



# Grace Episcopal Church

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2020 | 9:30am

Liturgy of Holy Baptism

*Owen James Tyner*

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Ann Strickland

## Like the Water

Like the water  
of a deep stream,  
love is always too much.  
We did not make it.  
Though we drink till we burst,  
we cannot have it all,  
or want it all.  
In its abundance  
it survives our thirst.

In the evening we come down to the shore  
to drink our fill,  
and sleep,  
while it flows  
through the regions of the dark.  
It does not hold us,  
except we keep returning to its rich waters  
thirsty.

We enter,  
willing to die,  
into the commonwealth of its joy.

~ *Wendell Berry*

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

## **Gathering Song | Now is the Cool of the Day** *Offered by Barbara Hume* *by Jean Ritchie*

My Lord he said unto me  
Do you like my garden so fair?  
You may live in this garden  
If you keep the grasses green  
And I'll return in the cool of the day.

Now is the cool of the day  
Now is the cool of the day  
Oh this earth is a garden  
The garden of my Lord  
And He walks in his garden  
In the cool of the day.

Then my Lord he said unto me  
Do you like my pastures so green?  
You may live in this garden  
If you will feed my lambs  
And I'll return in the cool of the day.

Now is the cool of the day  
Now is the cool of the day  
Oh this earth is a garden  
The garden of my Lord  
And He walks in his garden  
In the cool of the day.

And my Lord he said unto me  
Do you like my garden so free?  
You may live in this garden  
If you keep the people free  
And I'll return in the cool of the day.

Now is the cool of the day  
Now is the cool of the day  
Oh this earth is a garden  
The garden of my Lord  
And He walks in his garden  
In the cool of the day.

Yes, He walks in his garden  
In the cool of the day.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

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

Officiant      In all of time and in every place,  
                    there is one Body and one Spirit;  
**People**        **there is one hope in God's call to us;**  
Officiant      One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
**People**        **One God, Creator of all. Amen.**

We remain standing and sing together.

## Opening Song | Take Me to the Water

African American Spiritual



Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the wa -



ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.

## The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

God of plenty, we love because you first loved us. In baptism, we hear you declare that love again. Move us to respond to your love with joy, and to find freedom and renewal in the gifts of your Spirit.

**Amen.**

# WE TELL THE STORY

---

*We are seated for the reading.*

## **The First Reading** | Isaiah 55:10-13

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*We stand and say the Psalm.*

## **Psalm** | 65: 9-14

You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous;  
the river of God is full of water.

**You prepare the grain,  
for so you provide for the earth.**

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

**You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.**

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.

**May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.**

*We are seated for the second reading.*

## **The Second Reading** | Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**

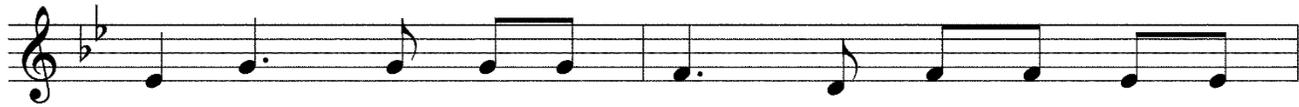
We stand together and sing

# Gospel Song | How Great Thou Art

Words: Stuart K. Hine | Music: O STORE GUD, with refrain; Stuart K. Hine



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some



won - der Con - sid - er all the worlds Thy hands have



made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing



thun - der, Thy pow'r thru - out the un - i - verse dis - played!



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee; How great Thou



art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to



Thee; How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

*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 13:1-9,18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

*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**

# PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

---

*The candidate for baptism comes forward.*

*The Officiant says*

The candidate for Baptism will now be presented.

*The Families and Godparents say*

**We present Owen James to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

*The Officiant asks the Parents and Godparents*

Will you be responsible for seeing that this child you present is nurtured in the Christian life of faith, hope and love?

*Parents and Godparents*

**We will, with God's help.**

*Officiant*

Will you by your prayers and witness help Owen to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents and Godparents*

**We will, with God's help.**

*The Officiant asks the following questions. The parents and Godparents speak on behalf of Owen.*

Do you renounce all spiritual forces that rebel against God?

**Answer We renounce them.**

Do you renounce all the evil powers that harm and destroy the creatures of God?

**Answer We renounce them.**

Do you renounce those desires that draw you from the love of God?

**Answer We renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

**Answer We do.**

Do you put your trust in God's grace and love?

**Answer We do.**

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

**Answer We do.**

*The Officiant addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Owen in his new life in Christ?

**All We will!**

Officiant Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant. Do you believe in God?

**People We believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of all humanity.**

Officiant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People 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.**

Officiant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People 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.**

Officiant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**People We will, with God's help.**

Officiant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**People We will, with God's help.**

Officiant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**People We will, with God's help.**

Officiant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**People We will, with God's help.**

Officiant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**People We will, with God's help.**

Officiant Let us now pray for Owen who is to receive this Sacrament of new birth.

# Prayers for the Candidate

Offered by Wendy Tyner

Leader Open his heart, O Lord, to your grace and truth.

**People Hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving spirit.

**People Hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your church.

**People Hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**People Hear our prayer.**

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.

**People Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and joy.

**People Hear our prayer.**

Officiant God of mercy and love, new birth by water and the Spirit is your gift, a gift that none can take away. Grant that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection, be filled with the joy of your presence and the fruit of your Spirit. **Amen.**

As we sing, we process to and gather around the baptismal font.

## As I Went Down to the River to Pray *Led by Nina Davis*

African American Spiritual

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.\_

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

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

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

5. Oh, Owen, let's go down ...

# Thanksgiving and Blessing of the Water

*The Officiant blesses the water.*

Officiant      The Lord be with you.

**People      And also with you.**

Officiant      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People      It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your son Jesus was baptized and was named the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us through his life, death, and resurrection, into an everlasting life with you.

We thank you, God, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death and by it we share in Christ's resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son Jesus, we bring into his company those who come in hope and faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Triune One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Now bless and sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Baptism

*The Officiant baptizes the candidate saying*

I baptize you in the Name of the Triune One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Following the baptism, the Officiant says*

Let us pray.

Faithful God, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon Owen the gift of forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

*The priest then takes oil and marks the child's forehead with the sign of the cross, saying*

You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

*Then the Officiant says*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*A candle is lighted from the Paschal candle and handed to Owen.*

**All**            **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

Officiant      Receive the light of Christ.

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

*Please remain seated as you sing.*

## **Offertory Song | Something in the Water** *Offered by Nina Davis*

*by Brett James, Carrie Underwood, Christopher Michael De Stefano*

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

He said, "I've been where you've been before.  
Down every hallway's a slamming door."  
No way out, no one to come and save me  
Wasting a life that the Good Lord gave me

Then somebody said what I'm saying to you  
Opened my eyes and told me the truth."  
They said, "Just a little faith, it'll all get better."  
So I followed that preacher man down to the river

And now I'm changed  
And now I'm stronger

There must've been something in the water  
Oh, there must've been something in the water

Well, I heard what he said and I went on my way  
Didn't think about it for a couple of days  
Then it hit me like a lightning late one night  
I was all out of hope and all out of fight

Couldn't fight back the tears so I fell on my knees  
Saying, "God, if you're there come and rescue me."  
Felt love pouring down from above  
Got washed in the water, washed in the blood

And now I'm changed  
And now I'm stronger

There must be something in the water  
Oh, there must be something in the water

Officiant      We continue in prayer.

## **Prayers of the People**

Leader        Mighty God, you make fast the mountains by your power. Bind into one all people of faith, all who call upon your Name, and all whose faith is known to you alone. Join us with Owen, child of God, into one Body of Christ.

*We offer additional prayers for the church, silently or aloud.*

Leader        Peaceful God, you still the roaring of the seas. Convert the hearts of the nations, that righteousness and justice will flow through all lands.

*We offer additional prayers for the nations, silently or aloud.*

- Leader Generous God, you visit the earth and water it abundantly. Stir our hearts to steward your good creation, until the waters run clear and all creatures are nourished.  
*We offer additional prayers for the earth, silently or aloud.*
- Leader Just God, you drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges. Fill this community with your abundant love, and teach us how to share every good gift.  
*We offer additional prayers for this community, silently or aloud.*
- Leader Loving God, you prepare the grain and provide for the earth. Draw close to all who suffer, and all who are in trouble. Guide and strengthen all caregivers. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list.  
*We offer additional prayers for all in need, silently or aloud.*
- Leader Compassionate God, you crown the year with goodness. Carry all who have gone before us into your everlasting arms, and bring to fulfillment your purposes for all created life.  
*We offer additional prayers for those who have died, silently or aloud.*

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 a blessing.*

May you go out in joy and be led back in peace, and may the mountains and hills before you burst into song and the trees of the field clap their hands. And the blessing of God, the joy of Christ, and the hope of the Spirit rest upon you and remain with you today and always. **Amen.**

# Closing Song | Thought I Saw the Light Shine

by Alexi Murdoch



May the grace of God be with you al - ways in your

2



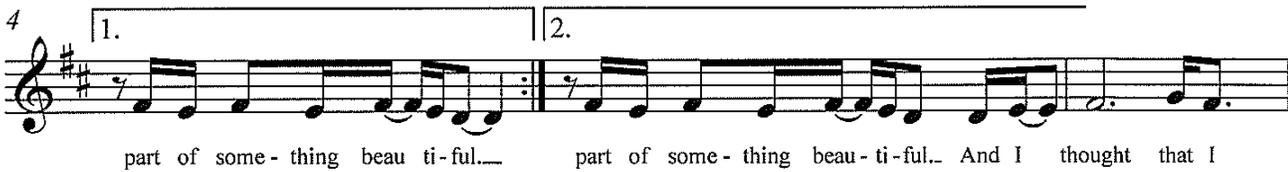
heart, May you know the truth in - side you from the

3



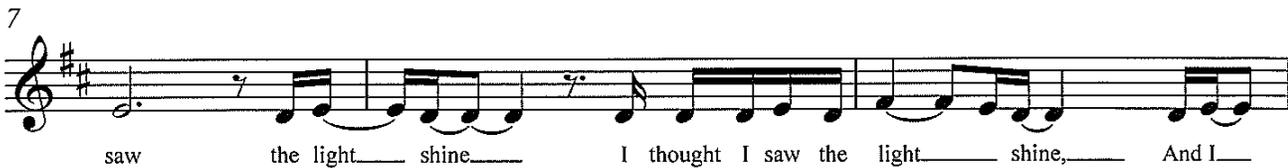
start, May you find the strength to know that you are

4



part of some - thing beau ti - ful. part of some - thing beau - ti - ful. And I thought that I

7



saw the light shine. I thought I saw the light shine, And I

10



thought that I saw the light shine. I thought I saw the light shine.



Thought I saw the light shine, Thought I saw the light shine,



Thought I saw the light shine, Shine!

## **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,  
or greet and be in conversation with Stephen at the following Zoom link:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82822322831?pwd=NFZXOGVpM25XNXVsVWtIYVFsUDlwZz09>

*Families with children at home are invited to join in this Zoom gathering:*

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9636148549?pwd=eldGdDdUciswaGZTcHhEQ3gvZTBIZz09>