

“And Open Our Eyes to Behold Love’s Face” Jan Richardson



Grace Episcopal Church

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Ann Strickland

Tribe | Cedar

Instructions on Not Giving Up

More than the fuchsia funnels breaking out of the crabapple tree, more than the neighbor’s almost obscene display of cherry limbs shoving their cotton candy-colored blossoms to the slate sky of Spring rains, it’s the greening of the trees that really gets to me. When all the shock of white and taffy, the world’s baubles and trinkets, leave the pavement strewn with the confetti of aftermath, the leaves come. Patient, plodding, a green skin growing over whatever winter did to us, a return to the strange idea of continuous living despite the mess of us, the hurt, the empty. Fine then, I’ll take it, the tree seems to say, a new slick leaf unfurling like a fist to an open palm, I’ll take it all.

~ Ada Limón, *The Carrying* (Milkweed Editions, 2018)

Announcements

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

Gathering Song | Give Peace to Every Heart

Words and music: Ann Strickland

Give peace to ev-ery heart, give peace to ev-ery heart. Give peace. Give peace.

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Give peace to ev-ery heart, give peace to ev-ery heart. Give peace. Give peace—

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the song, and the second staff, starting with a measure rest labeled '5', contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Officiant proclaims

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Song | Sweet Hour of Prayer

Words: William Walford; Music: William Bradbury; offered by Ann Strickland and Tom Ringo

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me to my Father's throne
make all my wants, my wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care,
and wait for him, sweet hour of prayer!

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

God of love, with wounded hands you receive us as your children. Draw near, that we may recognize and trust your presence with us. Through us, bring peace and healing to your world, through Jesus Christ, our prince of peace. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Acts 3:12-19

Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

After the reading, the reader will say

 The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm | 4

We say the Psalm together.

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

**"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?"**

Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

**Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

Offer the appointed sacrifices
and put your trust in the Lord.

**Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!"
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.**

You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

**I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | I John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

After the reading, the Reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Song | Let the Mystery Be

Words and music: Iris Dement; offered by Tom Ringo

Everybody is a wonderin' what and where they all came from
Everybody is a worryin' 'bout where
They're gonna go when the whole thing's done
But no one knows for certain and so it's all the same to me
I think I'll just let the mystery be

Some say once you're gone you're gone forever
And some say you're gonna come back
Some say you rest in the arms of
The Saviour if in sinful ways you lack
Some say that they're comin' back in a
Garden, bunch of carrots and little sweet peas
I think I'll just let the mystery be

Everybody is a wonderin' what and where they all came from
Everybody is a worryin' 'bout where
They're gonna go when the whole thing's done
But no one knows for certain and so it's all the same to me
I think I'll just let the mystery be

Some say they're goin' to a place called
Glory and I ain't saying it ain't a fact
But I've heard that I'm on the road to
Purgatory and I don't like the sound of that
Well, I believe in love and I live my life accordingly
But I choose to let the mystery be

Everybody is a wonderin' what and where they all came from
Everybody is a worryin' 'bout where
They're gonna go when the whole thing's done
But no one knows for certain and so it's all the same to me
I think I'll just let the mystery be
I think I'll just let the mystery be

The Officiant then introduces the Gospel by saying

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

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel | Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

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.**

The Prayers of the People

Please add your intentions to our prayers by including your concerns or thanksgivings in the chat window at each bidding.

Words: Julian of Norwich; Music: David Keller; Diane McGrew

Musical notation for the first part of the prayer, in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: All shall be well and all shall be well and

Musical notation for the second part of the prayer, in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: all man-ner of things_ shall be well be well.

Silence

- Leader We now pray for all people according to their needs.
We pray for all who find a home in Grace Church. Fill us with your love, that we may speak good news to one another and to all who long to hear it.
Additional prayers are offered for all people, silently or aloud.
- Leader Risen Lord,
All hear our prayer.
- Leader We pray for all in authority. Fill teachers, counselors, and all who govern, parent, and lead, with a hunger for righteousness and a longing for justice.
Additional prayers are offered for all people, silently or aloud.
- Leader Risen Lord,
All hear our prayer.
- Leader Thank you for the earth that sustains us. Teach us to protect, cultivate, and share the gifts of your creation with wisdom and joy.
Additional prayers are offered for all people, silently or aloud.
- Leader Risen Lord,
All hear our prayer.
- Leader We pray for Daunte Wright, for the people of Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis, and for all who grieve violence in their homes or neighborhoods. Give us courage to turn our swords into plowshares, that our communities might become shelters of peace and growth.
Additional prayers are offered for all people, silently or aloud.
- Leader Risen Lord,
All hear our prayer.
- Leader We pray for all who long for wholeness. Embrace any who are hurt or alone with your wounded hands, that all may know your enduring presence with us.
Those on our prayer list are named. Additional prayers are offered for those who are sick or suffering, silently or aloud.
- Leader Risen Lord,
All hear our prayer.
- Leader We pray for all who have died, and for those who mourn. Gather us to rejoice in song before your throne.
Additional prayers are offered for all people, silently or aloud.
- Leader Risen Lord,
All hear our prayer.

All shall be well and all shall be well and

5

all man-ner of things_ shall be well be well.

Officiant Let us pray.

**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 Song | I Threw It All Away

Words and music: Bob Dylan; offered by Garth Edwards

While we cannot gather in person, we make our weekly offerings online here: <https://www.gracehere.org/online-giving/>

I once held her in my arms
She said she would always stay
But I was cruel
I treated her like a fool
I threw it all away

Once I had mountains in the palm of my hand
And rivers that ran through every day
I must have been mad
I never knew what I had
Until I threw it all away

Love is all there is, it makes the world go 'round
Love and only love, it can't be denied
No matter what you think about it
You just won't be able to do without it
Take a tip from one who's tried

So if you find someone that gives you all of her love
Take it to your heart, don't let it stray
For one thing that's certain
You will surely be a-hurtin'
If you throw it all away
If you throw it all away

The Blessing

The Officiant offers a blessing.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now the blessing of God, who was and is and is to come, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | I Saw the Light

Words and music: Hank Williams; offered by Krista Webb and Robert Sanville

I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin
I wouldn't let my dear savior in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

I saw the light, I saw the light
No more darkness, no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

Just like a blind man, I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

I saw the light, I saw the light
No more darkness, no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

I was a fool to wander and stray
For straight is the gate and narrow the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

I saw the light, I saw the light
No more darkness, no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

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 Alleluia, alleluia, the peace of the Lord be always with you!

All And also with you. Alleluia, Alleluia!

From a Window

Incurable and unbelieving
in any truth but the truth of grieving,

I saw a tree inside a tree
rise kaleidoscopically

as if the leaves had livelier ghosts.
I pressed my face as close

to the pane as I could get
to watch that fitful, fluent spirit

that seemed a single being undefined
or countless beings of one mind

haul its strange cohesion
beyond the limits of my vision
over the house heavenwards.
Of course I knew those leaves were birds.

Of course that old tree stood
exactly as it had and would

(but why should it seem fuller now?)
and though a man's mind might endow

even a tree with some excess
of life to which a man seems witness,

that life is not the life of men.
And that is where the joy came in.

~ Christian Wiman, *Every Riven Thing* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2011)

News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

April 18, 2021

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

Upcoming Events & Programs

April 18 | 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

April 18, 25, May 2, May 9 | Middle School Small Group - The Faith of the Outsider | 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Youth in grades 6-8 will gather outdoors at Grace (weather permitting) every Sunday afternoon through May 9. Please RSVP with Faith Dougherty at youthgroup@gracehere.org.

April 18, 25, May 2, May 9 | High School Small Group - Moving Meditation | 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Youth in grades 9-12 will gather outdoors at Grace (weather permitting) every Sunday afternoon through May 9. Please RSVP with Faith Dougherty at youthgroup@gracehere.org.

April 21 | Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study | 10:30 am

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

April 23 | Compassionate Caring Support Group | 9:30 – 11:00 am

Meets online every second and fourth Friday; newcomers welcome. Please contact Diane McGrew (dllmcgrew@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

April 26 | Earth and Spirit/Outreach | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

"The Gifts of Dirt": discussion of the film "Kiss the Ground" and presentation about the Grace outreach project, Gifts of Dirt Garden. Be sure to view the film before the meeting. Contact Marcy Lagerloef for more information: mlagerloef@seanet.com. Zoom meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94679541041?pwd=MEF3VkFjdFNZS3UwMzBoNVE5SEsyZz09>

Meeting ID: 946 7954 1041; Passcode: 427136

April 26 | 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.

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

May 7 | Open Mic for Caregivers | 4:00 – 5:00 pm

First Friday of each month. Email Florie Munat: fmunat@aol.com for the Zoom link and topic for the current month, or to suggest a topic.