



“Hops” Ronda Broatch

# Grace Episcopal Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Martin Cockroft

Tribe | Blackberry

## 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)

## 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



*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 | There is More Love Somewhere

African American Hymn



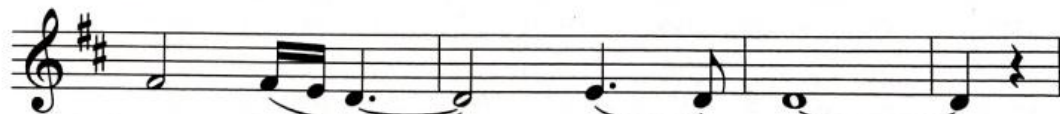
There is more love\* some - where. There is



more love some - where. I'm gon-na



keep on 'til I find it. There is



more love some - where.

\* hope, peace, joy

# The Collect

Officiant     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*”

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## WE TELL THE STORY

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*We are seated for the reading.*

### **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

*(reading continues on the next page)*

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 say the Psalm together.*

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.

*We are seated for the second reading.*

## **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.**

# Gospel Song | One Love

Words and Music: Bob Marley; offered by Faith and Liza Dougherty

*Chorus:*

One Love, one heart

Let's get together and feel all right

One love, one heart

Give thanks and praise to the Lord and I will feel all right

Sayin', Let's get together and feel all right

Let them all pass all their dirty remarks (One love)

There is one question I'd really love to ask (One heart)

Is there a place for the hopeless sinner

who has hurt all man-kind just to save his own? Believe me...

*(Chorus)*

*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 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 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

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 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.**

Musical notation for the first line of the prayer text. The music is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "All shall be well and all shall be well and". The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes.

Musical notation for the second line of the prayer text. The music is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "all man-ner of things\_ shall be well be well." The melody continues from the first line, using quarter and eighth notes. A fermata is placed over the final note of the melody.

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 | Half Moon

Words and music: Aaron Nebeker/Blind Pilot; offered by Kim Cockroft

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

That morning sky gave me a look  
So I left while you were sleeping – that’s all it took.  
And I chalked a line south down the coast,  
going where my thirst was open for the things that I don’t know;  
going where I wasn’t paying for the hurt that I owe.

One half moon sleeping by the creeks  
And a woman put me under her barn roof for a week.  
I knew her voice before she spake.  
I saw a grave dug by a preacher just to see what it would make.

So hold high how faint your reasons.  
Boy, you’ll never get on.  
Don’t you forget you come from nothing.  
Boy, you’ll never get on.  
That wind is calling my name and I won’t wait, or I’ll never get on.

It’s not hard to live like a ghost.  
I just haunt all that I’ve wanted and leave what I don’t.  
I dreamt a trail up to the sky  
and my brothers build propellers just to see how far they’d fly.

So hold high how faint your reasons.  
Boy, you’ll never get on.  
Your flashing sparrows chasing with them.  
Boy, you’ll never get on.  
Don’t you forget you come from nothing.  
Boy, you’ll never get on.  
That wind is calling my name and I won’t wait, or I’ll never get on.

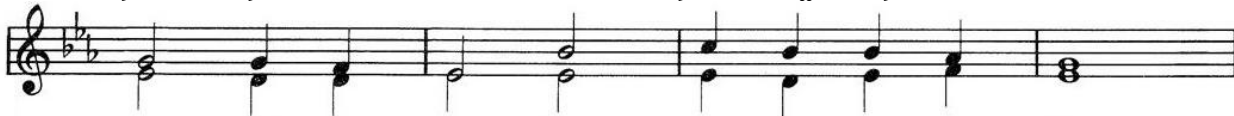
## The Blessing

*The Officiant offers a blessing.*

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

## Closing Song | Abide with Me

Words: Henry Francis Lyte; Music: (Eventide) William Henry Monk; offered by John McKenzie and Tom Ringo



1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;  
2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;  
3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;



the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?  
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.



when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?  
Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?



help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.  
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.

## 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!**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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 | 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/](http://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](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 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](mailto: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 ([dlmcgrew@gmail.com](mailto:dlmcgrew@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](http://www.LuciShaw.com))