

“Baptism and Leaving for the Wilderness” by
Father George Saget; photo courtesy Robert Harding



Grace Episcopal Church

First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021 | 9:30 am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Martin Cockroft

Variation on a Theme by Rilke

A certain day became a presence to me;
there it was, confronting me--a sky, air, light:
a being. And before it started to descend
from the height of noon, it leaned over
and struck my shoulder as if with
the flat of a sword, granting me
honor and a task, The day's blow
rang out, metallic--or it was I, a bell awakened,
and what I heard was my whole self
saying and singing what it knew: I can.

~ Denise Levertov

From Breathing the Water (New Directions Publishing Corp. 1987)

Announcements

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

Gathering Song | Bless the Lord My Soul *Offered by Members of the Music Circle*

Words: Psalm 103 | Music: Jacques Berthier



Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

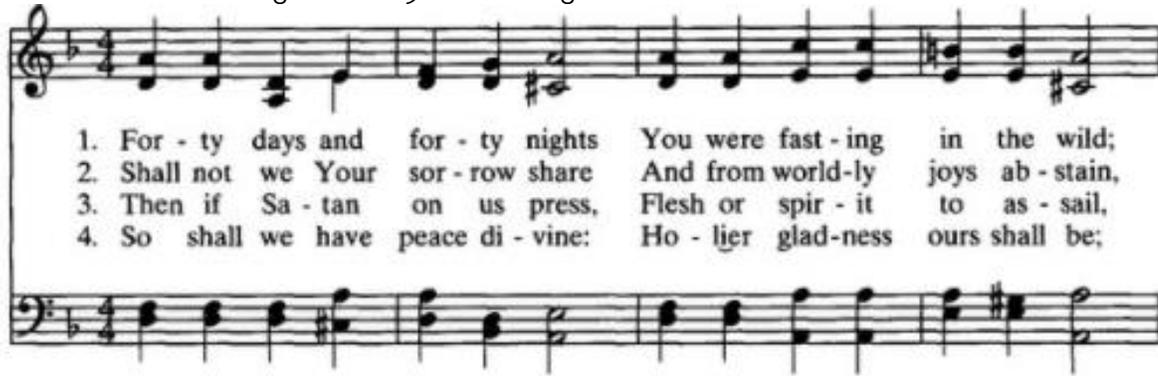
Call to Worship

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

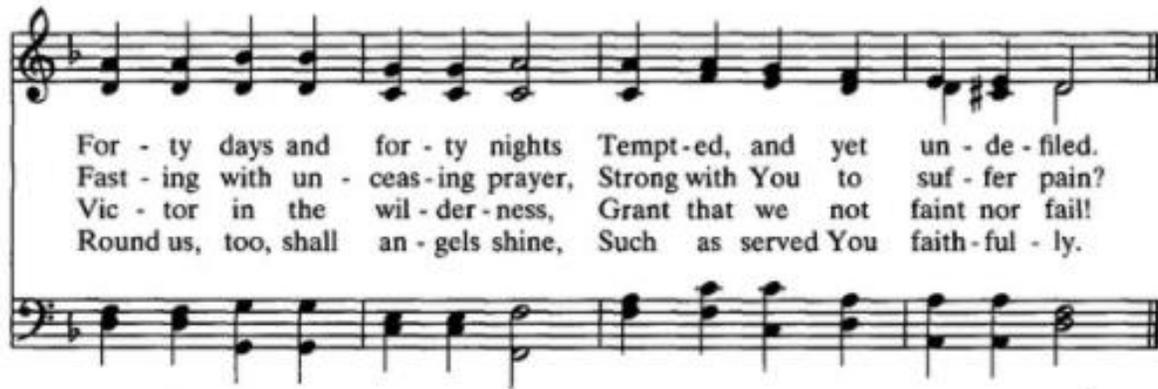
Officiant From the rising of the sun to its setting,
All **your mercy endures forever.**

Opening Song | Forty Days and Forty Nights *Offered by Members of the Music Circle*

Words and Music: George Hunt Smyttan; we sing verses 1-3



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights You were fast - ing in the wild;
2. Shall not we Your sor - row share And from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3. Then if Sa - tan on us press, Flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
4. So shall we have peace di - vine: Ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;



For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, Strong with You to suf - fer pain?
Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, Grant that we not faint nor fail!
Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, Such as served You faith - ful - ly.

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Beloved One, in you, God's reign of goodness draws near. In this season of repentance, guide us in paths of love and faithfulness, that walking in the wilderness, we may journey to the place where justice and mercy meet. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We say the psalm together.

Psalm | 25:1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.

(reading continues on the next page)

**Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

**Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | 1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | You Are All We Have *Offered by Diane McGrew*

Words and Music: Francis Patrick O'Brien



The image shows two staves of musical notation in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: "You are all we have. You give us what we need. Our lives are in your hands, O Lord, our lives are in your hands." The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, and the second staff covers the second line.

The Officiant then introduces the Gospel by saying

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

All **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

The Gospel | Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

After the Gospel, the Officiant will say

The Gospel of the Lord.

All **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**

Confession

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

We sing together

by Stefan Andre Waligur | Offered by Pearle Paar, Diane McGrew and Ann Strickland

5 Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on _____ us.

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, on _____ us

All **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Leader Please add your own prayers into chat following each petition.

Faithful God, open our eyes to see your presence in our families, our friends, our neighbors, and those we don't know. We pray for all people.

We add into chat our prayers for all people.

Leader Hear us, O God.

All **For your mercy is great.**

Leader Creating God, open our ears to hear your song that fills all creation, and stirs our own hearts to sing your praise. We pray for all created life.

We add into chat our prayers for the world and all living creatures.

Leader Hear us, O God.

All **For your mercy is great.**

Leader Loving God, open our hands to embrace all who are sick, and all who are sad, lonely, or afraid. We pray for all who suffer, and all who care for them.

We add into chat our prayers for all who are in need.

Leader Hear us, O God.

All **For your mercy is great.**

Leader Merciful God, give us a foretaste of your feast to come, where we will gather with all who have died around your table of thanksgiving. We pray for all who have died, and all who mourn.

We add into chat our prayers for those who have died, and those who mourn.

Leader Hear us, O God.

All **For your mercy is great.**

Leader Let us pray for those on our parish prayer list, and all whose lives are closely linked with ours.

The prayers for those on our parish prayer list are offered.

Officiant We 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 peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God. And the blessing of the Triune God, who was and is and is to come, rest upon you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | Beautiful Things

by Lisa Gungor & Michael Gungor

**You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

You make us new,
You are making us new**

Dismissal

Officiant

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Wade in the Water

for the Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters

One of the women greeted me.
I love you, she said. She didn't
Know me, but I believed her,
And a terrible new ache
Rolled over in my chest,
Like in a room where the drapes
Have been swept back. I love you,
I love you, as she continued
Down the hall past other strangers,
Each feeling pierced suddenly
By pillars of heavy light.
I love you, throughout
The performance, in every
Handclap, every stomp.
I love you in the rusted iron
Chains someone was made
To drag until love let them be
Unclasped and left empty
In the center of the ring.

I love you in the water
Where they pretended to wade,
Singing that old blood-deep song
That dragged us to those banks
And cast us in. I love you,
The angles of it scraping at
Each throat, shouldering past
The swirling dust motes
In those beams of light
That whatever we now knew
We could let ourselves feel, knew
To climb. O Woods—O Dogs—
O Tree—O Gun—O *Girl, run*—
O Miraculous Many Gone—
O Lord—O Lord—O Lord—
Is this love the trouble you promised?

~ Tracy K. Smith, from *Wade in the Water* (Graywolf Press, 2018)

News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

February 21, 2021

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

Upcoming Events & Programs

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

February 24 | Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study During Lent | 10:30 am

Wednesdays, February 24 – March 24 on Zoom. Please find links to the Zoom login and worship bulletin on our website: gracehere.org/join-us-for-onlineworship-at-grace/

February 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 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/

March 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.

March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3 | Mom's Morning Retreat | 9:00 – 10:00 am

First Thursdays on Zoom. To receive the link, email: morningretreat@gmail.com

March 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=eGJua2YyNm1vT1k2QlpZeVFIUnFmQT09>
Meeting ID: 962 4349 0290; Passcode: 395554