



“Getting Grounded” Jan Richardson

## Grace Episcopal Church

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Martin Cockroft

### Mercy

She asks me to kill the spider.  
Instead, I get the most  
peaceful weapons I can find.

I take a cup and a napkin.  
I catch the spider, put it outside  
and allow it to walk away.

If I am ever caught in the wrong place  
at the wrong time, just being alive  
and not bothering anyone,

I hope I am greeted  
with the same kind  
of mercy.

~ Rudy Francisco from *Helium* © 2017

# Prelude | Leaning on the Everlasting Arms *Instrumental offered by Tom Ringo*

*Traditional*

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

## Gathering Song | Walk in the Light

*Traditional*

Walk in the light, beautiful light,  
come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
Oh shine all around us by day and by night,  
Jesus is, Jesus is the light of the world.

Oh we shall walk in the light, beautiful light,  
come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
Oh shine all around us by day and by night,  
Jesus is the light of the world.

## 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.**

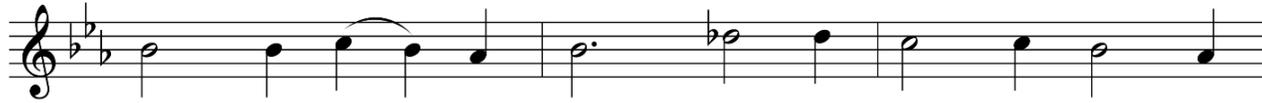
We remain standing and sing together.

## Opening Song | Come My Way *Led by Tom Ringo*

Words: George Herbert | Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams



1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a  
2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a  
3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a



way as gives us breath; Such a truth as ends all  
light as shows a feast; Such a feast as mends in  
joy as none can move; Such a love as none can



strife; Such a life as kill - eth death.  
length; Such a strength as makes his guest.  
part; Such a heart as joys in love.

## The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

○ God, you protect all who trust in you. Surround us with your mercy; that, with you as our guide, we may share your mercy with one another, and the whole world. **Amen.**

# WE TELL THE STORY

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*We are seated for the reading.*

## **The First Reading** | 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All    Thanks be to God.**

*We stand and say the Psalm.*

## **Psalm | 119:129-136**

Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**When your word goes forth it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**

I open my mouth and pant;  
I long for your commandments.

**Turn to me in mercy,  
as you always do to those who love your Name.**

Steady my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**

Let your countenance shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.

**My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your law.**

*We are seated for the second reading.*

## **The Second Reading** | Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God 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 | Take Your Burden to the Lord**

*by Charles Albert Tindley*

If the world from you withhold of its silver and its gold,  
And you have to get along with meager fare,  
Just remember, in His Word, how He feeds the little bird—  
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

Refrain:

Leave it there, leave it there,  
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there;  
If you trust and never doubt, He will surely bring you out—  
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

If your body suffers pain and your health you can't regain,  
And your soul is almost sinking in despair,  
Jesus knows the pain you feel, He can save and He can heal—  
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

When your youthful days are gone and old age is stealing on,  
And your body bends beneath the weight of care;  
He will never leave you then, He'll go with you to the end—  
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

*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 13:31-33,44-52

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

*After the Gospel the Officiant will say*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **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 silently in prayer.*

## The Prayers of the People

*Sandra McCracken*

Have mer - cy on\_\_\_ me. Have mer-cy on\_\_\_ me.

Oh, Lord, have mer\_\_\_cy. Oh, Lord, have mer\_\_\_\_\_cy.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words followed by lines or spaces to indicate where to breathe or pause.

Leader The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. Let us pray for the world, and for all who carry heavy burdens.

*Silence*

Leader "A woman mixed yeast with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."  
Leaven us with your Spirit. Send us into all creation to proclaim your love.  
*We offer additional prayers for the church, silently or aloud.*

Leader God in your mercy,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader "Someone found treasure and hid it in a field."  
Guide all nations and their leaders to cherish their people. Lead us to justice and peace.  
*We offer additional prayers for the nations, silently or aloud.*

Leader God in your mercy,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader "A merchant found a pearl of great value."  
Nurture this community. Teach us to care for one another. Reveal our unity.  
*We offer additional prayers for this community, silently or aloud.*

Leader God in your mercy,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader "A net was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind."  
Lay your healing hand upon all who are sick. Bless and strengthen caregivers. Console all who mourn, and all who search for rest and safety in this time of great anxiety. We pray for La Iglesia de la Resurrección, Mount Vernon. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list.  
*We offer additional prayers for those in need, silently or aloud.*

Leader God in your mercy,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Oh, help my un - be - lief. Oh, help my un - be - lief.

Oh, Lord, have mer\_\_\_\_cy. Oh, Lord, have mer\_\_\_\_\_cy.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The first staff contains the lyrics "Oh, help my un - be - lief. Oh, help my un - be - lief." with notes and rests corresponding to the words. The second staff contains the lyrics "Oh, Lord, have mer\_\_\_\_cy. Oh, Lord, have mer\_\_\_\_\_cy." with notes and rests corresponding to the words. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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 a power and a presence that is stronger than death. The blessing of the one, holy, and undivided Trinity be upon you, now and always. **Amen.**

## Closing Song | UFO

by Brian Eno, Guy Berryman, Jonathan Buckland, William Champion, Christopher Martin

Lord, I don't know which way I am going  
Which way, the river gonna flow  
It's just seems that upstream, I keep rowing  
Still got such a long way to go  
Still got such a long way to go

Then that light hits your eye,  
I know, I swear  
We'll find somewhere  
The streets are paved with gold  
Bullets fly, split the sky  
But that's all right, sometimes  
The sunlight comes streaming through the holes.

## 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/9636148549?pwd=eldGdDdUciswaGZTcHhEQ3guZTBIZz09>

## Kindness

Before you know what kindness really is  
you must lose things,  
feel the future dissolve in a moment  
like salt in a weakened broth.

What you held in your hand,  
what you counted and carefully saved,  
all this must go so you know  
how desolate the landscape can be  
between the regions of kindness.  
How you ride and ride  
thinking the bus will never stop,  
the passengers eating maize and chicken  
will stare out the window forever.

Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness,  
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho  
lies dead by the side of the road.  
You must see how this could be you,  
how he too was someone  
who journeyed through the night with plans  
and the simple breath that kept him alive.

Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,  
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.  
You must wake up with sorrow.  
You must speak to it till your voice  
catches the thread of all sorrows  
and you see the size of the cloth.

Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,  
only kindness that ties your shoes  
and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,  
only kindness that raises its head  
from the crowd of the world to say  
It is I you have been looking for,  
and then goes with you everywhere  
like a shadow or a friend.

~ Naomi Shihab Nye from *Words Under the Words: Selected Poems*, The Eighth Mountain Press ©1994