



“Kinfolk” by Jan Richardson

# Grace Episcopal Church

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2020 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Martin Cockroft

## Invitation

Oh do you have time  
to linger  
for just a little while  
out of your busy

and very important day  
for the goldfinches  
that have gathered  
in a field of thistles

for a musical battle,  
to see who can sing  
the highest note,  
or the lowest,

or the most expressive of  
mirth,  
or the most tender?  
Their strong, blunt beaks  
drink the air

as they strive  
melodiously  
not for your sake  
and not for mine

and not for the sake of winning  
but for sheer delight and gratitude –  
believe us, they say,  
it is a serious thing

just to be alive  
on this fresh morning  
in the broken world.  
I beg of you,

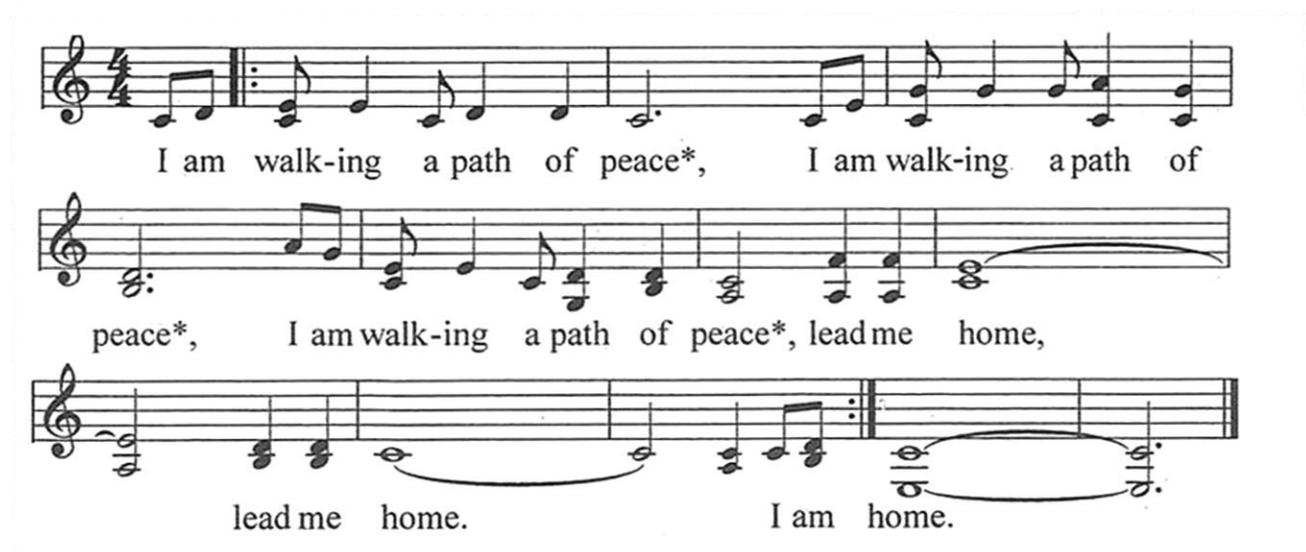
do not walk by  
without pausing  
to attend to this  
rather ridiculous  
performance.

It could mean something.  
It could mean everything.  
It could be what Rilke  
meant, when he wrote:  
You must change your life.

~ Mary Oliver from *Red Bird* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2008)

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

## Gathering Song | I Am Walking a Path of Peace *Offered by Faith Dougherty* by Janet Bauman Tissandier



The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It consists of three lines of music with lyrics underneath. The first line contains the lyrics: "I am walk-ing a path of peace\*, I am walk-ing a path of". The second line contains: "peace\*, I am walk-ing a path of peace\*, lead me home,". The third line contains: "lead me home. I am home." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some notes beamed together. There are repeat signs at the beginning and end of the piece.

\* I am walking a path of hope ...,  
I am walking a path of love ...

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

Officiant	We are not alone.
<b>People</b>	<b>We live in God's world.</b>
Officiant	We are listening, Holy One.
<b>People</b>	<b>Give us hope, give us courage.</b>
Officiant	God, bless every step that we are taking.
<b>People</b>	<b>And God, bless the earth beneath our feet.</b>

*We remain standing and sing together.*

## Opening Song | He Will Listen to You

*by Mark Heard, adapted by Martin Cockroft*

When the weight of this world crashes down  
on you

God will listen to you

When the sky turns black and your thoughts  
turn blue

She will listen to you

She will listen to you

Always listen to you

She understands how her children feel

She will listen to you

When the river of tears cannot be contained

She will listen to you

Like a drowning man in the pouring rain

God will listen to you

She will listen to you

Always listen to you

She understands how her children feel

She will listen to you

When the light explodes in a world gone wrong

She will listen to you

When your heart beats strong with a grateful song

God will listen to you

She will listen to you

Always listen to you

She understands how her children feel

She will listen to you

## The Collect

Officiant     The Lord be with you.

**People     And also with you.**

Officiant     Let us pray.

Holy One, we gather, one and two and three of us, longing to meet you. Grant us, in our doubts and uncertainties, grace to understand what you would have us do, that your Spirit of wisdom may turn us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light. **Amen.**

# WE TELL THE STORY

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*We are seated for the reading.*

## **The First Reading** | Ezekiel 33:7-11

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand and say the Psalm.*

## **Psalm** | 119:33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Make me go in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;  
give me life in your ways.

**Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
which you make to those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach which I dread,  
because your judgments are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments;  
in your righteousness preserve my life.**

We are seated for the second reading.

## The Second Reading | Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

We stand together and sing

## Gospel Song | There is More Love Somewhere

African American Hymn

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The lyrics are: "There is more love\* some - where. There is more love some - where. I'm gon-na keep on 'til I find it. There is more love some - where." The melody is simple and repetitive, with a consistent rhythm.

\* hope, peace, joy

*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 18:15-20

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

*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

*Words: Taizé Community | Music: Ann Strickland*

Give peace to ev-ery heart, give peace to ev-ery heart. Give peace. Give peace.

5  
Give peace to ev-ery heart, give peace to ev-ery heart. Give peace. Give peace—

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics: "Give peace to ev-ery heart, give peace to ev-ery heart. Give peace. Give peace." The second staff, starting with a measure rest labeled "5", contains the second line of lyrics: "Give peace to ev-ery heart, give peace to ev-ery heart. Give peace. Give peace—". The music consists of a simple melody with quarter and eighth notes, and rests.

*Silence*

Leader “Give me understanding and I shall keep your law. I shall keep it with all my heart.”  
*(Psalm 119:34)*  
 We rejoice in the goodness of your creation. We give thanks for the beauty and bounty of summer, celebrating those who plant the crops, tend the fields, and harvest the food that nourishes.  
 Help us, we pray, to share our abundance with those who hunger and struggle with deprivation. We pray especially for our partner in ministry, Fishline Food Bank.  
*We pause for further prayer.*

Leader Loving God,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader “Behold, I long for your commandments; in your righteousness preserve my life.”  
*(Psalm 119:40)*  
 We are confronted daily with conflict, injustice, bigotry and dissent. Here and afar, and in all the places between, we witness people overcome with fear, despair and loneliness.  
 Help us, we pray, to overcome the divisions that tear at our nation. Help us to live in peace with one another.  
*We pause for further prayer.*

Leader Loving God,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader “Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.” *(Romans 13:8)*  
 Guide leaders in every walk of life to create a world centered on what is good, just and holy.  
 Help us, we pray, to find strength and courage through our belief in you and your teachings. Help us to follow in your footsteps.  
*We pause for further prayer.*

Leader Loving God,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” *(Matthew 18:20)*  
 We ask for the strength of your presence as our children return to school; as the coronavirus inflicts illness and financial hardship on our families, friends and neighbors; as our communities struggle to remain healthy and whole; as the earth bends toward autumn.  
 Help us, we pray, to be mindful of the needs of others. Help us “to lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” *(Romans 13:12)*  
*We pause for further prayer.*

Leader Loving God,  
People **hear our prayer.**

Leader “Sing to the Lord a new song: sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.”  
(Psalm 149:1)

We ask for your loving care for those who are sick, isolated, suffering, or burdened with trouble of any kind.

Help us, we pray, to restore the blessings of health and wellbeing to those named here.

*We pause for further prayer.*

Leader Loving God,  
People **hear our prayer.**

Leader “Fulfill your promise to your servant, which you make to those who fear you.” (Psalm 119:38)

We pray for those we love but see no longer. We pray for all who have died. We pray for the many who mourn.

Give us, we pray, the grace to persevere after a time of loss that we may come to understand that “love is the story and the prayer that matters most.” (Brian Doyle)

*We pause for further prayer.*

Leader Loving God,  
People **hear our prayer.**

5

Give peace to ev-ery heart, give peace to ev-ery heart. Give peace. Give peace.

Give peace to ev-ery heart, give peace to ev-ery heart. Give peace. Give peace—

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Give peace to ev-ery heart, give peace to ev-ery heart. Give peace. Give peace." The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Give peace to ev-ery heart, give peace to ev-ery heart. Give peace. Give peace—". A small number "5" is written above the first note of the second staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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 | We're All Invited**

*by Martin Cockroft*

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

The rich man was living large  
He had everything the world could give  
Lazarus he had nothing but  
The rags he wore upon his skin  
In the kingdom that poor man  
Will have life, he will be fed  
He is invited in

He is invited in  
He is invited in  
Abraham's got a table set  
For Lazarus and all his friends  
And they're all invited in

Poor man sitting at the city gate  
Begging for a crust of bread  
Rich man with too much to eat  
Saying, I can't hear a word he says  
But Abraham's got a table set  
For Lazarus and all his friends  
And they're all invited in.

They're all invited in  
They're all invited in  
Abraham's got a table set  
For Lazarus and all his friends  
They're all invited in

You're all invited in  
You're all invited in  
Abraham's got a table set  
For Lazarus and all his friends  
And you're all invited in

We're all invited in  
We're all invited in  
Abraham's got a table set  
For Lazarus and all his friends  
And we're all invited in

## The Blessing

*The Officiant offers a blessing.*

God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace rest upon you, the Spirit's outpouring fill you, now and always. **Amen.**

## Closing Song | You've Got A Friend *Offered by Molly & Matt Perri*

*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.**



## Something You Should Know

is that as a kid, I once worked at a pet store.  
I cleaned the cages  
of small animals like turtles, hamsters,  
rabbits, and hermit crabs.  
I watched the hermit crab continue  
to grow, molt, shed its skin and scurry across  
the bottom of the aquarium to find a new shell.  
Which left me afraid for the small creature,  
to run around all exposed that way, to have  
to live its entire life requiring something else  
to feel safe. Perhaps that is when I became afraid  
of needing anything beyond myself. Perhaps  
that is why, even now, I can want so desperately  
to show you all of my skin, but am more afraid  
of meeting you, exposed, in open water.

~ Clint Smith from *The American Poetry Review*; vol. 45, No. 06

News from Grace | September 6, 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](mailto:stephen@gracehere.org)) or Wren Blessing ([wren@gracehere.org](mailto:wren@gracehere.org)), to get more connected.

### **Blessings for Homecoming**

Before Homecoming Sunday, September 13th, we invite you to write a blessing for another member of our community that will be collected and anonymously given to others on Homecoming. You can use this online form to submit a blessing: <http://www.gracehere.org/blessing-for-homecoming>

On Homecoming we will string these blessings along the wooded entry way of Grace Church, inviting you to come to Grace, take a blessing, and carry the words and prayers of others in our community home with you. Thank you for helping to make Grace a home that we all return to again and again, in all seasons

## Upcoming Events & Programs

### **September 9 | 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/>.

### **September 11 | 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](mailto:office@gracehere.org) for the Zoom link.

### **September 13 | Youth Fall Kick-Off Gathering | 5-7 pm**

All students grade 6-12 are invited for an opportunity to gather with masks on around a fire, meet our new Curate, the Rev. Stephen Crippen, and show off your rad tie-dye skills. Email Faith with your t-shirt size: [youthgroup@gracehere.org](mailto:youthgroup@gracehere.org)

### **Sep. 24, Oct. 1 & 8 | Fall Book Discussion: Sparrow by Jan Richardson | 10:30 am - noon**

The discussion group, facilitated by Florrie Munat and the Rev. Kate Kinney, will meet on three Thursdays this fall. Open to all. Complete details on our website: <https://www.gracehere.org/blog/sparrow-book-discussion/>