

Grace Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2020 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Martin Cockroft



“A Place for the Prophet” by Jan Richardson

A Drink of Water

She came every morning to draw water
Like an old bat staggering up the field:
The pump’s whooping cough, the bucket’s clatter
And slow diminuendo as it filled,
Announced her. I recall
Her grey apron, the pocked white enamel
Of the brimming bucket, and the treble
Creak of her voice like the pump’s handle.
Nights when a full moon lifted past her gable
It fell back through her window and would lie
Into the water set out on the table.
Where I have dipped to drink again, to be
Faithful to the admonishment on her cup,
Remember the Giver, fading off the lip.

~Seamus Heaney from *Field Work* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1979)

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

Gathering Song | | Veni Sancte Spiritus

Words: Taizé Community | Music: Jacques Berthier

Ostinato Refrain

The musical score is presented in three staves. The top staff is labeled 'Melody' and contains a single melodic line in treble clef. The middle staff is labeled 'Harmony' and contains a piano accompaniment in treble clef. The bottom staff is in bass clef and provides a bass line. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics 'Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.' are written below each staff. The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, while the harmony and bass line use chords and sustained notes to create an ostinato effect.

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 | I'm Here in the Heart of God (chant)

by Chandra Rule

Martin leads and we sing the bolded sections.

I am here in the heart of God. **I am here in the heart of God.**

God is here in the heart of me. **God is here in the heart of me.**

Like the wave in the water and the water in the wave.

Like the wave in the water and the water in the wave.

I am here in the heart of God. **I am here in the heart of God**

I am here in the breath of God. **I am here in the breath of God.**

God is here in the breath of me. **God is here in the breath of me.**

Like the wind in the springtime and the springtime in the wind.

Like the wind in the springtime and the springtime in the wind.

I am here in the breath of God. **I am here in the breath of God.**

I am here in the soul of God. **I am here in the soul of God.**

God is here in the soul of me. **God is here in the soul of me.**

Like the flame in the fire and the fire in the flame.

Like the flame in the fire and the fire in the flame.

I am here in the soul of God. **I am here in the soul of God.**

I am here in the mind of God. **I am here in the mind of God.**

God is here in the mind of me. **God is here in the mind of me.**

Like the earth in my body and my body in the earth.

Like the earth in my body and my body in the earth.

I am here in the mind of God. **I am here in the mind of God.**

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Your love, O Lord, for ever will we sing. Open us to welcome you that we may know you as you draw near, love you with our whole hearts, and be united in service and in joy. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Jeremiah 28:5-9

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 89:1-4,15-18

Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**'I will establish your line for ever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"**

Happy are the people who know the festal shout!
they walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence.

**They rejoice daily in your Name;
they are jubilant in your righteousness.**

For you are the glory of their strength,
and by your favor our might is exalted.

**Truly, the Lord is our ruler;
the Holy One of Israel is our King.**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Romans 6:12-23

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | Build a Longer Table *Led by Dusty Collings & Marcus Lang*

Words: David Bjorlin | Music: French carol, 15th c.

1. Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2. Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
4. When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,

feed - ing those who hung - er mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Christ be - comes our door - way to the reign of God.

Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.

Christ breaks walls to pic - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will break the jail walls, free - ing all in - side.
None can be ex - clu - ded; all must find a home.

The Curate 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 10:40-42

Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

After the Gospel the Curate 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

Love Take a Walk with Me *by Ana Hernandez & 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!**

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

Silence

Leader Holy One, your love is established forever. Thank you for the diverse ways that you call us into relationships of love. Thank you for all who support and stand in solidarity with those whose love has been marginalized. Strengthen and support people who fear intimidation, oppression, or punishment because of their relationships of love.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

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

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 companionship. Guide us and our leaders to respond to the needs of our neighbors with openness and generosity.

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 any who feel alone, who are afraid, or who are overwhelmed by grief. Fill aching hearts with hope, and comfort those who are sick or who struggle with addiction. 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.

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

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

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.

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you with an everlasting love. Go in peace to welcome the stranger, to follow the good road, and may the blessing of the Triune One rest upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | You Can't Stop the Spirit

by Ana Hernandez

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You can't stop the spir - it She goes on and on, She is
like a moun - tain hold - ing strong.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff is in 3/4 time and contains the melody for the second line of lyrics. A '3' is written above the first staff, indicating a triplet. The lyrics are: 'You can't stop the spir - it She goes on and on, She is like a moun - tain hold - ing strong.'

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.

Commercial Break

Last night this commercial came on TV. It was this white lady making a nice dinner for her husband. She made him some baked chicken with potatoes and gravy and some kind of greens—not collards, but they still looked real good. Everything looked so delicious, I just wanted to reach into that television and snatch a plate for myself.

He gave her a kiss and then a voice came on saying *He'll love you for it* and then the commercial went off.

I sat on Miss Edna's scratchy couch wondering if that man and woman really ate that food or just threw it all away.

Now Ms. Marcus wants to know why I wrote that the lady is white and I say because it's true. And Ms. Marcus says *Lonnie, what does race have to do with it*, forgetting that she asked us to use lots of details when we wrote. Forgetting that whole long talk she gave yesterday about the importance of description! I don't say anything back to her, just look down at my arm. It's dark brown and there's a scab by my wrist that I don't pick at if I remember not to. I look at my knuckles. They're real dark too.

Outside it's starting to rain and the way the rain comes down—tap, tapping against the window—gets me to thinking. Ms. Marcus don't understand some things even though she's my favorite teacher in the world. Things like my brown, brown arm. And the white lady and man with all that good food to throw away. How if you turn on your TV, that's what you see—people with lots and lots of stuff not having to sit on scratchy couches in Miss Edna's house. And the true fact is alotta those people are white. Maybe it's that if you're white you can't see all the whiteness around you.

~ Jacqueline Woodson from *Locomotion* (Puffin Books, 2003)