Grace Episcopal Church
All Saints’ Sunday
November 1, 2020 | 9:30am
Ministers | All of Us
Rector | Wren Blessing
Curate | Stephen Crippen
Music | Martin Cockroft

“A Gathering of Spirits” by Jan Richardson
Announcements

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

Gathering Song | Remember Me  Led by Tom Ringo
African American Spiritual

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Music notation</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Remember me, Remember me, O Lord, remember me.</td>
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The Liturgy of the Word

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

**Officiant**  God's Spirit is in the midst of us.

**People**  God's love surrounds us here.

**Officiant**  In our joy and in our grief,

**People**  God's love surrounds us here.

**Officiant**  In the company of the saints,

**People**  God's love surrounds us here.
We remain standing and sing together.

Opening Song | For All the Saints
Words: William Walsham How | Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who to the
2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might: you, Christ, the
3 Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold, live as the
4 Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine, we see bly
world their steadfast faith confessed, your name, O Jesus,
hope that put their fears to flight; mid gloom and doubt, you
saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a
struggle, they in glory shine; yet in your love our
be forever blessed.
were their one true light.
glorious crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!
faithful lives entwine.

The Collect
Officiant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.

God of love, we are your children now. We join with your saints from every nation and age. We come, poor in spirit, mourning, seeking peace. Transform our grief, and bring us to share in the song of your saints. Through us, bring forth new generations born of your hope. Amen.
We Tell the Story

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Revelation 7:9-17

After this I, John, looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People   Thanks be to God.
We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
I will glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and rejoice.
Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; let us exalt his Name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me out of all my terror.
Look upon him and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed.
I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me and saved me from all my troubles.
The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him, and he will deliver them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in him!
Fear the Lord, you that are his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.
The young lions lack and suffer hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.
The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, and none will be punished who trust in him.

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading 1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.
We stand together and sing

**Gospel Song | Who Wait, Bless Them**

by Ann Strickland

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 5:1-12**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

Renewal of Baptismal Vows
We stand as we renew our baptismal vows.

Officiant: Let us gather in the communion of saints from every time and place to renew our baptismal covenant. Do you believe in God?

People: We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of all humanity.

Officiant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: 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.

Officiant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

Officiant: Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: We will, with God’s help.

Officiant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: We will, with God’s help.
Officiant  Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?
People  We will, with God’s help.

Officiant  Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People  We will, with God’s help.

Officiant  Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People  We will, with God’s help.

Officiant  With the saints, we remember our baptism.

A bell will ring, beginning and ending a moment of silence.

The Prayers of the People

Leader  “Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.” (1 John 3:2)

Heavenly Father, we are your Church and your family throughout past, present and future generations. Support all bishops, clergy, lay leaders and congregations in faithfulness to the promise revealed through your Word.

We pause for further prayers.

Leader  Heavenly Father,
People  hear us as we pray.

Leader  “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

Gracious Lord, continue to guide the leaders and populations of the world in their search for justice and peace. Make citizens peacemakers as they elect national and regional leaders in our country and elsewhere in the world.
We pause for further prayers.

Leader  Gracious Lord,  
People  hear us as we pray.

Leader  “I will glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and rejoice. Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; let us exalt his Name together.” (Ps. 34:2-3)  
Righteous Lord, help us love and care for the world in accord with the Spirit which creates and sustains all life. Forgive us when we fall short and help us be worthy of the trust your creation and Christ’s example reveal to us.  
We pause for further prayers.

Leader  Righteous Lord,  
People  hear us as we pray.

Leader  “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.” (Matthew 5:7)  
Loving God, continually remind us to extend helping hands to all in our community whose lives are threatened or compromised by the COVID pandemic, to victims of political and social strife, to parents and children, to political and spiritual leaders, to essential workers and to all in the healthcare professions.  
We pause for further prayers.

Leader  Loving God,  
People  hear us as we pray.

Leader  “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” (Matthew 5:8)  
Compassionate God, we pray for all in our community whose needs are known to us, for all who support them, and for members of our community who have died, especially …  
We pause for further prayers.

Leader  Compassionate God,  
People  hear us as we pray.

Leader  “They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat.” (Rev. 7:16)  
Loving God, we turn to you in prayer for all faithful people who have died, “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.” We commemorate them on All Saints’, a day celebrated since the early years of your Church. Accept our prayers for all those who mourn.  
We pause for further prayers.

Leader  Loving God,  
People  hear us as we pray.
Naming of the Saints

We now name those we have loved who have died.
Please enter names into the chat window to be read for all to hear. We will light a candle for each name that we speak.

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 | Just Breathe Offered by Remy Furchtenicht

By Eddie Vedder

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

Yes I understand
That every life must end
As we sit alone
I know someday we must go

Oh, I’m a lucky man
To count on both hands
The ones I love
Some folks just have one
Yeah, others they got none

Stay with me
Let’s just breathe

Practiced on our sins
Never gonna let me win
Under everything
Just another human being

Yeah, I don’t want to hurt
There’s so much in this world
To make me bleed

Stay with me
You’re all I see

Chorus:
Did I say that I need you?
Did I say that I want you?
What if I did and I’m a fool you see
No one knows this more than me
’Cause I come clean

I wonder everyday
As I look upon your face
Everything you gave
And nothing you would take
Nothing you would take
Everything you gave

- Chorus -

Nothing you would take
Everything you gave
Hold me ’til I die
Meet you on the other side

The Blessing

The Officiant offers a blessing.

May our God of peace give you grace to follow in the way the saints have walked. And the blessing of God, the Triune One, rest upon you, meeting you in your fear, comforting you in your loneliness, shielding you in your joy, and bringing you hope in your sorrow, today and always. Amen.
Closing Song | Oh, When the Saints Led by members of the Music Circle

Traditional African American Spiritual

Oh, when the saints go marching in, Oh, when the saints go marching in, Oh Lord, I want to be in that number When the saints go marching in.

Oh, when the sun begins to shine, Oh, when the sun begins to shine, Oh Lord, I want to be in that number When the sun begins to shine.

Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call, Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call, Oh Lord, I want to be in that number When the trumpet sounds its call.

And on that hallelujah day, Oh, on that hallelujah day, Oh Lord, I want to be in that number On that hallelujah day.

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 Lesson of the Falling Leaves

the leaves believe
such letting go is love
such love is faith
such faith is grace
such grace is god
i agree with the leaves

~ Lucille Clifton
Smoke hangs in the air mixed with morning fog, mixed with sadness, like gauze, like a dirty rag covering the sky wrapping around leaves on trees wrapping around houses, cars, preventing me, and everyone, from going outside. Trapped. Suffocated. How completely lost all the people must feel who lost everything in the fires.

Joan Baez talked about the fires last night. What a dark time we’re living in. But she also sang about the President singing Amazing Grace in Charlottesville when no words would do. She sang Imagine, Forever Young, Gracias A La Vida, and Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, the song Ruth and I sang to Mom as she passed into the next life. Misery mixed with hope. But hope will win. Wednesday the rain will come and wash the smoke away Cool the fires. Give everyone a clean start.

~ Vicki Varghese, November 19, 2018

Adrift
Everything is beautiful and I am so sad. This is how the heart makes a duet of wonder and grief. The light spraying through the lace of the fern is as delicate as the fibers of memory forming their web around the knot in my throat. The breeze makes the birds move from branch to branch as this ache makes me look for those I’ve lost in the next room, in the next song, in the laugh of the next stranger. In the very center, under it all, what we have that no one can take away and all that we’ve lost face each other. It is there that I’m adrift, feeling punctured by a holiness that exists inside everything. I am so sad and everything is beautiful.

~ Mark Nepo from Inside the Miracle: Enduring Suffering, Approaching Wholeness (Sounds True, 2015)
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

Poetry as Prayer Practice | Directly after the 9:30 service
Every first and third Sunday, the group will gather in a Zoom breakout session after the 9:30 service. Contact Jon Quitslund: jonquitslund@att.net

Moving Meditation | 3 – 4:30 pm
For sixth through eighth graders. We'll have a toasty campfire, play games and learn more about prayer and meditation through movement and enjoying the beauty of God's creation. Please come with a mask. You can contact Faith for details: youthgroup@gracehere.org.

November 2 | Election Eve Prayer, Silence, and Song | 8 – 8:30 pm
This is a nonpartisan time to join in community. 8-8:30 pm. Find more information and the Zoom link on our website: gracehere.org/blog/election-eve/

November 4 | Wednesday Healing Prayer & Bible Study | 10:30 am
Please find the Zoom login and worship bulletin here: gracehere.org/join-us-for-online-worship-at-grace/

November 5

Under the Eaves | 3:30 – 5 pm
Current fourth through seventh 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. Contact Wren Blessing for more information: wren@gracehere.org

End of Life: The Conversations and Work of Planning | 7 – 8:30 pm
Session Two of Four: Medical Considerations, Advance Directives, Hospice: Panel with local Medical Experts. Please contact Kim Cockroft for information and Zoom link: kim@gracehere.org.

November 6 | Open Mic for Caregivers | First Fridays | 4 – 5 pm
Caregivers, and friends of caregivers, are invited to make connections by sharing experiences, asking questions, and talking over problems. For more information, or to get the Zoom link, contact Florrie Munat: fmunat@aol.com.

November 9 | Men’s Group Gathering | 7:30 pm
Please contact Eric Matthews for the Zoom link: eric@gracehere.org