



## Grace Episcopal Church

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Music | Ann Strickland

### The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

~ Wendell Berry from *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry* © 1998

# Outreach Announcement *offered by Heather Paar*

## Prelude Music *offered by Isaac Hanto*

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

## Gathering Song | Blue Green Hills of Earth

*by Kim Oler*

1. For the earth for - ev - er turn - ing,  
2. For the moun - tains hills and pas - tures,  
3. For the sun for rain and thun - der,

For the skies for - ev - 'ry sea,  
In their si - lent maj - es - ty,  
For the land that makes us free,

To our Lord we sing re - turn - ing  
For all life for all of na - ture,  
For the stars for all the heav - ens,

Home to our blue green hills of earth.  
Sing we our joy - ful praise to Thee.  
Sing we our joy - ful praise to Thee.

Repeat verse 1.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*After the gathering song, we stand and sing.*

Cantor

Al-le - lu - ia Al-le - lu - ia Al-le - lu - ia..

People

Al-le - lu - ia Al-le - lu - ia Al-le - lu - ia..

The Officiant proclaims

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

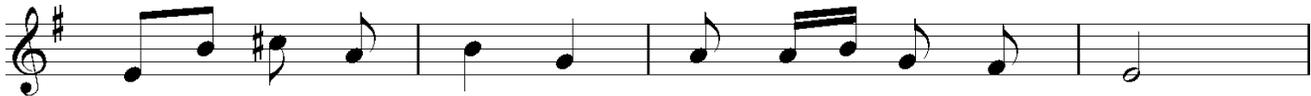
We remain standing and sing together

## Opening Song | Now the Green Blade Riseth

Words: John Macleod Campbell Crum | Music: Medieval French carol



1 Now the green blade ris - eth from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that nev - er he would wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain,  
thy touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:  
quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen:  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



Love is come a - gain like wheat that spring - eth green.

## The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

God who journeys with us, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Nourish us with your gifts and open our eyes to your presence, that walking with you, we may honor the goodness of your creation. **Amen.**

# WE TELL THE STORY

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*We are seated for the reading.*

## **The First Reading** | Acts 2:14a,36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All    Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm | 116:1-3,10-17

*We say the Psalm.*

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication,  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

**The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.**

Then I called upon the Name of the Lord:  
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

**How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the good things he has done for me?**

I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

**I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.**

Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his servants.

**O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.**

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

**I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,**

In the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah!

*We are seated for the second reading.*

## **The Second Reading** | 1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

*After the reading, the Reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**People**        **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Song** | **Love Walk with Me**

*by Ana Hernandez and Fran McKendree*

**Love take a walk with me,  
Love take a walk with me,  
Love take a walk with me,  
Oh, Spirit, guide my feet!**

**Friends take a walk with me,  
Friends take a walk with me,  
Friends take a walk with me,  
Oh, Spirit, guide my feet!**

**Hope take a walk with me,  
Hope take a walk with me,  
Hope take a walk with me,  
Oh, Spirit, guide my feet!**

**Grief take a walk with me,  
Grief take a walk with me,  
Grief take a walk with me,  
Oh, Spirit, guide my feet!**

**Faith take a walk with me,  
Faith take a walk with me,  
Faith take a walk with me,  
Oh, Spirit, come guide my feet!**

**Freedom take a walk with me,  
Freedom take a walk with me,  
Freedom take a walk with me,  
Oh, Spirit, come guide my feet!  
Oh, Spirit, come guide, my feet!**

*The Officiant then introduces the Gospel by saying*

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

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

## **The Gospel** | Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*After the Gospel the Officiant will say*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*We sing together.*

**Love take a walk with me,  
Love take a walk with me,  
Love take a walk with me,  
Oh, Spirit, guide my feet!**

## **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

Prayers written and offered by Earth and Spirit member Merry Cockroft.

Ann Strickland, from John 14:27

My peace I leave with you my peace I give you. My peace I leave with you my  
4  
peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be trou-bled, do not be a-fraid, do not  
7  
let your hearts be trou-bled, do not be a-fraid. Do not let your hearts be trou- bled, do not  
10  
be a- afraid. Do not let your hearts be trou- bled, do not be a- afraid.

*Silence*

Leader We have taken your creation for granted. Give us gratitude for the world around us.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader God of life,

**People hear our prayer.**

Leader We waste the goodness with which we are entrusted. Guide us to care for and protect the earth that sustains us.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader God of life,

**People hear our prayer.**

Leader We pollute the water, air, and soil on which we depend. Use us for the healing of all of creation.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader God of life,

**People hear our prayer.**

Leader We squander and are oblivious to the lives of the creatures around us. Move us to be aware of and rejoice in our companion species.  
*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader God of life,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader We have not fulfilled our call to steward your earth. Draw us into vocations of renewal and conservation.  
*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader God of life,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader For trees, plants, crops, and forests.  
*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader God of life,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader For water, oceans, rivers, streams, and ponds.  
*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader God of life,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader For abundant habitat for animals, especially endangered species, and all humankind.  
*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader God of life,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader For plentiful food for all creatures.  
*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader God of life,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader For all entrusted with power to preserve the earth and to limit global warming.  
*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader God of life,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader We give thanks for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.  
*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader God of life,  
People **hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for those on our prayer list, and for all who are in need.  
*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader God of life,  
People **hear our prayer.**

4  
My peace I leave with you my peace I give you. My peace I leave with you my  
7  
peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be trou-bled, do not be a-fraid, do not  
10  
let your hearts be trou-bled, do not be a-fraid. Do not let your hearts be trou- bled, do not  
be a- afraid. Do not let your hearts be trou- bled, do not be a- afraid.

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.**

# The Blessing

*The Officiant offers the blessing of Easter.*

May you know the presence of God with you always, the companionship of Christ in spaces of despair, and the renewal of the Spirit, new every morning. And God's blessing rest upon you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be upon you, now and always. **Amen.**

## Closing Song | Lead with Love

*by Melanie DeMore*

*Chorus:*

**You gotta put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love**

**Put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love.**

**You gotta put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love**

**Put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love.**

Don't give up hope (**Don't give up hope**)

You're not alone (**You're not alone**)

Don't you give up (**Don't you give up**)

Keep movin' on (**Keep movin' on**)

*Chorus*

Lift up your eyes (**Lift up your eyes**)

Don't you despair (**Don't you despair**)

Look up ahead (**Look up ahead**)

The path is there (**The path is there**)

*Chorus*

I know you're scared (**I know you're scared**)

And I'm scared too (**And I'm scared too**)

But here I am (**But here I am**)

Right next to you (**Right next to you**)

*Chorus*

**And lead with love.**

**And lead with love.**

## The Peace

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

Officiant Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Now the peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All And also with you. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Please stay online to join in a small group for a coffee hour conversation.  
Families with children at home are invited to join in this Zoom gathering:  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79419759050>. Meeting ID: 794 1975 9050.*

*We rely on and are grateful for your continued support. Please make your weekly offering or pledge  
payment here (<https://www.gracehere.org/online-giving/>).*

*Thank you!*