



"Even the Sparrow" Jan Richardson

Grace Episcopal Church

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2020 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Music | Ann Strickland

The Sparrow

A little bird, with plumage brown,
Beside my window flutters down,
A moment chirps its little strain,
Ten taps upon my window-pane,
And chirps again, and hops along,
To call my notice to its song;
But I work on, nor heed its lay,
Till, in neglect, it flies away

So birds of peace and hope and love
Come fluttering earthward from above,
To settle on life's window-sills,
And ease our load of earthly ills;
But we, in traffic's rush and din
Too deep engaged to let them in,
With deadened heart and sense plod on,
Nor know our loss till they are gone.

~ Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)

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

Gathering Song | Veni Sancte Spiritus

Words: Taizé Community | Music: Jacques Berthier

Ostinato Refrain

Melody:
Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

Harmony:
Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

After the gathering song, the *Officiant* invites us to stand and says

Officiant We are not alone.

People **We live in God's world.**

Officiant We are listening, Holy One.

People **Give us hope, give us courage.**

Officiant God, bless every step that we are taking.

People **And God, bless the earth beneath our feet.**

We remain standing and sing together.

Opening Song | Times Like These

by Nate Mendel, Dave Grohl, Taylor Hawkins, & Chris Shiflett

I, I'm a one way motorway
I'm the one that drives away
Then follows you back home
I, I'm a street light shining
I'm a wild light blinding bright
Burning off alone

Chorus:

It's times like these you learn to live again
It's times like these you give and give again
It's times like these you learn to love again
It's times like these time and time again

I, I'm a new day rising
I'm a brand new sky
To hang the stars upon tonight
I am a little divided
Do I stay or run away
And leave it all behind?

Chorus

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Holy One, your love is kind. In your compassion, set us free to love you with our whole selves, to find life by losing it for your sake, and to run to you with open hearts, hoping in Christ our brother. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Jeremiah 20:7-13

O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.
For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him,
and take our revenge on him."
But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

(Reading continues on the following page.)

O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous,
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.
Sing to the Lord;
praise the Lord!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

After the reading, the reader will say
The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 69:8-20

Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.

**I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.**

Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

**I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.**

I put on sack-cloth also,
and became a byword among them.

**Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

But as for me, this is my prayer to you,
at the time you have set, O Lord:

**"In your great mercy, O God,
answer me with your unfailing help.**

Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me
and out of the deep waters.

(Reading continues on the following page.)

**Let not the torrent of waters wash over me,
neither let the deep swallow me up;
do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.**

Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.'

**"Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.**

Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | Will You Come and Follow Me

Words: John L. Bell & Graham Meade | Music: KELVINGROVE Scottish trad. Arr. John L. Bell



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but call
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but call



your name? Will you go where you don't know And
your name? Will you care for cruel and kind And



nev - er be the same? Will you let my love be shown,
nev - er be the same? Will you risk the hos - tile stare



Will you let my name be known, Will you
Should your life at - tract or scare? Will you



let my life be grown In you and you in me?
let me an - swer prayer In you and you in me?

The Officiant 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 10:24-39

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

After the Gospel the Officiant 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 silently in prayer.

The Prayers of the People

David Haas

1. Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us, peace
2. Love be - fore us, love be - hind us, love

un - der our feet. Peace with - in us, peace
un - der our feet. Love with - in us, love

o - ver us, let all a - round us be peace.
o - ver us, let all a - round us be love.

Silence

Leader In your mercy, draw near to all people who are in need. We pray for those who are hungry or who long for safety, for people who need work or friendship or rest. Guide us and our leaders to respond to the needs of our neighbors with openness, generosity, and faithfulness.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Meet us in silence,
People and hear our prayer.

Leader Thank you for the goodness of the world that sustains us and for its wildness. Move us to delight in and care for the earth and its creatures.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Meet us in silence,
People and hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for people of faith around the world: give us vision to seek and work for enduring peace. Bring an end to racism and violence in our lives and in our country. Give us strength to listen to those who seek justice, to learn, and to lay down our privilege and our lives for your sake.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Meet us in silence,
People and hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for those who feel alone, who are afraid, or who are overwhelmed by grief. Fill aching hearts with hope, give strength to those struggling with addiction, and comfort to those who are sick. We name now those on our prayer list.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Meet us in silence,
People **and hear our prayer.**

3. Light be - fore us, light be - hind us, light
4. Christ be - fore us, Christ be - hind us, Christ

un - der our feet. Light with - in us, light
un - der our feet. Christ with - in us, Christ

o - ver us, let all a - round us be light.
o - ver us, let all a - round us be Christ.

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

The Officiant offers a blessing.

God's Blessing be upon you, Christ's love dwell with you, the Spirit's outpouring fill you with hope, now and always. **Amen.**

Closing 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.

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 Now the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

*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/76283360201>*

Book of Genesis

Suppose there was a book full of only the word,
let – from whose clipped sound all things begin: fir
and firmament, feather, the first whale – and suppose

we could scroll through its pages every day
to find and pronounce a *Let* meant only for us –
we would stumble through the streets with open books,

eyes crossed from too much reading; we would speak
in auto-rhyme, the world would echo itself – and still
we'd continue in rounds, saying *let* and *let* and *let*

until even silent dreams had been allowed.

~ Kei Miller from *There is an Anger That Moves* © 2007