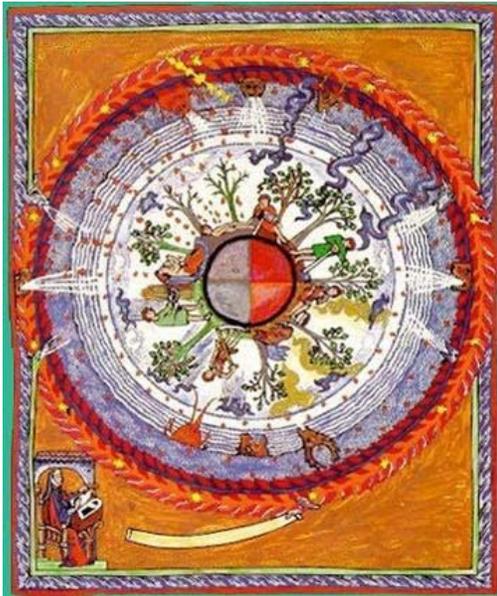


“Cosmos, Body, and Soul” by Hildegard of Bingen



Grace Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021 | 9:30 am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Ann Strickland

Tribe | Maple

My Work is Loving the World

My work is loving the world.

Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird —
equal seekers of sweetness.

Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.

Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?

Am I no longer young and still not half-perfect? Let me
keep my mind on what matters,
which is my work,

which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished.

The phoebe, the delphinium.

The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.

Which is mostly rejoicing, since all ingredients are here,

Which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart
and these body-clothes,

a mouth with which to give shouts of joy
to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam,
telling them all, over and over, how it is
that we live forever.

~ Mary Oliver, From *Thirst: Poems* (Beacon Press, 2006)

Announcements

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

Gathering Song | Open My Heart

Words and Music: Ana Hernández; Offered by musicians from Grace and the Diocese of Olympia

The musical score is presented in two systems. Each system contains three staves: Part 1 (top), Part 2 (middle), and Part 3 (bottom). The music is written in 4/4 time. The lyrics for all parts are: "O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart." The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

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 | Even Without Us

Words and Music; Marcia Pelletiere and Matt Perri; Offered by Matt Perri

Without the ships, the tide still travels in
Without our care, the fruit's still ripening
Without our hands, the glaciers carve the rocks
Without a clock, the sun still rises and makes its way back down

Even without us, even without us, there will be mountains streams and seas
even without us, even without us, voices will whisper on the breeze

Without our breath, a storm rolls through the hills
Without our aid, a bird protects its nest
Without our watch, the whale still swims the deep
Without our help, the rain keeps falling
and turns the fields to green

Even without us, even without us, there will be mountain streams and seas
even without us, even without us, voices will whisper on the breeze

After we've gone, there will be time
After we've gone, there will be time, there will be time
Even without us, even without us, voices will whisper through the trees
Even without us, even without us, there will be time, and time enough.

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

○ God, rich in mercy, whose light reveals the truth of all things, and the judgment we bring upon ourselves: We thank you that you sent your Son to save and not condemn. In his self-giving love, may life abundant reign; through Jesus Christ, who was lifted up for us. **Amen.**

—adapted from a Collect by Steven Shakespeare

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We say the psalm together.

Psalm | 107:1-3, 17-22

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
and his mercy endures for ever.

**Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

He gathered them out of the lands;
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

**Some were fools and took to rebellious ways;
they were afflicted because of their sins.**

They abhorred all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

(reading continues on the next page)

**Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.**

He sent forth his word and healed them
and saved them from the grave.

**Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy
and the wonders he does for his children.**

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 Don't Have to Walk

Words: Mary Oliver; Music: Ann Strickland; Offered by Holly White



4 You don't have to walk on your knees you don't have to wa - lk on your
knees you don't have to walk on your knees you don't have to walk on your knees.

The Officiant then introduces the Gospel by saying

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

All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel | John 3:14-21

Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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.

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 O God, you are the cloud that guides us by day. Lead us, your people, through the wilderness of fear, doubt, and grief. Bring us in safety to your pleasant land.

We offer additional prayers for all people, silently or aloud.

Leader Hear us, O God.

All **For your mercy is great.**

Leader O God, you are the fire that shines in the night. Enlighten all nations and their leaders, that peace and justice may flourish on the face of this earth.

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

Leader Hear us, O God.

All **For your mercy is great.**

Leader O God, you are the water that gushes from the rock. Quench the thirst of this community for health, fellowship, and mission.

We offer additional prayers for this community, silently or aloud.

Leader Hear us, O God.

All **For your mercy is great.**

Leader O God, you are the ark that carries us to safety. Surround all who are sick and suffering with your protection, your healing presence, and your love. Strengthen all who care for them.

Those on our prayer list are named.

We offer additional prayers for the sick and the suffering, silently or aloud.

Leader Hear us, O God.

All **For your mercy is great.**

Leader O God of the Empty Tomb, you bring life from death, and joy from sorrow. Gather us with all who have died into one communion of saints, and speak comfort to all who mourn.

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

Leader Hear us, O God.

All **For your mercy is great.**

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.

May the crucified Christ shatter our brittle fear,
draw all people to his glory,
and make us servants living for the world.
The blessing of the One, Holy, and Undivided Trinity
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

—adapted from a Blessing by Steven Shakespeare

Closing Song | How Can I Keep From Singing

Words and Music: Robert Lowry; Offered by musicians from Grace and the Diocese of Olympia; we sing verses 1, 2, and 4

My life flows on in end-less song, a - bove earth's la - men -
Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear the mu - sic
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain e - ver
ta - tion, I catch the sweet, though far off hymn, that
ring - ing, It finds an ech - o in my soul, How
spring ing! All things are mine since I am his! How
hails a new cre - a - tion. No storm can shake my in-most calm, while
can I keep from sing ing?
can I keep from sing ing?
to that Rock I'm cling - ing, Since love is Lord of
hea - ven and earth, how can I keep from sing ing?

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."

Dismissal

Officiant

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Love Rejected

love rejected
hurts so much more
than love rejecting;
they act like they don't love their country
no
what it is
is they found out
their country don't love them.

~ Lucille Clifton, From *The Collected Poems of Lucille Clifton 1965-2010*
(American Poets Continuum, 2012)

News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

March 14, 2021

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

Upcoming Events & Programs

March 14, 21 | Youth Gatherings in Lent | 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Youth in grades 6-12 will gather at Grace and on Zoom in sessions led by Stephen and Wren to learn more about Lent. Please RSVP with Faith Dougherty at youthgroup@gracehere.org.

March 15 | Men's Group Gathering | 7:30 – 8:30 pm

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

March 17 | Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study During Lent | 10:30 am

Wednesdays, through 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/

March 18, 25 | Thursday Evening Lent Series | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Led by Stephen and Wren on Zoom. Please find links to the Zoom login on our website: <https://www.gracehere.org/lent/>

March 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=eGJua2YyNm1vT1k2QlpZeVFUUnFmQT09>
Meeting ID: 962 4349 0290; Passcode: 395554

March 28 | Palm Sunday | 9:30 am

Wear a mask, bring a branch, and join us at 9:30 on Grace's grounds as we process and shout "Hosanna." Or, login to our Zoom link to join us online. Link to join in person worship: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/palm-sunday-on-graces-grounds-tickets-145781184447>

March 28 | Youth Service Gathering | 4:00 – 5:30 pm

At Grace. Youth gather for games and bonfire before helping prepare the eggs and church grounds for our Easter Egg Hunt; email youthgroup@gracehere.org for more details.

April 1 | Maundy Thursday at Grace | 4:30 pm

All are invited to this in-person liturgy oriented especially to children and families. Sign up online here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maundy-thursday-outdoors-at-grace-tickets-145782913619>

April 1 | Maundy Thursday Evening Online Liturgy | 7:00 pm

Access our evening liturgy via Zoom. Find the link on Grace's Online Worship page: <https://www.gracehere.org/join-us-for-online-worship-at-grace/>