



"The heavens declare the glory of God..."

~ Psalm 19:1

"Ephemeral Palette" by Elizabeth VanDuine

Grace Episcopal Church

Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021 | 9:30 am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Martin Cockroft

Tribe | Blackberry

The Round

Light splashed this morning
on the shell-pink anemones
swaying on their tall stems;
down blue-spiked veronica
light flowed in rivulets
over the humps of the honeybees;
this morning I saw light kiss
the silk of the roses
in their second flowering,
my late bloomers
flushed with their brandy.
A curious gladness shook me.

So I have shut the doors of my house,
so I have trudged downstairs to my cell,
so I am sitting in semi-dark

hunched over my desk
with nothing for a view
to tempt me
but a bloated compost heap,
steamy old stinkpile,
under my window;
and I pick my notebook up
and I start to read aloud
the still-wet words I scribbled
on the blotted page:
"Light splashed . . ."

I can scarcely wait till tomorrow
when a new life begins for me,
as it does each day,
as it does each day.

~ Stanley Kunitz, From *Passing Through: The Later Poems, New and Selected* by Stanley Kunitz (W.W. Norton, 1995)

Prelude | Pass Me Not

Offered by Martin Cockroft

Announcements

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

Gathering Song | Pass Me Not

Words: Fanny Crosby; Music: William Doane; Offered by Tom Ringo and Matt Perri; we sing verses 1 and 2

1. Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior— Hear my hum - ble cry!
2. Let me at a throne of mer - cy Find a sweet re - lief;
3. Trust - ing on - ly in Thy mer - it, Would I seek Thy face;
4. Thou the spring of all my com - fort, More than life to me!

While on oth - ers Thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.
Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, Help my un - be - lief.
Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spir - it, Save me by Thy grace.
Whom have I on earth be - side Thee? Whom in heav'n but Thee?

Chorus

Sav - ior, Sav - ior, Hear my hum - ble cry!

While on oth - ers Thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.

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 | There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Words: Frederick William Faber; Music: Martin Cockroft; Offered by Martin and Kim Cockroft

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good.

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word;

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea.

If our God's love looks mighty,
It is mightier than it seems;
'Tis our Father: and His fondness
Goes out far beyond our dreams.
There is grace enough for thousands
Of new worlds as great as this;

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea.

(lyrics continued on the next page)

But we make God's love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify His strictness
With a zeal He will not own.
This our savior who would have us
Come and gather at His feet.
There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea.

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Creating God, interrupt our status quo with your word of life. Call expectation out of our fear, gentleness from our anger, compassion from our inertia, that we may bear hope to others and serve as instruments of your peace. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

(reading continues on the next page)

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We say the psalm together.

Psalm | 19

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

**Their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world.**

(reading continues on the next page)

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

**The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever;
the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**Who can tell how often he offends?
cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | I Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | Lord Have Mercy

Words and Music: Stefan Waligur; Offered by Martin and Kim Cockroft

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 12/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 12/8 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with rests. Below the staff, the lyrics are: "5 Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on _____ us." The second staff continues the melody with similar note values and rests. Below it, the lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, on _____ us".

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 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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/>

Offertory Song | God Provides

Words: Kirk Franklin; Music: Tamela Mann; Offered by Stephanie Coates

God provides, so why do I worry about my life
When you come to my rescue a thousand times
Every other voice it is a lie
God provides

God provides
In ways I can't explain and can't deny
The little that I have He multiplies
Just when I feel He won't show up on time
God provides

He'll come through
When the clouds of doubt rain down on you
And test everything you thought you knew
Now you finally see what God can do, for you

Chorus:

So tonight
Close your eyes
There's no more need to fight
Watch God provide

God provides
It's hard to say when there's no food to eat
Or what you see feels all that life will be
And will this be another year of misery, for me
But my faith, can't survive on just things I see
And my feelings can't control my destiny
See God I only want what you believe, for me

(Chorus)

The Blessing

The Officiant offers a blessing.

The wisdom of God, the love of God, and the grace of God strengthen you to love and serve your neighbor and to know yourself beloved. And the blessing of God, the Triune One, rest upon and remain with you today and always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | Beautiful Things

Words and Music: Lisa and Michael Gungor; Offered by Martin and Elspeth Cockroft

**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**

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.

Adam's Complaint

Some people,
no matter what you give them,
still want the moon.

The bread,
the salt,
white meat and dark,
still hungry.

The marriage bed
and the cradle,
still empty arms.

You give them land,
their own earth under their feet,
still they take to the roads

And water: dig them the deepest well,
still it's not deep enough
to drink the moon from.

~ Denise Levertov, From *The Collected Poems of Denise Levertov*
(New Directions Publishing, 2013)

The Good Life

When some people talk about money
They speak as if it were a mysterious lover
Who went out to buy milk and never
Came back, and it makes me nostalgic
For the years I lived on coffee and bread,
Hungry all the time, walking to work on payday
Like a woman journeying for water
From a village without a well, then living
One or two nights like everyone else
On roast chicken and red wine.

~ Tracy K. Smith, From *Life on Mars*
(Graywolf Press, 2011)

News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

March 7, 2021

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

Upcoming Events & Programs

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=eGJua2YyNm1vT1k2QlpZeVFUnFmQT09>
Meeting ID: 962 4349 0290; Passcode: 395554

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

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

March 10 | 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 11, 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 12, 26 | Compassionate Caring Support Group | 9:30 – 11:00 am

Meets online every second and fourth Friday; newcomers welcome. Please contact Diane McGrew at [dlmcmgrew@gmail.com](mailto:dlmcgrew@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

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.

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

April 2 | Open Mic for Caregivers | 4:00 – 5:00 pm

First Friday of each month. Email Florrie Munat: fmunat@aol.com for the Zoom link or to suggest a future topic.