



Photo by Olivia Sander from Grace's 2019 youth pilgrimage

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God." (Ps 90:2)

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
24th Sunday after Pentecost  
November 15, 2020 | 9:30am  
Ministers | All of Us  
Rector | Wren Blessing  
Curate | Stephen Crippen  
Music | Martin Cockroft

## Adios

It is a good word, rolling off the tongue  
no matter what language you were born with,  
Use it. Learn where it begins,  
the small alphabet of departure,  
how long it takes to think of it,  
then say, then be heard.

Marry it. More than any golden ring,  
it shines, it shines.  
Wear it on every finger  
till your hands dance,  
touching everything easily,  
letting everything, easily, go.

Strap it to your back like wings.  
Or a kite-tail. The stream of air behind a jet.  
If you are known for anything,  
let it be the way you rise out of sight  
when your work is finished.

~ Naomi Shihab Nye. From *Words Under the Words: Selected Poems* (Far Corner Books, 1995).

Think of things that linger: leaves,  
cartons and napkins, the damp smell of mold.

Think of things that disappear.

Think of what you love best,  
what brings tears into your eyes.

Something that said adios to you  
before you knew what it meant  
or how long it was for.

Explain little, the word explains itself.  
Later perhaps. Lessons following lessons,  
like silence following sound.

# Announcements

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

## Gathering Song | Don't Be Afraid

by John Bell



Don't be a - fraid. My love is strong - er.  
my love is strong - er than your fear.  
Don't be a - fraid. My love is strong - er and  
I have prom-ised, prom-ised to be al - ways near.

## 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 | Great is Thy Faithfulness

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm | Music: William M. Runyan



1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,  
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



1. There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;  
2. Sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
3. Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



1. Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not,  
2. Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness,  
3. Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



1. As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
2. To thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.  
3. Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed,



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

## The Collect

Officiant      The Lord be with you.

**People      And also with you.**

Officiant      Let us pray.

Holy One, from age to age you pour your abundant goodness into our world. By your Spirit, guide us to imitate your generosity, to see and know when to take risks, when to wait patiently, and how to step into the unknown in the power of your love. **Amen.**

---

## WE TELL THE STORY

---

*We are seated for the reading.*

### The First Reading | Zephaniah | 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the Lord is at hand;  
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
“The Lord will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.”

Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,

*(Reading continues on the following page.)*

a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.  
I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the Lord,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.  
Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the Lord's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**People        Thanks be to God.**

*We stand and say the Psalm.*

## **Psalm** | 90: 1-12

Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,  
"Go back, O child of earth."

**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night.**

You sweep us away like a dream;  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

**In the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

*(Reading continues on the following page.)*

For we consume away in your displeasure;  
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

**Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

When you are angry, all our days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**The span of our life is seventy years,  
perhaps in strength even eighty;  
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,  
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

Who regards the power of your wrath?  
who rightly fears your indignation?

**So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

*We are seated for the second reading.*

## **The Second Reading** | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**People        Thanks be to God.**

*We stand together and sing*

## **Gospel Song | Take, O Take Me as I Am**

*by John Bell*

Take O take me as I am Sum-mon out what I shall be

Set your seal u-pon my heart and live in me.

*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 25:14-30**

Jesus said, “It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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.*

### The Prayers of the People

*Psalm 102; Taizé Community | Jacques Berthier*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call an - swer me. O

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O

Silence

Leader “Lord, you have been our refuge for one generation to another before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.”  
○ Ageless One, you have shown yourself faithful through countless generations, an ever-present help in times of trouble. Throughout the world today, may your church’s leaders serve with faithfulness, guiding the church in our generation to be a refuge to all people, even as we ourselves find refuge in you.

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

Leader ○ God of every generation,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for our nation, for every citizen and all who lead us. May we be led by you into the ways of peace. May we hold fast to the truth, but walk humbly before you and with one another.

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

Leader ○ God of every nation,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for all people of every land and nation. In our generation, even now wherever there is trouble, war, division, or pain, grant that your Spirit’s presence be upon us in abundance to heal, to comfort, and to set at liberty all who are oppressed.

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

Leader ○ God, our refuge,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader For our local businesses and neighbors, our community leaders and service providers; for all parents and children, people looking for work, or concerned about shelter; for all who are burdened with worries about the future, we pray.

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

Leader ○ God, our hope,  
**People hear our prayer.**

Leader Hold close to your heart all those who have died, even as we who are left behind hold them close in our hearts. We offer before you 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 ○ God, you who have been our refuge from one generation to another,  
**People hear our prayer.**

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call an - swer me. O  
 Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O

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.*

In God's shelter, may you number your days and apply your hearts to wisdom. God's blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be upon you, now and always. **Amen.**

# Closing Song | Turn, Turn, Turn

by Pete Seeger

*Chorus:*

To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time for every purpose, under heaven

A time to be born, a time to die  
A time to plant, a time to reap  
A time to kill, a time to heal  
A time to laugh, a time to weep

~ Chorus ~

A time to build up, a time to break down  
A time to dance, a time to mourn  
A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together

~ Chorus ~

A time of love, a time of hate  
A time of war, a time of peace  
A time you may embrace, a time to refrain from embracing

~ Chorus ~

A time to gain, a time to lose  
A time to rend, a time to sew  
A time to love, a time to hate  
A time for peace, I swear it's not too late

## 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.**

# News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

November 15, 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

#### 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](mailto: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 contact Faith for details: [youthgroup@gracehere.org](mailto:youthgroup@gracehere.org).

### November 17 | Parents Zooming Together | 8 – 9 pm

We'll meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Contact Kim Cockroft for information: [kim@gracehere.org](mailto:kim@gracehere.org)

### November 18 | 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 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

Session Four: Talking with my family about my decisions: Panel Discussion. Please contact Kim Cockroft for information and the Zoom link: [kim@gracehere.org](mailto:kim@gracehere.org).