



Photo by Ronda Broatch

Grace Episcopal Church

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2020 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Martin Cockroft

Blessing the Animals

You who created them
and called them good:
bless again these creatures
who come to us
as a blessing
fashioned of fur
or feather
or fin,
formed of flesh
that breathes with
your own breath,
that you have made
from sheer delight,
that you have given
in dazzling variety.

Bless them
who curl themselves
around our hearts,
who twine themselves
through our days,
who companion us
in our labor,
who call us
to come and play.

Bless them
who will never be
entirely tamed
and so remind us
that you love
what is wild,
that you rejoice
in what lives close
to the earth,
that your heart beats
in the heart of these creatures
you have entrusted
to our care.

~ Jan Richardson from *The Painted Prayerbook* (paintedprayerbook.com)

Prelude | Andante, from Seven Characteristic Pieces, Op. 7

by Felix Mendelssohn | Offered by Jim Quitslund

Announcements

Giving Together

Ted Cozine and Olivia Vessenes share about their experience of giving

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

Gathering Song | God is Our Refuge and Strength

by Arlyn Friesen Epp

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of five staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'God is our re - fuge and strength,'. The second staff continues with 'our help in times of ter - ror and troub - le.' The third staff has 'There - fore we shall not fear, though the earth shall change,'. The fourth staff continues with 'though the moun - tains shall shake in the heart of the sea.' The fifth staff concludes with 'God is our re - fuge and strength.' The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and half notes.

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 the Beauty of the Earth

Words: Follitt S. Pierpoint | Music: Conrad Kocher; arr. William H. Monk

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
4 For the church that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
of - fering up on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love,

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

God, in your goodness you fill the world with beauty. You make all things new. Open in us the gates of your kingdom, that we might care for your whole creation, serving you with all our hearts. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;

he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

(Reading continues on the following page.)

I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

After the reading, the reader will say
The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 80:7-14

Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

You prepared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea
and its branches to the River.

**Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

**Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | How Firm a Foundation

Words: 2 Peter 1:4 | Music: FOUNDATION; harm. by Richard Proulx

1 How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
5 "The soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can he say than to you he has said,
I'll streng - then you, help you, and cause you to stand,
that soul, though all hell should en - dea - vor to shake,

to you who for re - fuge to Je - sus have fled?
your dross to con - sume, and your gold to re - fine.
I'll ne - ver, no ne - ver, no ne - ver for - sake!"

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 21:33-46

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?'

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Officiant Let us confess our sin against God and God's creation.

**All Merciful and sustaining God,
we have sinned against you.
We confess our lack of gratitude
for the beauty and bounty of your creation:
teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.
We confess that we have misused your earth:
Grant us amendment of life.
We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:
Strengthen in us self-control.
We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted:
make us urgent now for its protection.
Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
with whom you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen**

Officiant 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

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_

Silence

Leader Loving God, we are your people, your dearly loved garden, your vineyard. Your Spirit patiently sows the seeds of your kingdom within us. May we be a people who gladly receive your Spirit's words of life and who, in season, produce the fruits of your kingdom.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Help us, O God.

People Root and ground us in your love.

Leader We pray for all nations of the earth. Move those who govern and lead to use their authority to promote the well-being of others. In this election season, guide us as citizens. Move us to hold one another in good will –especially those with whom we disagree. Help us to persevere in seeking the common good of us all.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Help us, O God, as a nation.

People Root and ground us in your love.

Leader “Preserve what your right hand has planted.” We ask that this year's seasons of harvest around the world be fruitful, especially in the face of wildfires and other calamities, for the sake of all who are hungry and displaced, and for the sake of every living creature.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Help us, O God of all creatures.

People Root and ground us in your love.

Leader We pray for the millions of people from every nation who are impacted by the coronavirus, and for all who display “the fruits of the kingdom” by offering compassion, support, and care to them.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader Help us and heal us, O God.

People Root and ground us in your love.

Leader We offer gratitude for the lives of all who have died, those known to us by name, and those unknown to us but known by you and loved by many. Hold them close in your loving embrace. We hold before you now the names of those in our own community who need your touch and care.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader O Lord, we are your people, your garden, your dearly loved vineyard.
Help us, O God.

People Root and ground us in your love.

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 melody for the first line of the prayer, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. 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 Song | Prelude in F Minor *Offered by Jim Quitslund*

From the Well-Tempered Keyboard, Book I, by J.S. Bach

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, the Triune One, who creates all things and makes them new, in the love of Christ and the fellowship of the Spirit bless you and keep you, enfold you with love, indwell you with joy, and build you up in peace, today and evermore. **Amen.**

Closing Song | In the Presence of the Lord *Offered by Dusty Collings*

by Eric Clapton

I have finally found a way to live
Just like I never could before.
I know that I don't have much to give,
But I can open any door.

Everybody knows the secret,
Everybody knows the score.
I have finally found a way to live
In the presence of the Lord.

I have finally found a place to live
Just like I never could before.
And I know I don't have much to give,
But soon I'll open any door.

Everybody knows the secret,
Everybody's on the shore.
I have finally found a place to live
In the presence of the Lord.
In the presence of the Lord.

I have finally found a way to live
Just like I never could before.
And I know I don't have much to give,
But I can open any door.

Everybody knows the secret,
I said everybody's in the shore.
I have finally found a way to live
In the presence of the Lord.
In the presence of the Lord.

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.**



The Place Where We Are Right

From the place where we are right
Flowers will never grow
In the spring.

The place where we are right
Is hard and trampled
Like a yard.

But doubts and loves
Dig up the world
Like a mole, a plow.
And a whisper will be heard in the place
Where the ruined
House once stood.

~ Yehuda Amichai from *A Touch of Grace* (Museum on the Seam, 2000)

News from Grace | October 4, 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!

Sacred Ground Dialogue Circles

Sign up by October 5 to participate in this 10-part series, created for Episcopal congregations, that informs, explores, and opens up discussion on the topic of racial equity. If you would like to join one of our dialogue circles, each made up of 5-8 participants, please email Kim Cockroft, kim@gracehere.org.

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).

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.

Upcoming Events & Programs

Today

St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals | 11 am

A special in-person service. Join a masked, distanced Blessing of the Animals at Grace!

Reserve a space for human participants. (Animals don't need a reservation!) Please see our website for details and a signup link: www.gracehere.org/blog/blessing-animals

October 6 & 20 | Parents Zooming Together | First & Third Tuesdays | 8 – 9 pm

First Tuesdays will focus on content for discussion, such as pandemic parenting challenges, and spiritual resources for the home. Third Tuesdays are more low-key: discussion, support, and evensong. To sign up please contact Stephen (stephen@gracehere.org) or Kim

(kim@gracehere.org)

October 7 | Wednesday Healing Prayer & Bible Study | 10:30 am

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

October 8

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

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, through October 15th.

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

Seek Peace | Do Justice | Thursdays through October 15 | 5 – 6:15 pm

Current high schoolers are invited to join Wren and Stephen 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 get to know each other and explore how we might seek peace and do justice in our own contexts. Contact Wren: wren@gracehere.org.

Movies that Matter | Thursdays through October 15 | 6 – 8 pm

Middle schoolers, let's gather online to watch a movie together and discuss the big questions and challenges it presents. This week: "Living on One Dollar." Contact Faith for details: youthgroup@gracehere.org

Building Bridges: Healing Conversations on Climate Change | 7 – 8:30 pm

Two sessions, October 8 & October 20, will include 1) viewing the new film "Purple," and 2) viewing a talk by Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, climate scientist and evangelical. If you're interested, please sign up in advance by contacting Marcy Lagerloef at mlagerloef@seanet.com

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

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

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

Men of Grace will 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: www.gracehere.org/blog/grace-mens-group-retreat/

October 18 | Poetry as Prayer Practice | 11 am

The group will gather in a Zoom breakout session after the service on October 18 and meet the first and third Sundays of each month after that. All who have participated in the past can expect an email invitation from Susan Lick; to be added to the list, please email Jon Quitslund: jonquitslund@att.net.