

# Grace Episcopal Church

Third Sunday after Pentecost

|une I3, 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.

 $\sim$  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 | Bless God's Holy Name

Words and music: Andraé Crouch



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



#### 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, II-13, I4-17

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.

oy, take a walk with me, loy, take a walk with me, loy, 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

lesus 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.

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,

lesus 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,

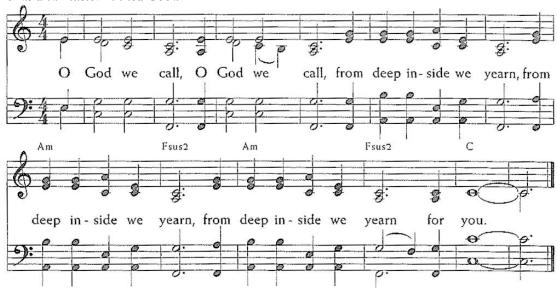
life-giving breath of the Church.

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.

#### 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.

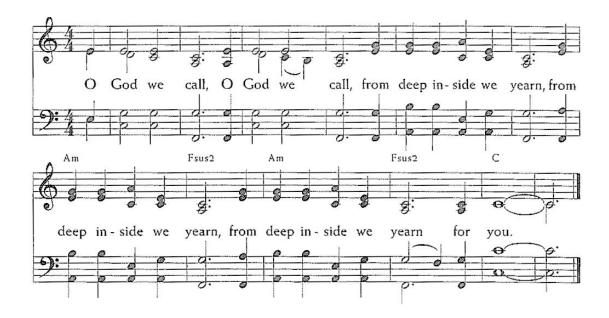
We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

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.



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: <a href="https://www.gracehere.org/online-giving/">https://www.gracehere.org/online-giving/</a>

# 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

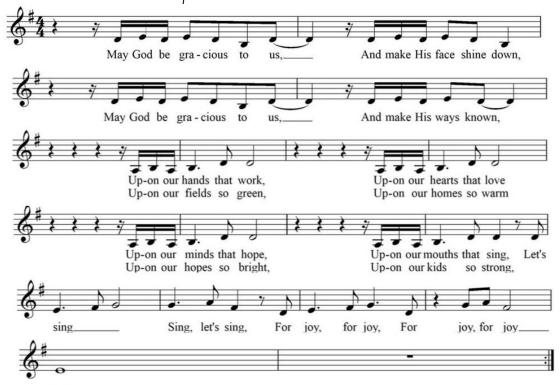
## The Blessing

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



## 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.

#### 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.

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

It was never about the birds.

# News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island June 13, 2021



#### 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=eGJua2YyNm1vT1k2QlpZeVFlUnFmQT09 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday. For more information, please contact Judy Williams (jbwms@comcast.net); for the Zoom link, contact Diane McGrew (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 4<sup>th</sup> 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@ericematthews.com for more information. (Please note: there will not be a gathering in June.)