



Photo by Ronda Broatch

Grace Episcopal Church
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 2020 | 9:30am
Ministers | All of Us
Rector | Wren Blessing
Curate | Stephen Crippen
Music | Ann Strickland

Loaves and Fishes

This is not
the age of information.

This is not
the age of information.

Forget the news,
and the radio,
and the blurred screen.

This is the time
of loaves
and fishes.

People are hungry
and one good word is bread
for a thousand.

~ David Whyte
from *The House of Belonging*
©1996 Many Rivers Press

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

Gathering Song | I'm Sending You Light

by Melanie DeMore

I'm sending you light
To heal you
To hold you
I'm sending you light
to hold you in love

I'll walk the path with you
Go slow dear one don't hurry
We'll go just like you need to go
There is no need to hurry

I'm sending you light
To heal you
To hold you
I'm sending you light
to hold you in love.

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 | It is Well with My Soul

Words: Horatio Spafford. Additional lyrics Stuart Townsend & Phil Baggaley | Music: Philip Bliss

Now when peace like a river attendeth my soul,
And when sorrows like sea billows roll,
Then whatever my lot You have taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well, it is well
With my soul, with my soul
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

It is well with my soul when the storms of winter blow,
And the cares of this world take their toll.
In the heat of the day there is grace enough to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well, it is well
With my soul, with my soul
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

God of compassion, we are hungry and we open our hands to you. Move us to bring what we have. Graciously receive what we offer. Bless, break, and extend the substance of our lives that we may know the joy of your presence, and the promise of your abundance. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Isaiah 55:1-5

Thus says the Lord:

"Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified 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 | 145: 8-9, 15-22

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

**The Lord is loving to everyone
and his compassion is over all his works.**

The Lord upholds all those who fall;
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

**The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.**

You open wide your hand
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

**The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and loving in all his works.**

The Lord is near to those who call upon him,
to all who call upon him faithfully.

**He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and helps them.**

The Lord preserves all those who love him,
but he destroys all the wicked.

**My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord;
let all flesh bless his holy Name for ever and ever.**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | Come to the Water *Offered by Maggie Finley*

by John B. Foley, SJ

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without price.
Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without strife.
Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:
All who labor, without rest.
How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water.
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:
Bring the children, without might.
Easy the load and light:
Come to the Lord.

Repeat the first verse

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 14:13-21

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

Officiant Because the world is beautiful
and we destroy that beauty,

All we need you.

Officiant Because we are weak and impatient,
because we cannot live without love,
but daily turn away from goodness,

All we need you.

Officiant Because we abandon you
and are hurried and walk past,
because we refuse to see our neighbor,
to extend kindness,
but you love us to the end
and reconcile all that is separated,

All we need you.

Officiant Because we have your hope to rejoice in,
because we have your table to set,
because there are so many in need of your love,
because we have your life to live,

All we need you. Forgive us.

Officiant And Jesus said, 'Your sins are forgiven.' In the name of the Triune One who waits to
welcome you home, in the name of the Shepherd who searches for you and delights in
you, in the name of the One brings the healing of forgiveness, you have been forgiven and
set free. **Amen.**

*Adapted from a liturgy written by Richard Carter in Liturgy on the Edge:
Pastoral and Attractional Worship.*

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.

Brief silence

Leader “God is gracious and full of compassion.”
Open our ears to hear all who cry out for liberation and peace. Gather us as one Body to proclaim your love. Guide us, your church, as we follow you on the Way.

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

Leader God of grace and glory,
People hear our prayer.

Leader “God is loving to everyone.”
Bless all nations and their leaders with your hunger for truth and justice. Join all people in friendship with one another. Teach us to recognize your image in every human being.

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

Leader God of grace and glory,
People hear our prayer.

Leader “God upholds all those who fall.”
Strengthen and support this community during this time of separation and struggle. Draw near to parents, children, couples, and those who are alone. Give us hope amid our fears and doubts about the future.

We offer additional prayers for this community, silently or aloud.

Leader God of grace and glory,
People hear our prayer.

Leader "God is near to those who call upon God."
Lay your healing hand upon all caregivers, and all companions. Give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, and shield the joyous. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list.

We offer additional prayers for those in need, silently or aloud.

Leader God of grace and glory,

People hear our prayer.

Leader "God preserves all those who love God."

Gather all who have gone before us in the faith. Comfort all who mourn. Join us on the last day with the communion of saints around your table of thanksgiving.

We offer additional prayers for those who have died, silently or aloud.

Leader God of grace and glory,

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 G-clef and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of prayer, with lyrics 'Oh, help my un - be - lief. Oh, help my un - be - lief.' The second staff contains the melody for the second line of prayer, with lyrics 'Oh, Lord, have mer____cy. Oh, Lord, have mer_____cy.' The lyrics are aligned with the notes on the staff.

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 Song | Cold Water *Offered by Eva Kurtzman*

by Phillip Meckseper, Karen Marie Orsted, Benjamin Levin, Ed Sheeran, Jamie Scott, Thomas Pentz, Justin Bieber, Henry Allen, William Omar Landron

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

Everybody goes up sometimes, you know
What else can we do when we're feeling low?
So take a deep breath and let it go
You shouldn't be drowning on your own

And if you feel you're sinking, I will jump right over
Into cold, cold water for you
And although time may take us into different places
I will still be patient with you
And I hope you know

I won't let go
I'll be your lifeline tonight
I won't let go
I'll be your lifeline tonight

'Cause we all get lost sometimes, you know?
It's how we learn and how we grow
And I wanna stay with you 'til I'm old
You shouldn't be fighting on your own

And if you feel you're sinking, I will jump right over
Into cold, cold water for you
And although time may take us into different places
I will still be patient with you
And I hope you know

I won't let go (I won't let go, no no, no no no no)
I'll be your lifeline tonight
I won't let go
I'll be your lifeline tonight

Come on, come on
Save me from my rocking boat
I just wanna stay afloat
I'm all alone
And I hope someone's gonna take me home
Somewhere I can rest my soul
I need to know you won't let go

I won't let go, no no, no no no no
I'll be your lifeline tonight
You won't let go
I'll be your lifeline tonight

I won't let go
I won't let go.

The Blessing

The Officiant offers a blessing.

May God, the Word to fill our mouths, the Light to shine before us, the Bread of life for us to share, fill us with the peace that passes all understanding. And the blessing of God the Triune One rest upon you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | You've Got a Friend *Offered by Arielle Boucher*

by Carole King

When you're down and troubled
And you need some love and care
And nothing, nothing is going right
Close your eyes and think of me
And soon I will be there
To brighten up even your darkest night.

Chorus:

You just call out my name
And you know wherever I am
I'll come running, to see you again
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there
You've got a friend.

If the sky above you
Grows dark and full of clouds
And that old north wind begins to blow
Keep your head together
And call my name out loud
Soon you'll hear me knocking at your door.

Chorus

Now, ain't it good to know that you've got a
friend
When people can be so cold?
They'll hurt you, yes, and desert you
And take your soul if you let them, oh, but don't
you let them.

Chorus

You've got a friend
Ain't it good to know you've got a friend?
Ain't it good to know, ain't it good to know, ain't
it good to know
You've got a friend?
Oh yeah now, you've got a friend
Yeah baby, you've got a friend
Oh yeah, you've got a friend.

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.

Mercy would be a beginning, so mercy it is, the first word
to rumble out of the ground,
to run up, bitter or pure, from a struck open rock.

Hover down, mercy, like a shadow, a long-legged
shadow to secret bodies from the sun.

An outcropped rock curls like a hand,
a hollow to hide in, a hollow to die in.

Mercy begins in a desert, runs under bedrock.

Mercy takes a deep drill to vibrate loose.

Mercy juts up sharp and unexpected,
cuts a trench to catch a downpour,
low as a gash in the landscape can be
before becoming a canyon, a gorge, a riverbed.

Justice punctures too deep, rises too high,
ruins the way for mercy.

So begin. Crack open the earth's crust like bread,
and ask again for a hard mercy to rise
between soft hands.

~David Wright
From A Liturgy for Stones

We Are of a Tribe

We plant seeds in the ground
And dreams in the sky,

Hoping that, someday, the roots of one
Will meet the upstretched limbs of the other.

It has not happened yet.
We share the sky, all of us, the whole world:

Together, we are a tribe of eyes that look upward,
Even as we stand on uncertain ground.

The earth beneath us moves, quiet and wild,
Its boundaries shifting, its muscles wavering.

The dream of sky is indifferent to all this,
Impervious to borders, fences, reservations.

The sky is our common home, the place we all live.
There we are in the world together.

The dream of sky requires no passport.
Blue will not be fenced. Blue will not be a crime.

Look up. Stay awhile. Let your breathing slow.
Know that you always have a home here.

~ Alberto Rios from *Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems*,
(Grayson Books, 2017).

Upcoming Events & Programs

Outreach Opportunity with La Iglesia de la Resurrección

Members of Grace are invited to donate the following items for our partners at La Iglesia de la Resurrección in Mount Vernon, as the pandemic continues to burden their community.

- Gift cards for Walmart, Safeway, or Fred Meyer
- Children's diapers in sizes 3, 4, and 5
- Feminine products, especially pads and deodorant
- For kids: bubbles, drawing paper, coloring books

Bring your donations to Grace, where we will have a bin at the front entrance for collections.

Caregiver Appreciation Week | August 2 - 7

We'll celebrate and honor those among us who are engaged in the blessed and often difficult work of caring for a loved one. If you are a caregiver, you may sometimes feel alone, but we hope you will feel our support as we take this week to show our appreciation for all you do. ~ *Florrie Munat, for Pastoral Care*

August 3 | Loving Kindness Meditation for Caregivers | 10:30 – 11:30 am

August 4 | Sharing the Challenges and Blessings of Caregiving | 10 – 11:30 am

August 6 | Sharing the Journey Together | 7-8 pm | Join one of our facilitated discussion groups:

- Managing Home Care (Jill Harris and Fran Moen)
- Self-Care for Caregivers (The Rev. Stephen Crippen)
- Caregiving for Loved Ones with Dementia (The Rev. Kate Kinney)

All programming will be presented via Zoom. To receive updates and meeting links, please email Kim at kim@gracehere.org.

August 3 | Men's Group Gathering | 7:30 pm

Please contact Eric Matthews for the Zoom link: eric@ericmatthews.com.

August 5 | Wednesday Healing Prayer & Bible Study | 10:30 am

Please find links to the Zoom login and the worship bulletin on our website: <https://www.gracehere.org/join-us-for-online-worship-at-grace/>.

August 14 | Compassionate Caring Support Group | 9:30 -11 am

This group meets online every second and fourth Friday at 9:30am.

Please contact Diane at office@gracehere.org for the Zoom link.