



Grace Episcopal Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021 | 8:00am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Martin Cockroft

Tribe | Blackberry

“Hops” Ronda Broatch

Aware

When I found the door
I found the vine leaves
speaking among themselves in abundant
whispers.

My presence made them
hush their green breath,
embarrassed, the way
humans stand up, buttoning their jackets,
acting as if they were leaving anyway, as if
the conversation had ended
just before you arrived.

I liked
the glimpse I had, though,
of their obscure
gestures. I liked the sound
of such private voices. Next time
I'll move like cautious sunlight, open
the door by fractions, eavesdrop
peacefully.

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

Gathering Song | Come and Fill Our Hearts with Your Peace

Words from Psalm 137; Music: Jacques Berthier



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

After the gathering song, the Celebrant invites us to stand.

A Call to Worship

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of deep soil and luxuriant growth, you cultivate us to find our depth in you. May we abide in the one Vine, Jesus Christ, and bear the fruit of your love. **Amen.**

Adapted from Steven Shakespeare, "Prayers for an Inclusive Church"

The First Reading | Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm | 22:24-30

We pray the Psalm.

My praise is of him in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:
"May your heart live for ever!"**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

**For kingship belongs to the Lord;
he rules over the nations.**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

**My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Second Reading | I John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

After the reading, the Reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel is introduced by saying

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

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

The Gospel | John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

After the Gospel the Celebrant says

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

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 Give us courage to turn our swords into plowshares, that our communities might become shelters of peace and growth.

We pray for all who grieve violence and seek justice in their homes or neighborhoods.

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.

The Peace

We conclude these prayers with the sharing of God's peace. We remain socially distanced as we greet one another.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

After the peace, we are seated.

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE

We stand as the table is set with the gifts of our hearts and hands.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon and stars; earth, wind and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away. And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity lifting our voices to you as we sing:

Traditional Argentine. Translated by Josué Alvarez and Debi Tyree



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!
San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra!
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!



My heart is glad to say the words you are ho - ly, Lord!
Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Se - ñor!
My heart is glad to say the words you are ho - ly, Lord!

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you. And whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now, gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet of the world.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ. By him and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

We are now invited to share the gifts of Communion. As space opens, move with your household to a marked place in front of the altar to receive Eucharistic bread. Please return to your seat before you remove your mask and consume the bread. Please know that at Grace Church all are invited to receive the Eucharist. This sacrament is God's free gift. Please tell your server if you prefer a wafer that is free from gluten, soy, or dairy.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Music during Communion | There is More Love Somewhere

African American Hymn

There is more love* some - where. There is
more love some - where. I'm gon-na
keep on 'til I find it. There is
more love some - where.

* hope, peace, joy

All Shall Be Well

Words: Julian of Norwich; Music: David Keller

All shall be well and all shall be well and
5 all man-ner of things shall be well be well.

GOING OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Our Prayer after Communion

We stand and say together

**Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Celebrant offers a blessing.

The blessing of the One, Holy, and Undivided Trinity be among you now, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Growing Apples

There is big excitement in C block today.
On the window sill,
in a plastic ice cream cup
a little plant is growing.
This is all the men want to talk about:
how an apple seed germinated
in a crack of damp concrete;
how they tore open tea bags
to collect the leaves, leached them
in water, then laid the sprout onto the bed
made of Lipton. How this finger of spring
dug one delicate root down
into the dark fannings and now
two small sleeves of green
are pushing out from the emerging tip.
The men are tipsy with this miracle.
Each morning, one by one,
they go to the window and check
the progress of the struggling plant.
All through the day they return
to stand over the seedling
and whisper.

~ Nancy Miller Gomez, *Punishment* (Rattle, 2018)

News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

May 2, 2021

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

Upcoming Events & Programs

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.

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.

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. Zoom meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96243490290?pwd=eGJua2YyNm1vT1k2QlpZeVFUnFmQT09>

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

May 4, 11, 18 | Gleanings: A Journal Created to Help You Reflect on a Pandemic Year

Three Grace ministries have partnered to create a journal with open questions, beautiful quotes, photographs, and artwork for you to enjoy. Our hope is that the blank pages and simple prompts will give you space to jot down or sketch reflections about the last year. Please pick up your copy at Grace under the front eaves. While our Zoom series, “Gleaning Meaning during a Pandemic Year” is currently full, the journal is freely available for anyone.

May 5 | 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/

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

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) for more information. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85114877280>

May 9 | 8 am Eucharist at Grace | 8:00 – 8:45 am

Please sign up through Eventbrite at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eucharist-at-grace-may-9-tickets-152760856835>

May 10 | 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 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) for the Zoom link.

the longevity of roots

Follow the path that the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live long in the land you possess. Deut. 5:33

In Mendocino County we stopped for a wine-tasting. The hills were radiant with light and fruit. We bought a dry white and after lunch at the vineyard café we walked the rows of vines held up on their supports like old men on crutches.

Business was light that day. *Want to see something crazy?* the owner asked. We clambered down to a cave a hundred feet under the slope, and felt in the earthy dark a tangle of fibers. A flashlight gleamed, and the beards of the ancients lit up like live wires.

~ Luci Shaw (www.LuciShaw.com)