



Blessing at the Gifts of Dirt Garden, May 2, 2021

Grace Episcopal Church

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Ann Strickland

Tribe | Maple

Rogation Sunday

O let the seeds be planted
and the worry and unrest be invited!
Let that which is to come
of the weather and our own weakness
be accepted!

Let work mate with fertility
the man and the soil join to produce
a world, a world of blade and blossom!
We believe! We believe
in the wonder of continuous revival.
the ritual of the farm.

This is our world and this
is our message to the world and to each other:
Let the seed be planted, the man
and the soil be ploughed equally
by the joy in the planting —
that the grass, the grasses that bear
the seeds: oat, rye and corn
and other yield
speak their message of revival and thrive
by our labor this Maytime.

~ William Carlos Williams, *The Collected Poems, Volume II; 1939-1962*
(New Directions, 1991)

Announcements

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

Gathering Song | Blue Green Hills of Earth

Words and music: Kim Oler

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

A Call to Worship

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Opening Song | Earth and All Stars

Words: Herbert Brokering; Music: David N. Johnson; we sing verses 1-5



1 Earth and all stars, loud rush - ing plan - ets, sing to the
2 Hail, wind, and rain, loud blow - ing snow - storms, sing to the
3 Trum - pet and pipes, loud clash - ing cym - bals, sing to the
4 En - gines and steel, loud pound - ing ham - mers, sing to the
5 Class - rooms and labs, loud boil - ing test - tubes, sing to the
6 Know - ledge and truth, loud sound - ing wis - dom, sing to the



1 Lord _____ a new song! O vic - to - ry,
2 Lord _____ a new song! Flow - ers and trees,
3 Lord _____ a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre,
4 Lord _____ a new song! Lime - stone and beams,
5 Lord _____ a new song! Ath - lete and band,
6 Lord _____ a new song! Daugh - ter and son,



1 loud shout - ing ar - my, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!
2 loud rus - tling dry leaves, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!
3 loud hum - ming cel - los, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!
4 loud build - ing work - ers, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!
5 loud cheer - ing peo - ple, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!
6 loud pray - ing mem - bers, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!



Refrain
He hath done mar - vel - ous things.



I, too, will praise him with a new song!

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

God in whom we live and move and have our being, you have filled the world with beauty. Send your blessing upon the homes and fields of this place, and on all that is growing in our midst. Sustain growth and goodness in the fields and gardens around the world. Fill our hearts with food and gladness, that our mouths may be always filled with your praise. **Amen.**

Adapted from a Rogation Day prayer from the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer*.

The First Reading | Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm | 98

We pray the Psalm.

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

**With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.**

The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

**Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.

**In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.**

The Second Reading | 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

After the reading, the Reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel is introduced by saying

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

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

Gospel Song | Don't Be Afraid, My Love is Stronger

Words and Music: John Bell



Don't be a - fraid. My love is strong - er.
my love is strong - er than your fear.
Don't be a - fraid. My love is strong - er and
I have prom - ised, prom - ised to be al - ways near.

The Gospel | John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

After the Gospel the Officiant 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.**

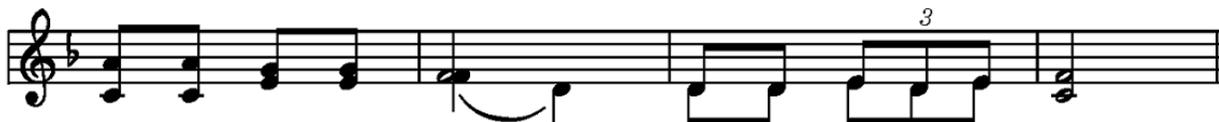
**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church.
She is the Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Words and Music: Jacques Berthier; offered by Maggie Finley



U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,



u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

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

Leader Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.
For God's people gathered here, for all who hear and respond to the Good News of Resurrection, for all people of faith, and for all whose faith is known to you alone, we pray to you, O Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Additional prayers are offered, silently or aloud.

Leader Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.
For all in authority; for teachers, essential workers, and community leaders; for musicians, artists, and poets; and for all who seek you in and with your beautiful creation; we pray to you, O Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Additional prayers are offered, silently or aloud.

Leader Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.
For mothers who love, laugh, and labor in their care for children; for mothers who weep with sorrow and joy for their children; for mothers of the children of others; and for all who long for mothering, or lament the loss or absence of motherhood; we pray to you, O Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Additional prayers are offered, silently or aloud.

Leader Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord.
For the earth and all living creatures; for the oceans, rivers, and lakes; for all who advocate for climate justice; for all who till the soil, and those among us who tend the Gifts of Dirt garden; we pray to you, O Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Additional prayers are offered, silently or aloud.

Leader Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
For all who are sick, suffering, or alone; for all whose voices are silenced by sadness, anxiety, or grief; for all who long for your presence and your power; we pray to you, O Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Those on our prayer list are named. Additional prayers are offered, silently or aloud.

Leader With trumpets and the sound of the horn, shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
For all who have died, and for all who grieve; for all people gathered around
you in all times and places; and in thanksgiving for your promise of everlasting
life; we pray to you, O Lord.

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Additional prayers are offered, silently or aloud.

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

The musical notation consists of two staves in 2/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 2/4 time signature. It contains a series of chords and a melodic line. The second staff continues the melody and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes.

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

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

The Blessing

The Officiant offers a blessing.

The Triune God, giver of life and hope, bless your labor and your fields, your gardens and your homes, your growth and your rest, today and always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | For the Beauty of the Earth

Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint; Music: David Evans



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.

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!**

News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

May 9, 2021

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

Upcoming Events & Programs

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 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 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 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 12 | 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 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.

May 16 | 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=eGJua2YyNm1vT1k2QlpZeVFUUnFmQT09>

Meeting ID: 962 4349 0290; Passcode: 395554

June 3 | Mom's Morning Retreat | 9:00 – 10:00 am

First Thursdays on Zoom. To receive the link, email: morningretreat@gmail.com

June 4 | Open Mic for Caregivers | 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Contact Florrie Munat (fmunat@aol.com) for more information or to suggest a topic.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85114877280>