



Image: Public Domain

Grace Episcopal Church

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Martin Cockroft

Jonah's Blessing

It comes as small surprise
that you would turn your back
on this blessing,
that you would run
far from the direction
in which it calls,
that you would try
to put an ocean
between yourself
and what it asks.

Something in you knows
this blessing could
swallow you whole
no matter which way
you turn.

Hard to believe, then,
that every line of this blessing
swims in grace—
grace that, in the end,
even you
will find hard to fathom
so swiftly does it come
and with such completeness,
encompassing all
it finds.

What to do, then,
with such a blessing
that depends so little
on us
and yet asks of us
everything?

What to do
with a blessing
that comes with
such strange provision,
every inch of it
looking like something
that will draw us
into our dying?

Trust me when I say
all it wants
is for you
to fall in,
to let yourself
find yourself
engulfed within
the curious refuge
that it holds

and then to go
in the direction
it propels you,
following its flow
that will bear you
where you desired not
where you dreamed not
yet none but you
could land.

Announcements

Reflections on Giving

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

Gathering Song | I Am Walking a Path of Peace *Offered by Tom Ringo* *by Janet Bauman Tissandier*



The image shows a musical score for the song "I Am Walking a Path of Peace". It consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is written on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "I am walk-ing a path of peace*, I am walk-ing a path of peace*, I am walk-ing a path of peace*, lead me home, lead me home. I am home." The asterisk indicates a substitution for "love" or "grace".

* I am walking a path of love ...
I am walking a path of grace ...

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.

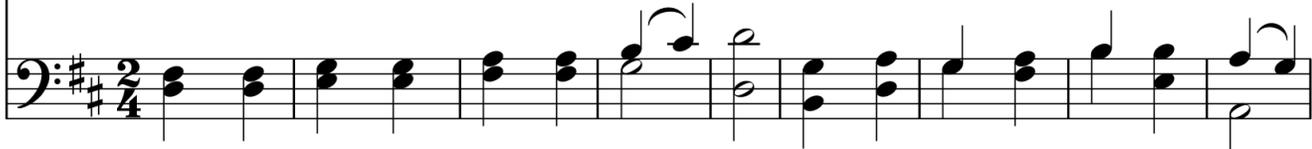
We remain standing and sing together.

Opening Song | Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven *Offered by Holly White*

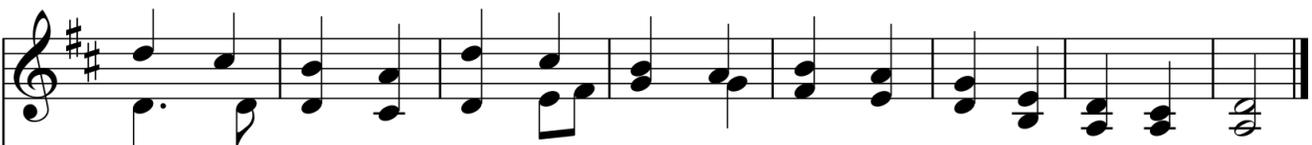
Words: Henry Francis Lyte | Music: LAUDA ANIMA (John Goss)



1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your trib - ute bring;
3. Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
4. Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;



- ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, his praise should sing?
- in his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
- but while mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.



- Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the ev - er - las - ting King.
- Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, wide - ly as his mer - cy goes.
- Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the High E - ter - nal One.



The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Holy One, you are full of compassion. Your kindness meets us at every turn. Give us your vision. Where we cannot see a way ahead, guide us into your work of reconciliation, that we may go where you send us with courage and joy. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 145:1-8

I will exalt you, O God my King,
and bless your Name for ever and ever.

**Every day will I bless you
and praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
there is no end to his greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

**They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will tell of your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

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

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

After the reading, the reader will say

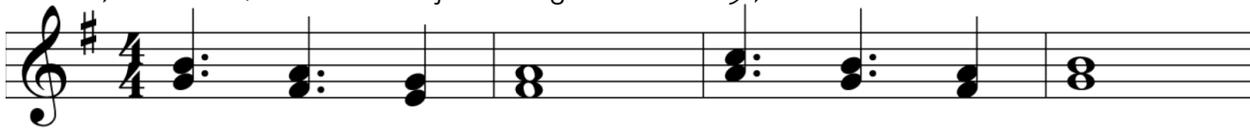
The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | God Welcomes All

Words: John L. Bell | Music: South African song; transcribed by John L. Bell



God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;



God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

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 20:1-16

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Today, before the homily, Wren will share a brief conversation with our children.

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 Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All God of compassion, have mercy upon us.
Heal our relationship with our neighbors and with all creation.
Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect
of those close to us and of the creatures who share the earth with us.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent
for what we have done to harm others,
and for what we have not done to help them.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may care for one another and for all creatures,
according to your will and in the fullness of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

The Officiant says

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Ann Strickland

You are for - giv - en, be at peace.

5 You are for - giv - en, be at peace.

9 You are for - giv - en, be at peace.

13 You are for - giv - en, be at peace.

Silence

Leader “Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; there is no end to his greatness. One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.”
(Psalm 145: 3-4)
 Lead us to a humble understanding of the ways your spirit moves through all of creation. We praise you with our minds and hearts in joy and sorrow, in solitude, in our relationships, our families, our community, our nation and the world.
We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader God, creator and sustainer of all life,
People hear our prayer.

Leader “When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.” *(Jonah 3:10)*
 We pray that you may continue to look with compassion on your people, who often “do not know their right hand from their left.” *(Jonah 4:11)*
We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Compassionate Lord,
People hear our prayer.

Leader “Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit.” *(Philippians 1: 27)*
 Look into our hearts and encourage us to resist self-centeredness, pride and discord. Lead us toward righteousness in our search for unity in diversity. Be patient with us. Remind us of our desire to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to reach out and listen to those whose circumstances and convictions may differ from our own.
We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Generous Lord,
People receive our prayer.

Leader “The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness.”
(Psalm 145:8)
 We pray for all victims of tyranny and violence, for people of all races and generations whose lives have been disrupted or ended by the COVID pandemic, for populations displaced or threatened by wildfires and other disasters, for all who provide food, health care and other essential services, for all caregivers, for all who are facing eviction, for all who suffer and all who mourn. Considering our own community, we reach out in prayer to those whose needs are known to us.
We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Gracious Lord,
People **receive our prayer.**

5 You are for - giv - en, be at peace.

9 You are for - giv - en, be at peace.

13 You are for - giv - en, be at peace.

You are for - giv - en, be at peace.

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 | Mercy Mercy Me *Offered by James Rufo-Hill*

by Marvin Gaye

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

Whoa, ah, mercy mercy me
Oh things ain't what they used to be, no no
Where did all the blue skies go?
Poison is the wind that blows from the north and
south and east

Whoa mercy, mercy me,
Oh things ain't what they used to be, no no
Oil wasted on the oceans and upon our seas, fish full
of mercury

Ah, oh mercy, mercy me
Ah things ain't what they used to be, no no
Radiation underground and in the sky
Animals and birds who live nearby are dying

Oh mercy, mercy me
Oh things ain't what they used to be
What about this overcrowded land
How much more abuse from man can she
stand?

Oh, no no, na, na na, na
My sweet Lord, na, na, na
My Lord, my sweet Lord

The Blessing

The Officiant offers a blessing.

May our God of compassion and kindness meet you in the place where you are and strengthen you to stand firm. The blessing of God, the Triune One, go behind and before you, the love of our brother Jesus wash over you, and the fellowship of God's Spirit be yours today and always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Words: Frederick Faber; adapted by Martin Cockcroft | Music: Martin Cockcroft

There's a wideness in God's mercy
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good.
There's a wideness in God's mercy.

But we make God's love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify His strictness
With a zeal He will not own.
This our savior who would have us
Come and gather at his feet.
There's a wideness in God's mercy.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We should take Him at His word;
There's a wideness in God's mercy.

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

Autumn

Our garden calls to be
diminished –
dead-heads, gangly stalks,
scarlet leaves
preparing
to carpet the lawn,
waiting to be scooped up
and put in the compost pile,
to be still and change
and become something
quite new.

I am autumnal,
willing to let go
and be diminished
so that I can be still
and change
and become,
even at this late date,
something
quite new,
something quite warm
and nourishing,
looking toward tomorrow,
even as the days grow shorter.

William F. Maxwell
Paying Attention © 2012

What Song, Then?

By the rivers of Babylon
There we sat and wept ...
—Psalm 137

When my life is alien soil
And a wind
Like fear
Makes restless ground
Of all I've done—

What song, then,
To send out roots
To drink the rain
That does not come—

How could I sing?

Watch light come
From dark and mist rise
From waters; sky and shore
Emerge out of night,
And a tree half -green,
half- bare.

Half-afraid of what is in me
(though God has called it good)
I sob over nothing,
desires I cannot name.

Sing us, they say,
a song you remember ...

*Kathleen Norris, Journey: New and
Selected Poems 1969 – 1999*
(Pittsburg: University of Pittsburg Press,
2001)

News from Grace | September 20, 2020

Grace Church | Bainbridge Island

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

Living into God's Grace

We live into God's Grace together as we stay connected, serve our neighbors, and seek peace and justice. Together, we are discovering new ways to receive and extend God's love.

Your generous gift strengthens our community and makes our shared ministry possible.

Visit www.gracehere.org/give/ to make your annual pledge. Thank you!

Story and Song | Sunday's from 9 – 9:30 am on Zoom

Calling all kids to join us for a special time of story and song before the 9:30 am service each Sunday. See friends and experience a special time created just for you. Just click on the link to Grace's online worship found on the website (www.gracehere.org/join-us-for-online-worship-at-grace/).

If you have questions please email Kim (kim@gracehere.org).

Seek Peace | Do Justice

Current high schoolers are invited to join Wren and Stephen for a three-week series where we'll hang out near Grace's labyrinth, connect with one another, and talk about an individual who uses their gifts to seek peace or do justice. We'll explore how we might seek peace and do justice in our own contexts. Contact Wren (wren@gracehere.org) to participate.

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.

Do you want to share your music through Zoom?

Please contact Martin Cockroft and Ann Strickland (music@gracehere.org) if you'd like to offer a song during our online Sunday service.

Upcoming Events & Programs

Today | Youth Group Fall Kick-off | 5 - 7 pm Outdoors at Grace

If air quality permits, all students in grades 6-12 are invited for an opportunity to meet our new Curate, the Rev. Stephen Crippen outdoors at Grace, and show off their rad tie-dye skills. Masks and social distancing will be required to participate. Contact Faith (youthgroup@gracehere.org)

September 23 | Wednesday Healing Prayer & Bible Study | 10:30 am

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

September 24

Fall Book Discussion Group: *Sparrow* by Jan Richardson | 10:30 – noon

The discussion group, facilitated by Florrie Munat and the Rev. Kate Kinney, will meet on three Thursdays this fall; September 24, October 1, & October 8. Open to all.

For details, visit our website: <https://www.gracehere.org/blog/sparrow-book-discussion/>

To sign up and get the meeting link, contact Kim Cockroft (kim@gracehere.org).

Under the Eaves | Thursdays through October 15 | 3:30 – 5 pm

Current fourth through sixth graders are invited to join as we gather under the eaves at Grace to play gaga ball and enjoy a video series about ancestors in faith. We'll meet on Thursdays, from 3:30 - 5pm, September 24 - October 15th.

Contact Wren Blessing for more information: wren@gracehere.org.

Movies that Matter | September 24, October 1 & 8 | 6 – 8 pm

Middle schoolers will gather online to watch a movie together and discuss the big questions and challenges it presents. First up: *A Wrinkle in Time*. Please contact Faith to participate:

youthgroup@gracehere.org.

September 28 & October 12 | Men's Group Gathering | 7:30 pm

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

September 29 | Parent's Zooming Together | First & Third Thursdays | 8 – 9 pm

First Thursdays will focus on content for discussion, such as pandemic parenting challenges, and spiritual resources for the home. Third Thursdays are more low-key, a chance to *Recharge, Share, and Pray*: discussion, support, and evensong.

To sign up please contact Stephen (stephen@gracehere.org) or Kim (kim@gracehere.org)

October 4 | Blessing of the Animals | 11 am

October 16 & 17 | Men's Group Annual Retreat via Zoom

Men of Grace, we'll gather online for a series of Zoom sessions, welcoming our curate, Stephen Crippen, to join us with an exciting program on the theme *Our Companionship and our Challenge: Jesus and the Gospel of Mark*. For details and a full schedule, please visit our website:

<https://www.gracehere.org/blog/grace-mens-group-retreat/>

October 18 | Poetry as Prayer Practice | 11 am

Jon Quitslund and Susan Lick are once again convening Poetry as Prayer Practice. All who have participated in the past can expect an email invitation from Susan. To be added to the list, please email Jon Quitslund (jonquitslund@att.net). The group will gather, virtually, in a breakout session after the service on October 4 and meet the first and third Sundays of each month after that. Poems will be sent by email, and will usually appear in the Sunday bulletin.