



Grace Episcopal Church

Last Sunday after Epiphany

February 14, 2021 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Ann Strickland

Tribe | Fern

Bearing the Light

Rain-diamonds, this winter morning,
embellish the tangle of unpruned pear-tree twigs;
each solitaire, placed, it appears, with considered judgement,
bears the light beneath the rifted clouds –
the indivisible shared out in endless abundance.

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

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 | Transfiguration

Words and music: Sufjan Stevens; offered by Martin and Elspeth Cockroft

When he took the three disciples to the mountainside to pray
His countenance was modified, his clothing was aflame
Two men appeared, Moses and Elijah came
They were at his side
The prophecy, the legislation spoke
Of whenever he would die
Then there came a word of what he should accomplish on the day
Then Peter spoke, to make of them a tabernacle place
A cloud appeared in glory as an accolade
They fell on the ground
A voice arrived, the voice of God
The face of God covered in a cloud
What he said to them, the voice of God, the most beloved son
Consider what he says to you, consider what's to come
The prophecy was put to death, was put to death
And so will the son
And keep your word, disguise the vision
Till the time has come
Lost in the cloud, a voice
Have no fear, we draw near
Lost in the cloud, a sign
Son of man, turn your ear

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

○ God, your Son shines in glory upon the mountain, and also leads us down into the midst of suffering, struggle, and death. Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of transfiguration, may be resilient in the struggle, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | 2 Kings 2:1-12

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

(reading continues on the next page)

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 50:1-6

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken;
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God reveals himself in glory.**

Our God will come and will not keep silence;
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.

**He calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of his people.**

"Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."

**Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause;
for God himself is judge.**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing.

Gospel Song | I Went Up to the Mountain

Words and Music: Patty Griffin; offered by Holly White

I went up to the mountain
Because you asked me to
Up over the clouds
To where the sky was blue
I could see all around me
Everywhere
I could see all around me
Everywhere

Sometimes I feel like
I've never been nothing but tired
And I'll be walking
Till the day I expire
Sometimes I lay down
No more can I do
But then I go on again
Because you ask me to
Some days I look down
Afraid I will fall
And though the sun shines
I see nothing at all
Then I hear your sweet voice, oh
Oh, come and then go, come and then go
Telling me softly
You love me so

The peaceful valley
Just over the mountain
The peaceful valley
Few come to know
I may never get there
Ever in this lifetime
But sooner or later
It's there I will go
Sooner or later

The Officiant then introduces the Gospel by saying

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

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

The Gospel | Mark 9:2-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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**

The Prayers of the People

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



Leader God is glorious upon the mountain, and yet more glorious alongside the sick and the suffering. Let us boldly turn to God in prayer.

Brief silence.

We pray for all people, lovingly made in the image of God; and for all who seek and serve God.

We offer prayers for all people, silently or aloud.

Leader God of glory,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for the nations and all in authority, and for all who follow the path of peace.

We offer prayers for the nations and all leaders, silently or aloud.

Leader God of justice,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for all created life; for the earth, the oceans, and the atmosphere.

We offer prayers for the natural world, silently or aloud.

Leader God of life,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for this congregation, this region, and all who call Grace Church their home.

We offer prayers for this community, silently or aloud.

Leader God of companionship,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for all who are sick and their caregivers; for all who are restless, anxious, or depressed; and for all who seek guidance, strength, or comfort.

We offer prayers on our parish prayer list, and additional prayers, silently or aloud.

Leader God of compassion,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray in thanksgiving for all who have died, all who mourn, and all who draw close to death, in the sure hope of resurrected life.

We offer prayers for those who have died, silently or aloud.

Leader God of resurrection,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Hal-le lu - ia Hal-le lu__ ia Hal-le lu__ ia, Hal-le -lu. Hal-le

6
lu - ia Hal-le lu__ ia Hal-le lu__ ia Hal-le -lu.

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.

May God,
Creator of light,
Shining brightly with light,
and fire of the Spirit,
rest upon you, transfigure you, bless you, and remain with you forever.
Amen.

Closing Song | Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Text: LM with alleluias; *English Hymnal*; John Riley; Music: Kirchengesänge; offered by Dusty Collings and Marcus Lang

1. Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, Bright
2. Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, Ye
3. O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, Tri -

1. ser - apts, cher - u - bim, and thrones, Raise the glad strain, Al - le -
2. peo - ple and proph - ets blest, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
3. um - phant an - thems e - cho - ing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

1. lu - ia! Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms, powers, Vir -
2. lu - ia! Ye ho - ly Twelve, and mar - tyrs strong, All
3. lu - ia! To God be - lov - ed God the Son, And

1. tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels' choirs, }
2. saints tri - um - phant, raise the song, } Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
3. God the Spir - it, Three - in - One, }

1-3. lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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.**

Humanity, Reflection of the Beloved

Parrots are taught to speak without understanding the words. The method is to place a mirror between the parrot and the trainer. The trainer, hidden by the mirror, utters the words, and the parrot, seeing his own reflection in the mirror, fancies another parrot is speaking, and imitates all that is said by the trainer behind the mirror. So God uses prophets and saints as mirrors whereby to instruct men, viz., the bodies of these saints and prophets; and men, when they hear the words proceeding from these mirrors, are utterly ignorant that they are really being spoken by “Universal Reason” or the “Word of God” behind the mirror of the saints.

~ Rumi

The Sun Never Says

Even
After
All this time
The sun never says to the earth,

“You owe
Me.”

Look
What happens
With a love like that,
It lights the
Whole
Sky.

~ Hafiz, from *The Gift: Poems by Hafiz The Great Sufi Master*; (© Daniel Ladinsky, Tr.; Penguin Books, 1999)

News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

February 14, 2021

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

For Ash Wednesday: Envelopes of ashes are available for pickup outside Grace's office door. You may use them to impose ashes on yourself or those in your household during any of our liturgies.

Upcoming Events & Programs

February 14 | Outdoor Gathering at Battle Point Park | 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to gather at Battle Point Park for a walk with friends. Please RSVP with Faith Dougherty at youthgroup@gracehere.org.

February 15 | 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 17 | Ash Wednesday | 10:30 am and 7:00 pm on Zoom

Join us online at 10:30 am for a quiet liturgy without music, and at 7:00 pm for a liturgy with music, homily, prayers, and the imposition of ashes. (Please note: we will not have midweek Bible Study after the 10:30 am liturgy on Ash Wednesday.) Please visit: <https://www.gracehere.org/join-us-for-online-worship-at-grace/>

February 17 | Ash Wednesday – In Person at Grace | 4:30 – 5:30 pm

People of all ages are invited to gather around the Grace labyrinth for song, prayer, and the imposition of ashes. This masked, socially distanced gathering is for people of all ages, and especially oriented toward children and families. Sign up for this liturgy at <https://www.gracehere.org/join-us-for-online-worship-at-grace/>

February 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 21 | 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=eGJua2YyNm1vT1k2QlpZeVFIUnFmQT09>

Meeting ID: 962 4349 0290; Passcode: 395554

February 21 | Hot Cross Buns: A Lenten Tradition | 5:00 – 6:00 pm

All Youth are invited to this special Zoom baking session and discussion about preparing for Easter during Lent. Grace will provide the supplies for baking; please RSVP with Faith Dougherty at youthgroup@gracehere.org.

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