



“The Feast Beneath” | Jan Richardson

Grace Episcopal Church
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2020 | 9:30am
Ministers | All of Us
Rector | Wren Blessing
Curate | Stephen Crippen
Music | Ann Strickland

fleeing

everything i do comes down to the fact that i've been here before.
in some arrangement of my atoms i was allowed to be free
so don't ask me when freedom is coming
when a certain eye of mine has seen it,
a cornea in a convoluted future recalls my freedom.
when asked about the absence of freedom, the lack of it
i laugh at the word *absence*, which always suggests
a presence that has left. but absence is the arena
of death, and we call the dead free (*went on to glory*), what
is the absence of freedom but an assumption of it?
i have never longed for something
which was not once mine. even fiction is my possession,
and flight is an act of fleeing as much as an act of flying.

~ Kara Jackson

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

Gathering Song | Woke up This Morning with My Mind

by Mississippi Fred McDowell

Woke up this morning with my mind
Stayed on Jesus
Woke up this morning with my mind
Stayed on Jesus
Woke up this morning with my mind
Stayed on Jesus
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah.

I'm walking and talking with my mind
stayed on Jesus
I'm walking and talking with my mind
stayed on Jesus
I'm walking and talking with my mind
stayed on Jesus
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah.
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah.

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 | For Joy

by Aaron Stumpel

May God be gra-cious to us, And make His face shine down,
May God be gra-cious to us, And make His ways known,
Up-on our hands that work, Up-on our hearts that love
Up-on our fields so green, Up-on our homes so warm
Up-on our minds that hope, Up-on our mouths that sing, Let's
Up-on our hopes so bright, Up-on our kids so strong,
sing Sing, let's sing, For joy, for joy, For joy, for joy

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Gracious God, your Son Jesus crossed borders and welcomed the outsider and the stranger. Give us courage to cross the borders that divide us from our neighbors, that all people may be held as one in your loving embrace. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Isaiah 56:1,6-8

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,

I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

**Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Romans II:1-2a,29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | The Gift of Love *Offered by Barbara Hume*

based on 1 Corinthians 13 | American Folk Tune Arr. by Hal Hopson

Thou I may speak with bravest fire
And have the gift to all inspire;
And have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, spirit come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed.
By this we worship and are freed.

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 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

Sandra McCracken

Two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a common time signature. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Have mer - cy on___ me. Have mer-cy on___ me." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Oh, Lord, have mer___cy. Oh, Lord, have mer_____cy." The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words connected by hyphens and some words followed by lines of varying lengths to indicate a long note.

Silence

Leader The Lord says: “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.”
Dear God, many of us are living through dark times. Troubles can easily come between us and our vision of the beauty of God’s creation. We pray for all refugees and for the victims of the coronavirus pandemic, of the recent catastrophe in Beirut, of poverty, violence, tyranny and war. Help us be confident that through faithful acts and compassion Your People will move closer to Your light.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Lord, maker and sustainer of all life,
People receive our prayer.

Leader “Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice and do what is right.”
Let us pray for a deeper understanding of the roots of violence and injustice. May we act in confidence that a community of faithful people in all nations is striving for justice and peace.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Righteous Lord,
People receive our prayer.

Leader “May God give us his blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.”
We pray for all persons in positions of authority. May their decisions and actions be compassionate and just.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Lord of wisdom and strength,
People receive our prayer.

Leader “May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance and come to us.”
We hold in our thoughts and prayers all those in our community who are experiencing painful dislocation during the coronavirus pandemic. We reach out with compassion to all families with members whose employment or education has been impacted.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,
People receive our prayer.

Leader "The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."

We extend our hearts in prayer to all who are in need of consolation and care, their family members, all caregivers, all who suffer from enforced separation from loved ones and all individuals named in this week's prayer list.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Gracious Lord,

People **receive 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 melody for the phrase "Oh, help my un - be - lief." repeated twice. The second staff contains the melody for the phrase "Oh, Lord, have mer__cy." repeated twice. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined or connected by lines to indicate phrasing.

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 with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | I've Got Peace Like a River

Traditional

1. I've got peace like a ri-ver I've got peace like a ri-ver I've got peace like a
ri-ver in my soul, I've got peace like a ri-ver I've got peace like a
ri-ver I've got peace like a ri-ver in my soul.

2. I've got joy like a fountain

3. I've got love like an ocean

Repeat verse 1.

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.

6.

Every summer the lilies rise
and open their white hands until they almost
cover the black waters of the pond. And I give
thanks but it does not seem like adequate thanks,
it doesn't seem
festive enough or constant enough, nor does the
name of the Lord or the words of thanksgiving come
into it often enough Everywhere I go I am
treated like royalty, which I am not. I thirst and
am given water. My eyes thirst and I am given
the white lilies on the black water. My heart
sings but the apparatus of singing doesn't convey
half what it feels and means. In spring there's hope,
in fall the exquisite, necessary diminishing, in
winter I am as sleepy as any beast in its
leafy cave, but in summer there is
everywhere the luminous sprawl of gifts,
the hospitality of the Lord and my
inadequate answers as I row my beautiful, temporary body
through this water-lily world.

~ Mary Oliver, excerpt from "Six Recognitions of the Lord" in *Thirst* (Beacon Press, Boston, MA, 2006)

News from Grace | August 16, 2020

Grace Church | Bainbridge Island

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

Newcomers

Are you new or visiting? Please email one of our clergy, Stephen Crippen (stephen@gracehere.org) or Wren Blessing (wren@gracehere.org), to get more connected.

Annual Giving – What is your story?

As we look toward the fall, our Annual Giving team wants to hear your story! How are you living into grace in your own life? How is this community inviting you to live into God's grace? Please email your reflections to Ann New (annjnew@gmail.com), Trustee for Development, or to Grace's office (office@gracehere.org).

Outreach Opportunity with La Iglesia de la Resurrección

Consider bringing any of the following items to be distributed through our partner ministry, La Iglesia de la Resurrección: Gift cards for Walmart, Safeway, or Fred Meyer; children's diapers in sizes 3, 4, and 5; feminine products, especially pads and deodorant; bubbles, drawing paper, coloring books. Place your contributions in the bins outside of Grace Church.

Do you want to share your music through Zoom?

Please contact Martin Cockroft (martin@gracehere.org) or Ann Strickland (debraannstrickland@gmail.com) if you'd like to offer a song during our online Sunday service.

Upcoming Events & Programs

August 17 | Men's Group Gathering | 7:30 pm

Please contact Eric Matthews for the Zoom link: eric@gracehere.org.

August 19

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/>.

Vestry Meeting | 7 pm