



Grace Episcopal Church

The Presentation of Our Lord

January 31, 2021 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Ann Strickland

Tribe | Snowberry

Candlemas

With certitude
Simeon opened
ancient arms
to infant light.
Decades
before the cross, the tomb
and the new life,
he knew
new life.
What depth
of faith he drew on,
turning illumined
towards deep night.

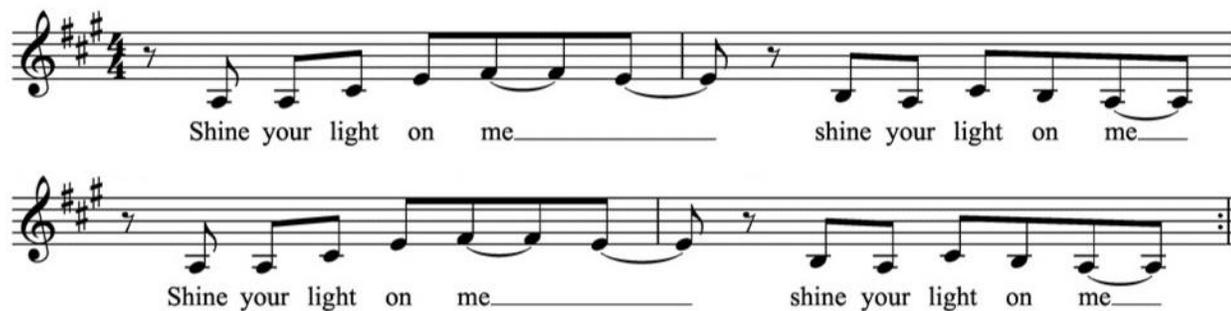
~ Denise Levertov, from *The Collected Poems of Denise Levertov*
(© 2013 by New Directions Publishing Corp.)

Announcements

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

Gathering Song | Shine Your Light on Me

Words and Music: Ann Strickland; offered by Ann Strickland.



The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Shine Your Light on Me'. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes: 'Shine your light on me' followed by a long horizontal line, and then 'shine your light on me' followed by a shorter horizontal line. The second staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Call to Worship

After the gathering song, the Officiant invites us to stand.

Celebrant Come to the waters,
People **all who thirst.**
Celebrant Come and listen to the voice of God,
People **rending the heavens,**
Celebrant speaking God's promise:
People **"You are my beloved,**
Celebrant in whom I delight."

We remain standing and sing together.

Opening Song | Let Your Little Light Shine

Traditional Spiritual

Chorus

Let your little light shine, shine, shine

Let it shine, O my Lord

'Cause there might be someone down in the valley trying to get home.

Verse 1

It might be me or it might be you

It might be your brother or your sister too

Yes there might be someone down in the valley trying to get home.

Repeat Chorus

Verse 2

It might be you or it might be me

Over the land or the deep blue sea

There might be someone down in the valley trying to get home.

Repeat Chorus

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

God of Love, we humbly pray that, as your Son was presented in the temple and revealed as a Light to all nations, so may we also share your light with all people, for your glory, and for the life and health of the whole world. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Malachi 3:1-4

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

**The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.**

Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.

**Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

(reading continues on the next page)

**They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.

**Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

**For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory;**

No good thing will the Lord withhold
from those who walk with integrity.

**O Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Hebrews 2:14-18

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing.

Gospel Song | How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place

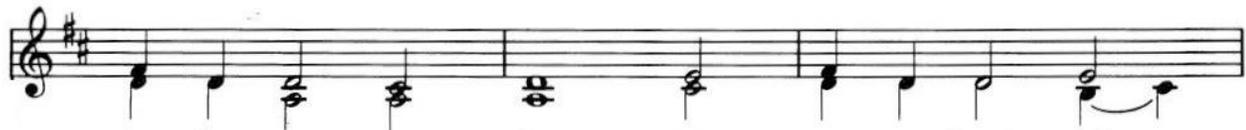
Words: Paraphrase Psalm 84, sts. 1-2; sts. 3-4, Carl P Daw, Jr. | Music: Brother James Air, J.L. Macbeth Bain; offered by Matt and Molly Perri.



1 How love - ly is thy dwell - ing - place, O Lord of hosts, to
2 Be - side thine al - tars, gra - cious Lord, the swal - lows find a
3 They who go through the des - ert vale will find it filled with
4 One day with - in thy courts ex - cels a thou - sand spent a -



me! My thirst - y soul de - sires and longs with -
nest; how hap - py they who dwell with thee and
springs, and they shall climb from height to height till
way; how hap - py they who keep thy laws nor



in thy courts to be; my ve - ry heart and
praise thee with - out rest, and hap - py they whose
Zi - on's tem - ple rings with praise to thee, in
from thy pre - cepts stray, for thou shalt sure - ly



flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, for thee.
hearts are set up - on the pil - grim's quest.
glo - ry throned, Lord God, great King of kings.
bless all those who live the words they pray.

The Officiant then introduces the Gospel by saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

The Gospel | Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

Prayers of Thanksgiving for Candles and Light

Led by the Officiant

Candle Lighting | Light a Candle for Peace

Words and Music by Shelley Murley; offered by Pearle Paar.

Light a candle for peace

Light a candle for love

Light a candle that shines all the way around the world

Light a candle for me

Light a candle for you

That our wish for world peace

Will one day come true!

(repeats)

Sing peace around the world

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**

The Prayers of the People

From Psalm 80:3; Music: Diane McGrew; offered by Diane McGrew

Am F E E⁷ Am Am F

Re-store us, re-store, O God,

7 G E E⁷ Am F E E⁷

our world. Show us a light to heal us.

13 Am F G E E⁷

Re-store us, re-store, O God, our soul.

17 Am F E E⁷ Am

Show us a light to find our way.

Leader

“For God alone my soul in silence waits.”

We pray for all who follow Christ, and for all people. Give us grace to work together for the life and health of the world.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

God, in your mercy,

People

hear our prayer.

Leader

“God counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.”

We pray for the nations and all in authority. Give them courage, so that justice and peace will rise like the dawn.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader

God, in your mercy,

People

hear our prayer.

Leader “God provides food for flocks and herds, and for the young ravens when they cry.”

We pray for the earth, and for all living things. Give us wisdom to restore the land, the rivers and the seas.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader God, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Leader “God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.”

We pray for this congregation, and the communities in which we live. We pray especially for our ministry partners, Kitsap Rescue Mission, and the Salvation Army in Bremerton. Give us the spirit of understanding, and lead us into deeper fellowship with one another.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader God, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Leader “God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.”

We pray for all who are sick and suffering, for all who are lonely, and for all who are in any kind of trouble. Give them the comfort and strength of your healing embrace. We pray especially for those on the parish prayer list.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader God, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Leader “Put your trust in God always, O people. Pour out your hearts before God, for God is our refuge.”

We pray in thanksgiving for those who have died, and for those who mourn. Give us your consolation, and unite us with the whole communion of saints.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader God, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Am F G E E⁷ Am

Re-store us, re-store, O God, our soul. Show us a

6 F E E⁷ Am G C F

light to find our way. Show us a light.

11 G E E⁷ Am F E E⁷ Am

Show us a light. Show us a light to find our way.

Officiant Let us pray together.

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.

The Blessing of the One, Holy, and Undivided Trinity be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | The Song of Simeon

Words: from Luke 2:29-32; Music: Elkanah K. Dare – Consolation and Morning Song; offered by Dusty Collings and Marcus Lang.

Chords: Em, Am, Bm, Em, Em, C, Bm, Em, Am, Bm, Em, C, Am, Bm, Em

Lyrics:
Lord bid your ser - vant go in — peace; your word is now ful -
This is the Sav - ior — of the — world, the bright and prom - ised
(alt) Be - hold this child will pierce your heart His Word will be a
(dox) Al - migh - y God — hear our — cry through Christ be - lov - ed
4 filled light, These eyes have — seen sal - va - tion's dawn, this
light, God's glo - ry — dwell - ing in our — midst, the
sword A — sign op - posed to hearts con - cealed and
Son, whom in the — Spi - rit we a - dore for
7 child so long — fore - - - told.
joy of Is - - - ra - - - el.
grace for hea - vens' a - - - dored.
a - - - ges with - - - out end.

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 Song for Simeon

Lord, the Roman hyacinths are blooming in bowls and
The winter sun creeps by the snow hills;
The stubborn season has made stand.
My life is light, waiting for the death wind,
Like a feather on the back of my hand.
Dust in sunlight and memory in corners
Wait for the wind that chills towards the dead land.

Grant us thy peace.

I have walked many years in this city,
Kept faith and fast, provided for the poor,
Have taken and given honour and ease.
There went never any rejected from my door.

Who shall remember my house,
where shall live my children's children

When the time of sorrow is come?
They will take to the goat's path, and the fox's home,
Fleeing from the foreign faces and the foreign swords.

Before the time of cords and scourges and lamentation
Grant us thy peace.

Before the stations of the mountain of desolation,
Before the certain hour of maternal sorrow,
Now at this birth season of decease,
Let the Infant, the still unspeaking and unspoken Word,
Grant Israel's consolation
To one who has eighty years and no to-morrow.

According to thy word,
They shall praise Thee and suffer in every generation
With glory and derision,
Light upon light, mounting the saints' stair.
Not for me the martyrdom, the ecstasy of thought and prayer,
Not for me the ultimate vision.
Grant me thy peace.

(And a sword shall pierce thy heart,
Thine also).

I am tired with my own life and the lives of those after me,
I am dying in my own death and the deaths of those after me.
Let thy servant depart,
Having seen thy salvation.

~ T.S. Eliot, from *A Guide to
The Selected Poems of T.S. Eliot*
(© 1994 by Harcourt Brace & Co.)

Those Winter Sundays

Sundays too my father got up early
and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold,
then with cracked hands that ached
from labor in the weekday weather made
banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.

I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking.
When the rooms were warm, he'd call,
and slowly I would rise and dress,
fearing the chronic angers of that house,

Speaking indifferently to him,
who had driven out the cold
and polished my good shoes as well.
What did I know, what did I know
of love's austere and lonely offices?

~ Robert Hayden, from *Collected Poems of Robert Hayden* (© 1966 by Robert Hayden; Liveright Publishing Corp.)

News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

January 31, 2021

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

Upcoming Events & Programs

January 31, February 7 | Big Questions | 5:00 – 6:15 pm

Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to join in on Sunday evenings. For details contact Faith Dougherty at youthgroup@gracehere.org. Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81520788511>

February 1 | Men's Group Gathering | 7:30 – 8:30 pm

Every two weeks, the group gathers in a Zoom meeting. Please email Eric Matthews at eric@ericmatthews.com for more information.

February 3 | Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study | 10:30 am

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

February 4 | Ancestors | 3:30 – 4:15 pm

Youth in grades 4-6 are invited to join in on Thursday afternoons. For details contact Faith Dougherty at youthgroup@gracehere.org. Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85229373942>

February 4 | Documentaries that Matter | 4:30 – 5:15 pm

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to join in on Thursday afternoons. For details contact Faith Dougherty at youthgroup@gracehere.org. Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83185392101>

February 4, 11, 18, 25 | Rethinking Our Relationship to Conflict | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Zoom Seminar with professional mediator Greg Abell on Thursday evenings. Please sign up with Kim Cockroft: kim@gracehere.org.

February 7 | Poetry as Prayer Practice | Directly after the 9:30 service

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday the group will gather in a separate Zoom session after the 9:30 service. Contact Jon Quitslund: jonquitslund@att.net

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96243490290?pwd=eGJua2YyNm1vT1k2QlpZeVFUUnFmQT09>

Meeting ID: 962 4349 0290; Passcode: 395554

February 23, March 2, 9 | Talking with Your Kids About Sex and Relationships | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Three-session Zoom discussion with experienced teacher and facilitator Kathie McCarthy. Contact Kim Cockroft to save your spot: kim@gracehere.org

February 28 | Grace Annual Meeting | 10:30 – 11:45 am

Immediately following the 9:30 am service; use the same Zoom link, found at gracehere.org/join-us-for-onlineworship-at-grace/