



# Grace Episcopal Church

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Preacher | The Right Reverend Greg Rickel

Rector | Wren Blessing

Music | Ann Strickland

## Briefly It Enters, and Briefly Speaks

I am the blossom pressed in a book,  
found again after two hundred years. . . .

I am the maker, the lover, and the keeper. . . .

When the young girl who starves  
sits down to a table  
she will sit beside me. . . .

I am food on the prisoner's plate. . . .

I am water rushing to the wellhead,  
filling the pitcher until it spills. . . .

I am the patient gardener  
of the dry and weedy garden. . . .

I am the stone step,  
the latch, and the working hinge. . . .

I am the heart contracted by joy. . . .  
the longest hair, white  
before the rest. . . .

I am there in the basket of fruit  
presented to the widow. . . .

I am the musk rose opening  
unattended, the fern on the boggy summit. . . .

I am the one whose love  
overcomes you, already with you  
when you think to call my name. . . .

~ Jane Kenyon from *Collected Poems*

## Prayer

For all  
the pain  
  
passed down  
the genes  
  
or latent  
in the very grain  
  
of being;  
for the lordless  
  
mornings,  
the smear  
  
of spirit  
words intuit  
  
and inter;  
for all  
  
the nightfall  
neverness  
  
inking  
into me  
  
even now,  
my prayer  
  
is that a mind  
blurred  
  
by anxiety  
or despair  
  
might find  
here  
  
a trace  
of peace.

~ Christian Wiman, *from Hammer is the Prayer*  
(Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016)

# We Welcome Bishop Rickel

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

## Gathering Song | Open My Heart

*by Ana Hernandez | Led by members of the Cockroft family*

*by Ana Hernandez*

O - pen my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

O - pen my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff has a double bar line at the end, and the second staff has a final double bar line.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

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

The image shows a single staff of musical notation for the Cantor's part. It starts in 4/4 time and changes to 3/4 time for the final note. The melody is simple and repetitive.

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

The image shows a single staff of musical notation for the People's part. It starts in 4/4 time and changes to 3/4 time for the final note. The melody is simple and repetitive.

*The Officiant proclaims*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

We remain standing and sing together

# Opening Song | Abide with Me *Led by Merry Cockroft, Tom Ringo, & Barbara Hume*

Words: Harry Francis Lyte | Music: Eventide, William Henry Monk



1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;  
2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;  
3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;



the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?  
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.



when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?  
Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?



help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.  
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.

## The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

○ God, you have prepared for those who love you goodness that surpasses our understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may grow into and hold fast to your promises, which exceed all that we can desire, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# WE TELL THE STORY

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*We are seated for the reading.*

## **The First Reading** | Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All    Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm | 66:7-18

*We say the Psalm.*

Bless our God, you peoples;  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

**Who holds our souls in life,  
and will not allow our feet to slip.**

For you, O God, have proved us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

**You brought us into the snare;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water;  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

**I will enter your house with burnt-offerings  
and will pay you my vows,  
which I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts  
with the smoke of rams;  
I will give you oxen and goats.

**Come and listen, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.**

I called out to him with my mouth,  
and his praise was on my tongue.

**If I had found evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me;**

But in truth God has heard me;  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

**Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld his love from me.**

We are seated for the second reading.

## The Second Reading | 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

After the reading, the Reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Song | Halleluia

by Ann Strickland

Hal-le lu - ia Hal-le lu\_ ia Hal-le lu\_ ia, Hal-le -lu. Hal-le

6  
lu - ia Hal-le lu\_ ia Hal-le lu\_ ia Hal-le -lu.

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 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

After the Gospel the Officiant will say

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hal-le lu - ia Hal-le lu\_\_ ia Hal-le lu\_\_ ia, Hal-le -lu. Hal-le  
lu - ia Hal-le lu\_\_ ia Hal-le lu\_\_ ia Hal-le -lu.

## 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

Please add your intentions to our prayers by including your concerns or thanksgivings in the chat window at each bidding.

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-fraid. Do not let your hearts be trou-bled, do not be a-fraid.

*Silence*

Leader God, in you we live and move and have our being. We pray for people around the world who are far from home; for refugees, for those who struggle with addiction, and for anyone who does not have a safe place to rest.

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

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

Leader We give thanks for those in every generation in whom we have known the love of God. We pray for our leaders; for our Presiding Bishop, Michael, for our Bishop, Greg, for lay leaders, staff, and clergy who serve Grace Church. Guide us by your Spirit of truth.

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

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

Leader God, you do not reject our prayer, nor withhold your love from us. We pray for people in this community who are afraid or sick, and for those who know anxiety, irritability, or loneliness. Meet us where we are empty. Strengthen us to receive and serve our neighbors with love.

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

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

Leader We pray for nations, peoples, congregations, and families who are in conflict. Guide leaders in government and in organizations to seek peace, strengthen the vulnerable, and to 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 God, you hold our souls in life and will not allow our feet to slip. We pray for the concerns of all gathered with us, and for those on our prayer list.

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

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

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-fraid. Do not let your hearts be trou-bled, do not be a-fraid.

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.**

## **Offertory**

*While we cannot gather in person, we make our weekly offerings online here: <https://www.gracehere.org/online-giving/>.*

## **The Blessing**

# Closing Song | As I Went Down to the River

African American spiritual | Led by Nina Davis

As I went down to the ri-ver to pray, Stu-dy-ing a - bout the good old\_ way and who shall wear the star - ry crown good Lord show me\_ the way.\_\_\_\_\_

1. Oh sis - ter lets go down, Lets go down, come on\_ down,\_\_\_\_\_

Oh sis - ter lets go down, Down to the ri-ver to pray.\_\_\_\_\_

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are placed below the notes.

2. Oh, brother, let's go down ...

4. Oh, father, let's go down ...

3. Oh, mother, let's go down ...

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Using the Zoom chat window, please share a milestone that we can recognize together.

We will sing, "God Grant Them Many Years."

## 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!**

## truth

And if sun comes  
How shall we greet him?  
Shall we not dread him,  
Shall we not fear him  
After so lengthy a  
Session with shade?

Though we have wept for him,  
Though we have prayed  
All through the night-years—  
What if we wake one shimmering morning to  
Hear the fierce hammering  
Of his firm knuckles  
Hard on the door?

Shall we not shudder?—  
Shall we not flee  
Into the shelter, the dear thick shelter  
Of the familiar  
Propitious haze?

Sweet is it, sweet is it  
To sleep in the coolness  
Of snug unawareness.

The dark hangs heavily  
Over the eyes.

~ Gwendolyn Brooks from *Blacks*, Copyright © 1987

*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/73467709605?pwd=akdtV04yTEM2ZER3S2s2dzFUWWlrUT09>