



# Grace Episcopal Church

Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2020 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Music | Martin Cockroft

Tribe | Cedar

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

## Gathering Song | Gather Your People

by Tony Alonzo



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

After the gathering song, the *Officiant* invites us to stand.

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

*Adapted from a prayer written by Richard Carter in Liturgy on the Edge: Pastoral & Occasional Worship.*

We remain standing and sing together.

## Opening Song | Come Thou Fount

Words: Robert Robinson | Music: *Nettleton*; harm. Gerre Hancock

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love." The score consists of six lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The final line ends with a double bar line.

## The Collect

Officiant     The Lord be with you.

**People**     **And also with you.**

Officiant     Let us pray.

God of compassion, you are among us and you lead us into life. Receive us today as your beloved. Hold for us the joy and pain of our past, that we may find companionship, hope, and renewal in you. **Amen.**

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## WE TELL THE STORY

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*We are seated for the reading.*

### **The First Reading** | Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

*After the reading, the reader will say*

    The Word of the Lord.

**All**     **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand and say the Psalm.*

## **Psalm | 95**

Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

**Harden not your hearts,  
as your forebears did in the wilderness,  
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,  
when they tempted me.**

They put me to the test,  
though they had seen my works.

**Forty years long I detested that generation and said,  
"This people are wayward in their hearts;  
they do not know my ways."**

So I swore in my wrath,  
"They shall not enter into my rest."

*We are seated for the second reading.*

## **The Second Reading** | Romans 5:1-11

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All**            **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand together and sing*

## **Gospel Song** | **Don't Be Afraid**

*by John Bell*

*We sing the refrain twice.*

Don't be a - fraid. My love is strong - er.  
my love is strong - er than your fear.  
Don't be a - fraid. My love is strong - er and  
I have prom-ised, prom-ised to be al - ways near.

*The Officiant 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 4:5-42

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

*(Reading continues on the following page.)*

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

*After the Gospel the Officiant will say*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*We sing the refrain once.*

Don't be a - fraid. My love is strong - er.  
my love is strong - er than your fear.  
Don't be a - fraid. My love is strong - er and  
I have prom-ised, prom-ised to be al - ways near.

# OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

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## 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

Officiant     The Lord be with you.

People        **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

**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.**

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 You give living water to the world. Refresh those who seek to share this water: all who love and serve you in all walks of life. Be with this congregation as we give and receive water from each other.

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

Leader In your mercy,  
**All hear our prayers.**

Leader You give living water to the world. Strengthen all who work for peace between nations, who pray for their enemies, who listen to voices different from their own. We pray for our democracy and for all nations as they seek the common good

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

Leader In your mercy,  
**All hear our prayers.**

Leader You give living water to the world. Heal and comfort those who are sick, who are afraid, who are working to care for sick and worried people, and who seek vaccines and medicines to heal. Give peace and clarity of thought to all affected by the novel coronavirus: families, friends, school children, teachers, elders, caregivers. We lift before you these people who have requested prayer and those we name before you aloud or in our hearts.

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

Leader In your mercy,  
**All hear our prayers.**

*Additional prayers are offered by our officiant. To the bidding, "In your Mercy," we respond, "Hear our Prayer."*

Leader You give living water to the world. We give thanks for the living water shared with those we know and love who have entered life eternal and whom we name aloud or in our hearts

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

Leader In your mercy,  
**All hear our prayers.**

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.

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**

Officiant 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.**

## It is Well

*Words: Horatio Spafford, adapted by Martin Cockroft | Music: Philip Bliss, adapted by Martin Cockroft*



# GOING OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD

## Closing Song | Peace Like a River

*African American Spiritual*

1. I've got peace like a ri-ver I've got peace like a ri-ver I've got peace like a  
ri-ver in my soul, \_\_\_\_\_ I've got peace like a ri-ver I've got peace like a  
ri-ver I've got peace like a ri-ver in my soul. \_\_\_\_\_

2. I've got joy like a fountain ....

3. I've got love like an ocean ....

Repeat verse 1.

*We stand and say together*

**God of mercy, we are your servants and we give you humble thanks**

**for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.**

**Thank you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;**

**and above all for your immeasurable love for the world by coming to be with us in Jesus;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**Give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth  
your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you in peace, and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Blessing

*The Officiant offers a blessing.*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Now may the blessing of God rest upon you, Christ's peace go with you, and the discernment of the  
Spirit guide your steps today and always. **Amen.**