



"Midnight Oil" by Jan Richardson

## Grace Episcopal Church

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Ann Strickland

### For the New Year, 1981

I have a small grain of hope—  
one small crystal that gleams  
clear colors out of transparency.

I need more.

I break off a fragment  
to send to you.

Please take  
this grain of a grain of hope  
so that mine won't shrink.

Please share your fragment  
so that yours will grow.

Only so, by division,  
will hope increase,

like a clump of irises, which will cease to flower  
unless you distribute  
the clustered roots, unlikely source—  
clumsy and earth-covered—  
of grace.

~ Denise Levertov, *Candles in Babylon* (New Directions Books, 1982).

# Announcements

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

## Gathering Song | The Leaves Fall Patiently

Words: Sara Teasdale | Music: Ann Strickland

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The leaves fall pa - tient - ly \_\_\_\_\_ No-thing re - mem - bers or  
grieves\_\_ The ri-ver takes to the sea\_\_\_\_\_ The yel-low drift of leaves\_\_

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts on G4, moves to A4, B4, C5, then descends to B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics 'The leaves fall pa - tient - ly' are written below the first staff, with a long horizontal line under 'ly' indicating a sustained note. The second staff begins with a bass clef and continues the melody from the first staff. The lyrics 'No-thing re - mem - bers or grieves\_\_ The ri-ver takes to the sea\_\_\_\_\_ The yel-low drift of leaves\_\_' are written below the second staff. The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

## 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 | Be Thou My Vision

Words: Irish; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne; tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935)

Music: SLANE, Irish ballad melody; harm. David Evans

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,

all else be nought to me, save that thou art—  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!

thou my best thought, — by day or by night,  
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;  
Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

## The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

God our rock and refuge: keep us safe in your care and strengthen us with your grace, that we may pray to you faithfully and love one another boldly, following the example of Jesus, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Source: Veronese Sacramentary

# WE TELL THE STORY

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*We are seated for the reading.*

## **The First Reading** | Amos 5:18-24

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord:

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!

Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;

as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**People**

**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand and say the Psalm.*

## **Psalm | 70**

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;  
O Lord, make haste to help me.

**Let those who seek my life be ashamed  
and altogether dismayed;  
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune  
draw back and be disgraced.**

Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back,  
because they are ashamed.

**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
let those who love your salvation say for ever,  
"Great is the Lord!"**

But as for me, I am poor and needy;  
come to me speedily, O God.

**You are my helper and my deliverer;  
O Lord, do not tarry.**

*We are seated for the second reading.*

## **The Second Reading | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**People      Thanks be to God.**

*We stand together and sing*

## **Gospel Song | Let It Be**

*by John Lennon & Paul McCartney*

**When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me  
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be  
And in my hour of darkness, she is standing right in front of me  
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be**

*Chorus:*

**Let it be, let it be  
Let it be, let it be  
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be**

**And when the broken hearted people living in the world agree  
There will be an answer, let it be  
For though they may be parted there is still a chance that they will see  
There will be an answer, let it be**

**Chorus**

**And when the night is cloudy there is still a light that shines on me  
Shines until tomorrow, let it be  
I wake up to the sound of music, Mother Mary comes to me  
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be**

**Chorus x 2**

*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 25:1-13**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are

*(Reading continues on the following page.)*

going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

*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

Give me oil in my lamp, keep it burning, burning, burning  
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray  
Give me oil in my lamp, keep it burning, burning, burning,  
Keep it burning till the break of day

*Silence*

Leader O God, “we who are alive, we who are left” are your people, your Church. We come together to worship you and instead, we hear your command to “let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.” God help us to act in ways that are fair, equitable, and generous; to live so that you recognize us as your people.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader Lord God,  
**People May we know your presence among us.**

Leader O God, you sent your son, Jesus, to teach us what the kingdom of heaven would be like. As a nation under God, our votes have been cast, our voices have been heard. Yet, it is your voice that must be cast into our hearts. It is Jesus’s words, “Blessed are” that must guide us forward as one nation, as your people, so that we may be called children of God.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader Lord God,  
**People May we know your presence among us.**

Leader O God, we are a small part of your vast creation. Awaken us to the needs of the earth and all its peoples, so that together, like the wise bridesmaids, we may prepare for and celebrate your kingdom.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader Lord God,  
**People May we know your presence among us.**

Leader O God, we come here to ask for your help. We come at times alone, separated, divided, vulnerable. We know through your word that justice and righteousness will fill our hearts, heal our spirits, and gather us to you as one.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader Lord God,  
**People May we know your presence among us.**

Leader O God, your words are filled with hope, encouragement and triumph. We who are alive, along with those who have died, will be with you forever. We pray now for those we name.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.*

Leader Lord God,

**People May we know your presence among us.**

Give me love in my heart, keep it burning, burning, burning  
Give me love in my heart, I pray  
Give me love in my heart, keep it burning, burning, burning,  
Keep it burning till the break of day

Sing hosanna  
Sing hosanna  
Sing hosanna to the king

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/give/>.*

## The Blessing

*The Officiant offers a blessing.*

Holy eternal Majesty,  
Holy incarnate Word,  
Holy abiding Spirit,  
Bless you for evermore. **Amen.**

## Closing Song | Lead with Love

*by Melanie DeMore*

*Chorus:*

**You gotta put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love**  
**Put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love.**  
**You gotta put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love**  
**Put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love.**

Don't give up hope (**Don't give up hope**)  
You're not alone (**You're not alone**)  
Don't you give up (**Don't you give up**)  
Keep movin' on (**Keep movin' on**)

*Chorus*

Lift up your eyes (**Lift up your eyes**)  
Don't you despair (**Don't you despair**)  
Look up ahead (**Look up ahead**)  
The path is there (**The path is there**)

*Chorus*

I know you're scared (**I know you're scared**)  
And I'm scared too (**And I'm scared too**)  
But here I am (**But here I am**)  
Right next to you (**Right next to you**)

*Chorus*

**And lead with love.**  
**And lead with love.**

## 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.**

## A Ritual to Read to Each Other

If you don't know the kind of person I am  
and I don't know the kind of person you are  
a pattern that others made may prevail in the world  
and following the wrong god home we may miss our star.

For there is many a small betrayal in the mind,  
a shrug that lets the fragile sequence break  
sending with shouts the horrible errors of childhood  
storming out to play through the broken dike.

And as elephants parade holding each elephant's tail,  
but if one wanders the circus won't find the park,  
I call it cruel and maybe the root of all cruelty  
to know what occurs but not recognize the fact.

And so I appeal to a voice, to something shadowy,  
a remote important region in all who talk:  
though we could fool each other, we should consider—  
lest the parade of our mutual life get lost in the dark.

For it is important that awake people be awake,  
or a breaking line may discourage them back to sleep;  
the signals we give— yes or no, or maybe—  
should be clear: the darkness around us is deep.

~ William E. Stafford from *The Way it Is: New and Selected Poems*. © 1998

# News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

November 8, 2020

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude .....

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

Click on the link to Grace's online worship ([gracehere.org/join-us-for-online-worship-at-grace/](https://gracehere.org/join-us-for-online-worship-at-grace/)) for the Zoom link. If you have questions please email Kim ([kim@gracehere.org](mailto:kim@gracehere.org)).

## 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.

## Upcoming Events & Programs

### Today & November 15 | 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 contact Faith for details: [youthgroup@gracehere.org](mailto:youthgroup@gracehere.org).

### November 9 | Men's Group Gathering | 7:30 pm

Please contact Eric Matthews for the Zoom link: [eric@gracehere.org](mailto:eric@gracehere.org)

### November 10 | Parents Zooming Together | 8 – 9 pm

This is the meeting rescheduled from November 3. We'll generally meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Contact Kim Cockroft for information: [kim@gracehere.org](mailto:kim@gracehere.org)

### November 11 | Wednesday Healing Prayer & Bible Study | 10:30 am

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

## November 12 & 19

### 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. Contact Wren Blessing for more information: [wren@gracehere.org](mailto:wren@gracehere.org)

### The Big Questions | 5:15 – 6:15 pm

Ninth through twelfth graders will gather to ask and reflect on some of the big questions of faith and life. Please contact Faith for information: [youthgroup@gracehere.org](mailto:youthgroup@gracehere.org)

### End-of-Life: The Conversations and Work of Planning | 7 – 8:30 pm

The series continues through November 19. You can find details on this week's session on our website: [gracehere.org/blog/end-of-life-planning](https://gracehere.org/blog/end-of-life-planning).

Please contact Kim Cockroft for information and the Zoom link: [kim@gracehere.org](mailto:kim@gracehere.org).