



Grace Episcopal Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021 | 9:30 am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Preacher | Jeff Bassette

Music | Martin Cockroft

Tribe | Rhododendron

The Wish to Be Generous

All that I serve will die, all my delights,
the flesh kindled from my flesh, garden and field,
the silent lilies standing in the woods,
the woods, the hill, the whole earth, all
will burn in man's evil, or dwindle
in its own age. Let the world bring on me
the sleep of darkness without stars, so I may know
my little light taken from me into the seed
of the beginning and the end, so I may bow
to mystery, and take my stand on the earth
like a tree in a field, passing without haste
or regret toward what will be, my life
a patient willing descent into the grass.

~ Wendell Berry, From *Collected Poems*
(North Point Press, 1987)

Rev. Jeff Bassette wrote this poem to honor a patient named Ken and read it at his funeral in 2013. Jeff had been Ken's chaplain in the hospital, and supported Ken as he made the conscious, courageous decision to withdraw life support, which he needed in order to breathe freely. Ken went home on hospice and died peacefully days later, surrounded by family and friends. Ken was not a religious man, which his family lovingly acknowledged, but he did have a simple faith in God which comforted him deeply in his final days.

It is no sin to walk tall into the arms of God,
upright, and true, trembling boldly.
Like a compass pointing due north,
to God and his saints, and the Life that is truly life.
Your soul's compass searching, and finding, surrendered to its truest self.

Some die shrinking their way home,
gasping and grasping, clinging and clutching,
fighting the journey North, the journey Home.
Never grasping the grace to let go,
to rest, to breathe a different air,
of lighter fragrance, clean and sweet--
that purified air where breath is reborn,
and Heaven's Breath enlivens all our being, full and free.

But not you, my friend.

I watch you now, here before me in your bed.
Such courage and love, this last great gift:
to bear the burden alone, this lonely choice,
so those you love need not bear the burdensome toll.

Such courage and love it takes.
I tell you so. And our eyes meet as men. This one last time.
You reach for my hand. And grasp it.
Not in that grip which clings in fear, but a grip of gratitude
which rests in the grace of letting go.

You thank me then, for seeing you true, and saying so.
For adding my benediction to your love's last gift.

You thanked me then, but I thank you now. In these, my final words.
And I honor your memory—my irreligious but upright friend.

You live before me here, before us all, a tall memory of a simple man
who walked upright into the arms of God.

Author: Jeff Bassette

Announcements

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

Gathering Song | What We Need is Here

Words and Music: Amy McCreath; Offered by musicians from Grace



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 | Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul

Words and Music; Kevin Twit; Offered by Faith and Liza Dougherty

Dear refuge of my weary soul,
On Thee, when sorrows rise
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll,
My fainting hope relies
To Thee I tell each rising grief,
For Thou alone canst heal
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief,
For every pain I feel

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face,
And shall I seek in vain?
And can the ear of sovereign grace,
Not hear when I complain?
No still the ear of sovereign grace,
Attends the mourner's prayer
Oh may I ever find access,
To breathe my sorrows there

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

God of life, you are the love at our beginning, in our midst and with us. Root and ground us in your presence, that in the changes and chances of this world, we may grow and serve as bearers of hope in your world. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We say the psalm together.

Psalm | 119:9-16

How shall a young man cleanse his way?

By keeping to your words.

With my whole heart I seek you;

let me not stray from your commandments.

I treasure your promise in my heart,

that I may not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord;

instruct me in your statutes.

With my lips will I recite

all the judgments of your mouth.

I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees

than in all manner of riches.

(reading continues on the next page)

I will meditate on your commandments
and give attention to your ways.

**My delight is in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | Have Mercy on Me

Words and Music: Sandra McCracken



Have mer - cy on___ me. Have mer - cy on___ me.
Oh, help my un - be - lief. Oh, help my un - be - lief.
5
Oh, Lord, have mer___cy. Oh, Lord, have mer_____cy.

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 12:20-23

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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.

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may the blessing of God, the Triune One, rest upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | Farther Along

Words and Music: WB Stevens

Refrain:

Farther along we'll know all about it,
Farther along we'll understand why;
Cheer up, don't worry, live in the sunshine,
We'll understand it all by and by.

Faithful till death said our loving Master,
A few more days to labor and wait;
Toils of the road will then seem as nothing,
As we sweep through the beautiful gate.

(Refrain)

When we see Jesus coming in glory,
When He comes from His home in the sky;
Then we shall meet Him in that bright mansion,
We'll understand it all by and by.

(Refrain)

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.

truth

And if sun comes
How shall we greet him?
Shall we not dread him,
Shall we not fear him
After so lengthy a
Session with shade?

Though we have wept for him,
Though we have prayed
All through the night-years—
What if we wake one shimmering morning to
Hear the fierce hammering
Of his firm knuckles
Hard on the door?

Shall we not shudder?—
Shall we not flee
Into the shelter, the dear thick shelter
Of the familiar
Propitious haze?

Sweet is it, sweet is it
To sleep in the coolness
Of snug unawareness.

The dark hangs heavily
Over the eyes.

~ Gwendolyn Brooks, From *Blacks*
(Third World Press, 1987)

News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

March 21, 2021

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

Upcoming Events & Programs

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 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 24 | 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 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 28 | Palm Sunday | 9:30 am

An outdoor service will be held on Grace's grounds; wear a mask, bring a branch, and join us 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/>

April 2 | Good Friday at 12 noon

Please join us on Zoom for a liturgy at noon. The liturgy will be available for evening viewing on Grace's website.

April 4 | Easter Day at 9:30 am

Join us on Zoom for a joyous Easter baptism and celebration of Eucharist (this will take place online); come to Grace from 11:00 am to noon to receive Eucharistic bread and to join in our Easter egg hunt.