayers.**

Leader “It is written, 'God will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'”

We come to you today, aware of people and communities in need: people who need gifts of guidance, courage, inspiration, comfort and health. We name before you those on our prayer list and those we name before you aloud or in our hearts.

*We pause for prayers to be offered silently or aloud.*

Leader We pray for these gifts of your promise,  
**All hear our prayers.**

Leader “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

We come to you today, gladdened by fellowship and food in this place, thankful for the gift of your Word. Be with those who live with hunger and insecurity and with those who hunger for words of hope. Grant your Spirit to help us put our lives into perspective so that every word from your mouth feeds us with desire for your will.

*We pause for prayers to be offered silently or aloud.*

Leader We pray for these gifts of your generosity,  
**All hear our prayers.**

Leader “The grace of Jesus Christ abounds for all.”

Fill our hearts with the confidence that words of grace are meant for each of us – always and regardless of our situations, temptations, weakness, and loss. We pray for strength when we are tempted, for wisdom to face challenges, for courage when we feel weak, for comfort in times of grief, and for new life in you day by day.

*We pause for prayers to be offered silently or aloud.*

Leader We pray for these gifts of your grace,  
**All hear our prayers.**

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy  
on \_\_\_\_\_ us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,  
Lord, have mer - cy, on \_\_\_\_\_ us.

Silence

Leader We pray to you for the forgiveness of our sins.

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

**All Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Celebrant In the name of God who created you, in the name of the Son who searches for you, in the name of the Spirit who brings healing and forgiveness, you have been forgiven and set free. **Amen.**

## The Peace

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

Celebrant Now the peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All And also with you.**

After the peace, we are seated.

## Offertory Song | I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

African American Spiritual



1. I want Je - sus to walk with me,  
2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me,



I want Je - sus to walk with me,  
In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me,



All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
When the shades of life are fall - ing,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

3. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.  
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.  
When my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

## WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE

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

Celebrant 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:

*Caroline Lucas*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly; Lord God of all. \_\_\_\_\_  
Heav'n and earth re - joice in your wond - drous love \_\_\_\_\_

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 Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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 alcohol free wine, or a wafer that is free from gluten, soy, and dairy.*

## **Music during Communion | You Make Beautiful Things \***

*by Lisa Gungor & Michael Gungor*

**You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us**

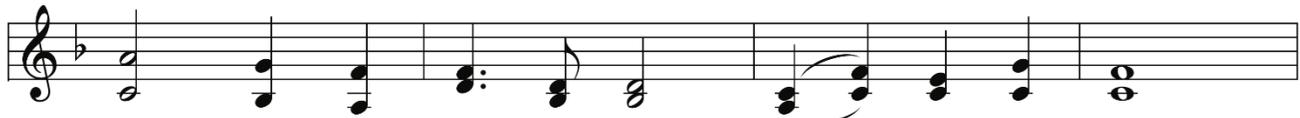
**You make me new,  
You are making me new  
You make me new,  
You are making me new**

# Nearer My God to Thee \*

Words: Sarah F. Adams | Music: Bethany, Lowell Mason



1. Near - er, my God, to thee, Near - er to thee!  
2. Though like the wan - der - er, The sun gone down,  
3. There let the way ap - pear, Steps un - to heav'n;



E'en though it be a cross That rais - eth me,  
Dark - ness be o - ver me, My rest a stone;  
All that thou send - est me, In mer - cy giv'n;



Still all my song shall be, Near - er, my God, to thee;  
Yet in my dreams I'd be Near - er, my God, to thee;  
An - gels to beck - on me Near - er, my God, to thee;



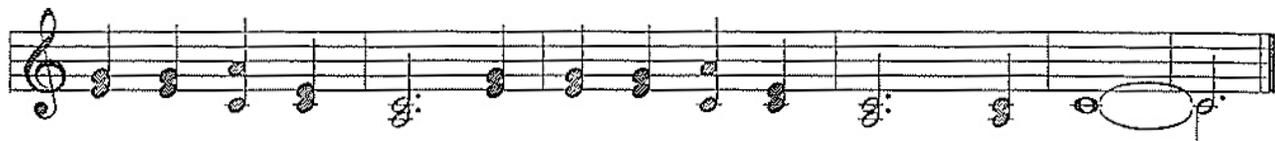
Near - er, my God, to thee, Near - er to thee!

# O God We Call

by Linnea Good



O God we call, O God we call, from deep in - side we yearn, from



deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn for you.

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 | Como Encender \*

by Stefan Andre Waligur

In English: "How can we ignite the fire of hope?"



## 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.*

In the love of God may you find help, may you know rest, may you find companionship, may you receive peace, and the blessing of God who was and is and is to come, rest upon you and abide with you today and always. **Amen.**

## Closing Song | Peace Be unto You \* by Hans Christian Jochimsen

Led by Music Circle ensemble

5 Peace be un - to you when you leave this ho - ly place.

Peace be un - to you may God keep you by His Grace.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Peace Be unto You'. It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a '5' indicating the starting measure. The lyrics are: 'Peace be un - to you when you leave this ho - ly place.' The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: 'Peace be un - to you may God keep you by His Grace.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for an ensemble.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries \*

We pray together, then sing "God Grant Them Many Years."

## Announcements \*

## Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**