

“Good Shepherd and the Leviathan”  
Peter Winfried Koenig, *Art in the Christian Tradition*

## Grace Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Martin Cockroft

Tribe | Alder

### For the Shepherd Who Is Also the Path the Sun Makes in Daytime

A good shepherd is a wonder in *contrapposto*, an artist  
mapping the Serengeti with kingdom lines.

A good shepherd angles a lion’s eye, traps gazelles  
in dry fields, copies a cheetah’s spots one leg at a time.

A good shepherd does not give you stones  
when you ask for toast, does not ask you to work

without a burning bush—but owns a gate, uses a gate, pulls  
the weeds and leaves the wheat on an altar of choices.

A good shepherd is a prince of peace when terror finds its full echo,  
a creator in the wild where a predator, providentially, becomes prey.

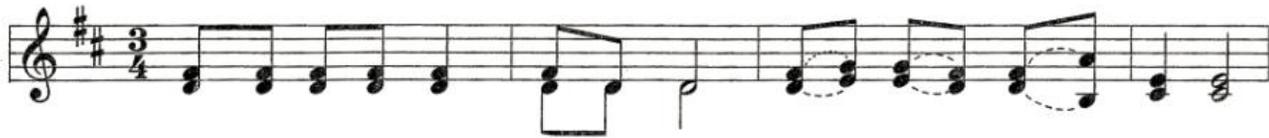
~ Komal Mathew, *Poetry* (January 2020)

## Announcements

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

### Gathering Song | Come and Fill Our Hearts with Your Peace

*Words from Psalm 137; Music: Jacques Berthier; offered by Pearle Paar*



*Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.*



*Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Al-le-lu - ia!*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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*The Officiant proclaims*

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

**All The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

# Opening Song | For the Beauty of the Earth

Words: Folliot Pierpoint Sandford; Music: David Evans; offered by Marcus Lang and Dusty Collings



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,



For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,

## *Refrain*



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

## The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Sustaining God, you call us each by name. Where we are exhausted, give us rest. Where we are lost, lead us into safety. Where we are hungry, nourish us, that we may know and share your goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. **Amen.**

# WE TELL THE STORY

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*We are seated for the reading.*

## **The First Reading** | Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

`the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All    Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm** | 23

*We say the Psalm together.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

He revives my soul  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

*(reading continues on the next page)*

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

*We are seated for the second reading.*

## **The Second Reading** | 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

*After the reading, the Reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

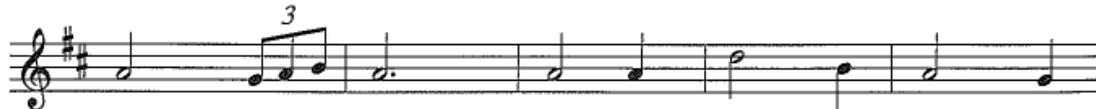
**All Thanks be to God.**

# Gospel Song | The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Words from Psalm 23; Music: Henry W. Baker; offered by Marcus Lang and Dusty Collings



1. The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness  
2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow My ran - somed  
3. Con - fused and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in  
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With you, dear  
5. You spread a ta - ble in my sight; Your sav - ing  
6. And so through all the length of days Your good - ness



fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
soul he's lead - ing, And where the ver - dant  
love he sought me; And on his shoul - der  
Lord, be - side me, Your rod and staff my  
grace be - stow - ing; And O what trans - port  
fails me nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I



I am his, And he is mine for ev - er.  
pas - tures grow With food ce - les - tial feed - ing.  
gent - ly laid, And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
com - fort still, Your cross be - fore to guide me.  
of de - light From your pure chal - ice flow - ing!  
sing your praise With - in your house for ev - er.

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 10:11-18

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one

*(reading continues on the next page)*

shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

*After the Gospel the Officiant will say*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

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### 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; offered by Diane McGrew

All shall be well and all shall be well and

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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 all who grieve violence and seek justice 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.**

Musical notation for the first part of the prayer, measures 1-4. The music is in 4/4 time and features a treble and bass clef. The lyrics are: All shall be well and all shall be well and

Musical notation for the second part of the prayer, measures 5-8. The music is in 4/4 time and features a treble and bass clef. The lyrics are: 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 | Strange Waters

Words and music: Bruce Cockburn; offered by Martin Cockroft

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

I've seen a high cairn kissed by holy wind  
Seen a mirror pool cut by golden fins  
Seen alleys where they hide the truth of cities  
The mad whose blessing you must accept without pity

I've stood in airports guarded glass and chrome  
Walked rifled roads and land mined loam  
Seen a forest in flames right down to the road  
Burned in love till I've seen my heart explode

You've been leading me  
Beside strange waters

Across the concrete fields of man  
Sun ray like a camera pans  
Some will run and some will stand  
Everything is empty but the open hand

You've been leading me  
Beside strange waters  
Streams of beautiful lights in the night  
But where is my pastureland in these dark valleys?  
If I lose my grip, will I take flight?

You've been leading me  
Beside strange waters  
Streams of beautiful lights in the night  
But where is my pastureland in these dark valleys?  
If I lose my grip, will I take flight?

## The Blessing

*The Officiant offers a blessing.*

May the God of peace, that great shepherd of the sheep, work in you that which is pleasing in God's sight. And the blessing, goodness, and mercy of the Triune God go before and behind you, restoring your soul, today and always. **Amen.**

# Closing Song | Blue Green Hills of Earth

Words and music: Kim Oler; offered by Diane McGrew

1. For the earth for - ev - er turn - ing,  
2. For the moun - tains hills and pas - tures,  
3. For the sun for rain and thun - der,

For the skies for - ev - 'ry sea,  
In their si - lent maj - es - ty,  
For the land that makes us free,

To our Lord we sing re - turn - ing  
For all life for all of na - ture,  
For the stars for all the heav - ens,

Home to our blue green hills of earth.  
Sing we our joy - ful praise to Thee.  
Sing we our joy - ful praise to Thee.

## 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!**

## Sabbaths, 1999 VI

We travelers, walking to the sun, can't see  
Ahead, but looking back the very light  
That blinded us shows us the way we came,  
Along which blessings now appear, risen  
As if from sightlessness to sight, and we,  
By blessing brightly lit, keep going toward  
That blessed light that yet to us is dark.

~ Wendell Berry, *Given* (Counterpoint Press, 2005)

### Ps. 23: A Poetic Interpretation

*Adonai*, my shepherd:  
I know no need.

In lush meadows  
you invite my soul to rest and recline; together  
we walk beside the dance of light on quiet waters.

You give me back myself,  
point me to the road toward justice,  
one of your sacred names.

Even when I walk in a valley  
dark as the shadow of death,  
I know no fear, for you are near me  
with your staff and crook, and I am safe.

You spread out a feast before me  
with those who were my enemies.  
You touch my head with fragrant oil;  
my thanks overflows.

May goodness and mercy  
follow me all the days of my life,  
and may I make my home  
in the house of the Lord forever.

~ Marilyn Nelson (Interfaith Youth Core, 2020)

# News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

April 25, 2021

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude .....

## Upcoming Events & Programs

### **April 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](mailto:youthgroup@gracehere.org).

### **April 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](mailto:youthgroup@gracehere.org).

### **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](mailto:mlagerloef@seanet.com). Zoom meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94679541041?pwd=MEF3VkFjdFNZS3UwMzBoNVE5SEsYz09>

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](mailto:eric@ericmatthews.com) for more information.

### **April 28 | 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/](http://gracehere.org/join-us-for-onlineworship-at-grace/)

### **May 2 | 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](mailto:jonquitslund@att.net). Zoom meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96243490290?pwd=eGJua2YyNm1vT1k2QlpZeVFUUnFmQT09>

Meeting ID: 962 4349 0290; Passcode: 395554

### **May 2 | "Gifts of Dirt" Garden Blessing | 1:00 pm**

Blessing for community garden to grow vegetables for local food banks. Contact Pegge Ashcroft to RSVP and for a map showing the route from parking to the garden: [ashcroftpegge@gmail.com](mailto:ashcroftpegge@gmail.com)

### **May 4, 11, 18 | Gleaning the Meaning from a Pandemic Year | 7:00-8:30 pm**

Three sessions for Personal Reflection and Community Dialogue. Offered by Faith Formation, Pastoral Care, and Spiritual Discernment Ministries. Special guest Sharon Stanley, PhD. Contact Kim Cockroft to participate and for Zoom links: [kim@gracehere.org](mailto:kim@gracehere.org)

**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](mailto:morningretreat@gmail.com)

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

Guest speaker will be Katie Auger, Community Resource Navigator for the BI Senior Center and IVC, who will speak about local resources for caregivers. Contact Florrie Munat ([fmunat@aol.com](mailto:fmunat@aol.com)) for more information. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85114877280>

**May 14 | Compassionate Caring Support Group | 9:30 – 11:00 am**

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