



Grace Episcopal Church
Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 13, 2021 | 9:30am
Ministers | All of Us
Rector | Wren Blessing
Curate | Stephen Crippen
Music | Martin Cockroft
Tribe | Cedar

On the Parables of the Mustard Seed

Who ever saw the mustard-plant,
wayside weed or tended crop,
grow tall as a shrub, let alone a tree, a treeful
of shade and nests and songs?
Acres of yellow,
not a bird of the air in sight.

No, He who knew
the west wind brings
the rain, the south wind
thunder, who walked the field-paths
running His hand along wheatstems to glean
those intimate milky kernels, good
to break on the tongue,

was talking of miracle, the seed
within us, so small
we take it for worthless, a mustard-seed, dust,
nothing.

Glib generations mistake
the metaphor, not looking at fields and trees,
not noticing paradox. Mountains
remain unmoved.

Faith is rare, He must have been saying,
prodigious, unique —
one infinitesimal grain divided
like loaves and fishes,

as if from a mustard-seed
a great shade-tree grew. That rare,
that strange: the kingdom

a tree. The soul
a bird. A great concourse of birds
at home there, wings among yellow flowers.
The waiting
kingdom of faith, the seed
waiting to be sown.

Announcements

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

Gathering Song | Bless God's Holy Name

Words and music: Andraé Crouch

Chorus

Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is with -

Verse

-in me, bless God's ho - ly name. God has done great things, God has done great things, God has done great things;

Chorus

Bless God's ho - ly name. Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is with - in me, bless God's ho - ly name.

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

A Call to Worship

Officiant Come all you people, with songs of praise.

All We raise our voices.

Officiant Come all you people, seeking justice and peace.

All We open our hearts.

Officiant Come all you people, our God is near.

All We come with thanksgiving.

We stand and sing together.

Opening Song | Come Thou Fount

Words: Robert Robinson; music: John Wyeth



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to



grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for
be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my



songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
wan - d'ring heart to thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I



son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; praise the
feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my



mount— I'm fixed up - on it—mount of thy re - deem - ing love.
heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove. A - men.

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

God of restoration and growth, root us in your goodness. By the power of your Spirit, strengthen us, that we may be a haven for any who need rest. **Amen.**

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the Lord.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the Lord have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

After the reading, the reader will say
The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 92:1-4, 11-14

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;

**To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning
and of your faithfulness in the night season;**

On the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.

**For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

**Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

They shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;

**That they may show how upright the Lord is,
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 11-13, 14-17

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

After the reading, the Reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Song | Love, Take a Walk

Words and music: Charles Murphy

Love take a walk with me,
Love take a walk with me,
Love take a walk with me,
O Spirit, guide my feet.

Joy, take a walk with me,
Joy, take a walk with me,
Joy, take a walk with me,
O Spirit, guide my feet.

Hope, take a walk with me,
Hope, take a walk with me,
Hope, take a walk with me,
O Spirit, guide my feet.

The Gospel is introduced by saying

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

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

The Gospel | Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

After the Gospel the Officiant says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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: Linnea Good

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "O God we call, O God we call, from deep in-side we yearn, from". The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "deep in-side we yearn, from deep in-side we yearn for you." Below the piano accompaniment, the following chords are indicated: Am, Fsus2, Am, Fsus2, C.

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

The Prayers of the People

Leader In peace we pray to you, O God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

All for our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader For this community, the nation, and the world;

All for all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader For the just and proper use of your creation;

All for the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

All for those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Leader For the peace and unity of all faithful people;

All for all who proclaim the Good News, and all who seek the truth.

Leader For our clergy, vestry, Program Ministry Council, and all who lead our congregation;

All for all who serve God in their family, neighborhood, or workplace.

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

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

Hear us, Lord;

All for your mercy is great.

Leader We thank you, God, for all the blessings of this life.

Thanksgivings are offered, silently or aloud. After we hold silence, the Officiant will offer a prayer of thanksgiving for Grace's seniors.

We will exalt you, O God,

All and praise your Name forever.

Leader We pray in thanksgiving for all who have died.

Additional prayers are offered for those who have died, silently or aloud.

Let your loving-kindness be upon them;

All who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

We hold silence

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

O God we call, O God we call, from deep in-side we yearn, from

deep in-side we yearn, from deep in-side we yearn for you.

Am Fsus2 Am Fsus2 C

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/>

Offertory Song | Walk Between the Raindrops

Words and music: James McMurtry; offered by the Cockroft Family

Don't know what's gotten into you
Must be something in your genes
About this time I was crazy, too
And most times in between

But I survived to live another day
I might have learned a trick or two
So just remember when you're old and you're gray
Some of what I taught to you

Stay alive inside, don't be a stranger
Keep a line open to the folks back home
Don't run and hide when everything changes
Walk between the raindrops dry as a bone

You're laying low, staying outta sight
Hanging out in your room
You're up all night by the monitor's light
And sleeping through the afternoon

Well, I won't tell you how you gotta be
You're old enough to make a choice
It's just that in between all the words on the screen
You ought to hear a human voice

Stay alive inside, don't be a stranger
Keep a line open to the outside world
Don't run and hide when everything changes
Walk between the raindrops smooth as a pearl

You're at that age and you know it all
Might not be hearing what I say
Knowing better never kept me outta trouble
I don't care I'm gonna tell you anyway

Stay alive inside, don't be a stranger
Keep a line open to the folks back home
Don't run and hide when everything changes
Walk between the raindrops dry as a bone

The Blessing

The Officiant offers a blessing.

God bless you with strength and endurance, Christ's peace fill you, and God's Spirit nurture you to grow in gentleness and hope, today and always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | For Joy

Words and music: Aaron Stumpel

May God be gra-cious to us, _____ And make His face shine down,
May God be gra-cious to us, _____ And make His ways known,
Up-on our hands that work, Up-on our hearts that love
Up-on our fields so green, Up-on our homes so warm
Up-on our minds that hope, Up-on our mouths that sing, Let's
Up-on our hopes so bright, Up-on our kids so strong,
sing _____ Sing, let's sing, For joy, for joy, For joy, for joy _____

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 The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

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All About the Birds

Not one of them ever said your name.
Stop putting words in the mouths of the birds.
It's seeds they want.

What are they going to do with words,
tearful drops of theophanic honey,
metaphysical spit, sacrificial blood, endogenous
balsam, camphor, and myrrh, words?

Such an evanescent diet would only leave them
wondering why they're born
and why they die.

A regimen that sweet, salty, and bitter,
that liminal, and next thing you know
they'll be raising airy shrines
and vaulted altars near the sun. Next thing
you know, they'll forget all about sleep
and begin writing histories of their tribes,
chronicling the conquests and the defeats,
the building of their first cities,
the years they were strangers in their own
country,
the years they were strangers in a strange land,
the winged expulsions, and the flying returns.
Next thing, they'll be preaching
the chief end of wings and the reign of love.

All because you put words in their mouths.
Stop putting ideas in their heads.
It's you who wants to know the origin of
numbers, not them.
It's you who can't find your way home, not
them.

It's you who forgets more and more of your first
language
each day, you who let the unspoken grow
between you and your mother each year.
It's you who lost the first songs she taught you.
Not the birds.

They might spend most of their days in the sky,
but every evening they remember
to come back to earth.
Not a single one of them ever got lost up high.
It's you who followed your dead there.
And when they remained above, it was you
made it back only three quarters of the way.

And now you can't make sense of living in time,
or of being in a lightless body of murmurs and
humming,
earth packed with fire and shot through with
longing.
It's you. It's not the birds.
It was never about the birds.

~ Li-Young Lee: *The Undressing*
(W.W. Norton & Co., 2018)

News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

June 13, 2021

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

Upcoming Events & Programs

June 13 | High School Seniors Sunday | During the 9:30 service

Grace's graduating high school seniors will be recognized and blessed on Sunday, June 13, at the 9:30 service. They will receive Ethiopian crosses over the next week to remind them that Grace is always a home for them.

June 16 | 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/

June 20 | 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

June 25 | Compassionate Caring Support Group | 9:30 – 11:00 am

Are you experiencing a loss, a difficult family situation, or anxiety you can't quite name? Grace's Compassionate Caring Support Group is open to all who are willing to share their stories. No solutions are offered; we simply listen to one another with compassion and confidentiality. The group welcomes all newcomers (Grace members and non-members). Every 2nd and 4th Friday. For more information, please contact Judy Williams (jbwms@comcast.net); for the Zoom link, contact Diane McGrew ([dlmcmgrew@gmail.com](mailto:dlmcgrew@gmail.com)).

July 1 | Labyrinth Weeding | 9:00 – 10:30 am

Monthly on 1st Thursdays. Volunteers help to weed the Grace Labyrinth. Contact Kathie McCarthy for more information: healingworks@kathiemccarthy.com.

July 9 | Open Mic for Caregivers | 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Our honored speaker will be Janie Ekberg, caregiver and seamstress extraordinaire! (Please note change of date due to July 4th holiday.) Contact Florrie Munat (fmunat@aol.com) for more information or to suggest a future topic. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85114877280>

July 19 | 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. (Please note: there will not be a gathering in June.)