



# Grace Episcopal Church

Ascension Sunday

May 16, 2021 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Martin Cockroft

Tribe | Rhododendron

## Ascension

*Why do you stand looking up at the skies? Acts 1:11*

It wasn't just wind, chasing  
thin gunmetal clouds  
across the loud sky;  
it wasn't the feeling that one might ascend  
on that excited air,  
rising like a trumpet note.

And it wasn't just my sister's water breaking,  
her crying out,  
the downward draw of blood and bone...

It was all of that,  
the mud and new grass  
pushing up through melting snow,  
the lilac in bud  
by my front door, bent low  
by last week's ice storm.

Now the new mother, that leaky vessel,  
begins to nurse her child,  
beginning the long good-bye.

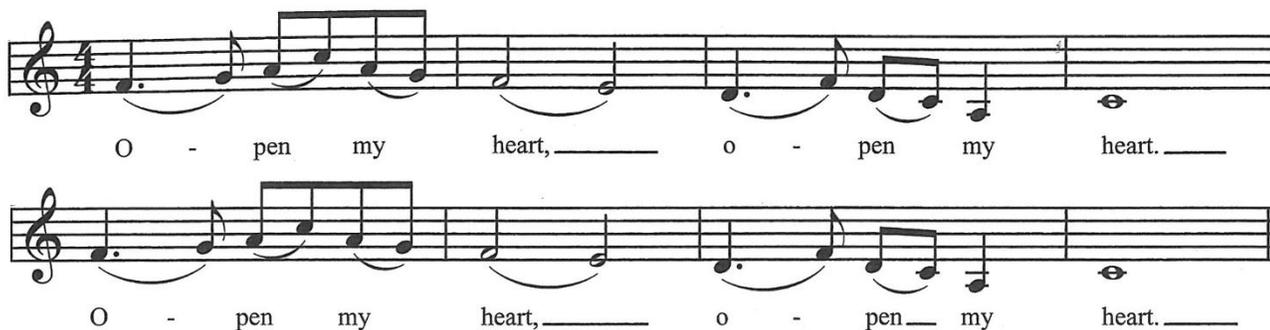
~ Kathleen Norris, *Journey: New and Selected Poems, 1969-1999*  
(University of Pittsburgh Press, 2001)

## Announcements

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

### Gathering Song | Open My Heart

*Words and music: Ana Hernández*



O - pen my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

O - pen my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

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## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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*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 | Holy, Holy, Holy

Words and music: Reginald Heber



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!  
\*2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,  
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee:  
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
though the sin - ful hu - man eye thy glo - ry may not see,  
All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,



God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.  
which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.  
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

## The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

God our rock and refuge: keep us safe in your care and strengthen us with your grace, that we may pray to you faithfully and love one another boldly, following the example of Jesus, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The First Reading | Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm | 47

*We pray the Psalm.*

Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with a cry of joy.

**For the Lord Most High is to be feared;  
he is the great King over all the earth.**

He subdues the peoples under us,  
and the nations under our feet.

*(reading continues on the next page)*

**He chooses our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**

God has gone up with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

For God is King of all the earth;  
sing praises with all your skill.

**God reigns over the nations;  
God sits upon his holy throne.**

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together  
with the people of the God of Abraham.

**The rulers of the earth belong to God,  
and he is highly exalted.**

## **The Second Reading** | Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*After the reading, the Reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

# Gospel Song | I Am Here in the Heart of God (chant)

Words and music by Chandra Rule; Martin Cockroft leads and we sing the bolded sections

I am here in the heart of God. **I am here in the heart of God.**

God is here in the heart of me. **God is here in the heart of me.**

Like the wave in the water and the water in the wave.

**Like the wave in the water and the water in the wave.**

I am here in the heart of God. **I am here in the heart of God**

I am here in the breath of God. **I am here in the breath of God.**

God is here in the breath of me. **God is here in the breath of me.**

Like the wind in the springtime and the springtime in the wind.

**Like the wind in the springtime and the springtime in the wind.**

I am here in the breath of God. **I am here in the breath of God.**

I am here in the soul of God. **I am here in the soul of God.**

God is here in the soul of me. **God is here in the soul of me.**

Like the flame in the fire and the fire in the flame.

**Like the flame in the fire and the fire in the flame.**

I am here in the soul of God. **I am here in the soul of God.**

I am here in the mind of God. **I am here in the mind of God.**

God is here in the mind of me. **God is here in the mind of me.**

Like the earth in my body and my body in the earth.

**Like the earth in my body and my body in the earth.**

I am here in the mind of God. **I am here in the mind of God.**

*The Gospel is introduced by saying*

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

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

## **The Gospel** | Luke 24:44-53

Jesus said to his disciples, "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. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*After the Gospel the Officiant says*

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

Words: Julian of Norwich; Music: David Keller

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has four measures with the lyrics: "All shall be well and all shall be well and". The second system starts with a measure rest (marked with a '5') and continues with four measures: "all man-ner of things— shall be well be well." The music features a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

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

Leader Let us pray for this good world, filled with the presence of the risen and ascended Christ, and for all people according to their needs.

Hear our prayers, O God, for all who suffer the infection and disease of the coronavirus; for all essential workers and health officials; for those who work to distribute vaccines; and for all whose lives have been disrupted by this global crisis.

*Additional prayers are offered, silently or aloud.*

Leader Rise in our hearts, O God,  
All **and send us into your world.**

Hear our prayers, O God, for nations coping with the effects of climate change; for refugees and all people displaced by political conflict; for victims and perpetrators of racialized injustice; for Muslim, Jewish, and Christian people in Israel and Palestine; and for all cities and communities divided by anger and mutual distrust.

*Additional prayers are offered, silently or aloud.*

Leader Rise in our hearts, O God,  
All **and send us into your world.**

Leader Hear our prayers, O God, for all whose lives are closely linked with ours; for all who long for healing, seek understanding, and wait for your promise of peace; for all who suffer addiction; and for all who have no one to pray for them.

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

Leader Rise in our hearts, O God,  
**All and send us into your world.**

Leader Hear our prayers, O God, for all who have died, trusting your promise of resurrection; and for all who mourn.

*Additional prayers are offered, silently or aloud.*

Leader Rise in our hearts, O God,  
**All and send us into your world.**

Musical notation for the first system of the hymn. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: All shall be well and all shall be well and

Musical notation for the second system of the hymn, starting with a measure rest labeled '5'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the 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 | One

*Words and Music: U2*

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

Is it getting better?  
Or do you feel the same?  
Will it make it easier on you now?  
You got someone to blame  
You say, one love, one life  
When it's one need in the night  
One love, we get to share it  
Leaves you baby if you don't care for it  
Did I disappoint you?  
Or leave a bad taste in your mouth?  
You act like you never had love  
And you want me to go without  
Well it's too late tonight  
To drag the past out into the light  
We're one but we're not the same  
We get to carry each other, carry each other  
One!  
Have you come here for forgiveness?  
Have you come to raise the dead?

Have you come here to play Jesus?  
To the lepers in your head  
Did I ask too much? More than a lot  
You gave me nothin' now it's all I got  
We're one but we're not the same  
Well we hurt each other then we do it again  
You say love is a temple, love a higher law  
Love is a temple, love the higher law  
You ask me to enter but then you make me  
crawl  
And I can't be holdin' on to what you got  
When all you got is hurt  
One love, one blood  
One life, you got to do what you should  
One life, with each other  
Sisters, brothers  
One life but we're not the same  
We get to carry each other, carry each other  
One, One

# The Blessing

The Officiant offers a blessing.

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Leader* *All*

1 Thu - ma mi - na. 1 Thu - ma mi - na, thu - ma mi - na.  
 2 Seng' ya vu - ma, seng' ya vu - ma,  
 1 Send me, Lord. 1 Send me, Je - sus, send me, Je - sus,  
 2 Lead me, Je - sus, lead me, Je - sus,  
 3 Fill me, Je - sus, fill me, Je - sus,

1-2 3

*Leader*

Thu - ma mi - na, So - man - dla.  
 2 Seng' ya vu - ma.  
 Seng' ya vu - ma, So - man - dla.  
 1 Send me, Lord.  
 Send me, Je - sus, send me, Lord.  
 2 Lead me, Lord.  
 Lead me, Je - sus, lead me, Lord.  
 3 Fill me, Lord.  
 Fill me, Je - sus, fill me, Lord.

## **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!**

## Ah, Ah

*for Lurline McGregor*

Ah, ah cries the crow arching toward the heavy sky over the marina.  
Lands on the crown of the palm tree.

Ah, ah slaps the urgent cove of ocean swimming through the slips.  
We carry canoes to the edge of the salt.

Ah, ah groans the crew with the weight, the winds cutting skin.  
We claim our seats. Pelicans perch in the draft for fish.

Ah, ah beats our lungs and we are racing into the waves.  
Though there are worlds below us and above us, we are straight ahead.

Ah, ah tattoos the engines of your plane against the sky—away from these waters.  
Each paddle stroke follows the curve from reach to loss.

Ah, ah calls the sun from a fishing boat with a pale, yellow sail. We fly by  
on our return, over the net of eternity thrown out for stars.

Ah, ah scrapes the hull of my soul. Ah, ah.

~ Joy Harjo, *How We Became Human: Selected Poems: 1975 – 2001*  
(W.W. Norton & Co., 2002)

## For the Future

Planting trees early in spring,  
we make a place for birds to sing  
in time to come. How do we know?  
They are singing here now.  
There is no other guarantee  
that singing will ever be.

~ Wendell Berry, *Collected Poems, 1957 – 1982*  
(North Point Press, NY, 1985)

# News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

May 16, 2021

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

## Upcoming Events & Programs

### **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=eGJua2YyNm1vT1k2QlpZeVFUnFmQT09>  
Meeting ID: 962 4349 0290; Passcode: 395554

### **May 16 | Youth Large Group Gathering | 5:00 – 6:30 pm**

Let's get as many people together as we can at Grace for a huge outdoor game of capture the flag. Please RSVP with Faith Dougherty at [youthgroup@gracehere.org](mailto:youthgroup@gracehere.org).

### **May 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 19 | 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 23 | Youth Service Opportunity | 5:00 – 6:30 pm**

In the weeks leading up to this service opportunity, youth will brainstorm and plan ways they want to serve in their community. We can collect backpacks for KIAC, paint the gaga ball pit, or pick up trash in our neighborhoods. This will be our Sunday to serve our community in areas that the youths have selected. Please RSVP with Faith Dougherty at [youthgroup@gracehere.org](mailto:youthgroup@gracehere.org).

### **May 24 | 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 28 | 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.

### **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)

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

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