

*St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church*



*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023*

**A Liturgy for St Andrew's Episcopal Church,
drawn from Season of Creation materials curated by The Episcopal Church**

Why is it important to mark the Season of Creation?

Because of the urgency of climate and ecological crisis and the need for a bold, prophetic response.

Because of our Gospel call to grow in faith as we affirm that God in Christ loves, redeems, and sustains the whole of Creation, not only human beings.

The people assemble outdoors.

Opening Hymn: Morning Has Broken, Hymnal 9

**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

Opening Acclamation and Trisagion

Celebrant Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People God’s love is new every morning.

Celebrant This is the day our Creator has made.

People Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Celebrant and people say three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty,

Holy Immortal One

Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says

Our Creator God is with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant us, God, your vision of a renewed earth in which heaven comes to rest; and even now, while we too often despair of healing and wholeness, help us hold fast to your promise and commit again to hope; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Words from Scripture and Tradition

A reading from Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.” Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

37 He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

38 Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.

39 He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.

40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.

41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.

42. For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.

43 So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.

44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,

45 That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.

Hallelujah!

An Environmental Reading from Laudato Si', Pope Francis

When we speak of the "environment," what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. Recognizing the reasons why a given area is polluted requires a study of the workings of society, its economy, its behavior patterns, and the ways it grasps reality. Given the scale of change, it is no longer possible to find a specific, discrete answer for each part of the problem. It is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems. We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.

Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn: Hymn 609 "Where cross the crowded ways of life"

**Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear thy voice, O Son of Man.**

**In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of thy tears.**

**From tender childhoods helplessness,
from woman's grief, man's burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
thy heart has never known recoil.**

**The cup of water given for thee
still holds the freshness of thy grace;
yet long these multitudes to see
the sweet compassion of thy face.**

**O Master, from the mountain side,
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again;**

**Till all the world shall learn thy love,
and follow where thy feet have trod;
till glorious from thy heaven above,
shall come the city of our God.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

Response: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel of Matthew.20:1-16

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.

And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon. The Rev. Patricia Hanen

The Creed

(This Profession of Faith is authorized for use during The Season of Creation)

**We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.**

**We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world
and who suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.**

We believe in everlasting life in God.

**And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.**

The Prayers of the People

Eternal God:

We thank you for the beauty of the World:
for the teeming life of the seas,
the flight of birds,
and the diversity of animal life.

Grant us grace to treat Creation with respect and care;
to protect endangered species,
to preserve the variety of habitats,
and to honor the delicate balance of nature.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

We thank you for the wealth
of blessings from land and sea;
for the power of wind, and the warmth of sun.

We pray for the nations of the earth,
and for those we choose to govern us:

give us the will to cherish this planet
and to use its resources sustainably for the welfare of all.

God of justice:

hear our prayer.

We pray for the faithful witness of the Church,
called to reconcile and heal:
For this parish and [our bishops and clergy _____].

God of grace:

hear our prayer.

We pray for the human family.
We delight in our diversity and giftedness,
we repent of our sins, divisions and violence.
By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us.

As every human being is known and loved by you,
may we care for one another with love and respect.
We pray for those you have commended to our care: [those on our prayer list _____]:

God of compassion:

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died [especially _____],
whom we entrust to your eternal love;
may we support and comfort those who mourn.

God of peace:

hear our prayer.

Celebrant:

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and, remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Confession

To live, we must daily break the body and shed the blood of Creation. When we do this knowingly, lovingly, skillfully, reverently, it is a sacrament. When we do it ignorantly, greedily, clumsily, destructively, it is a desecration. In such desecration we condemn ourselves to spiritual and moral loneliness, and others to want. (From Wendell Berry, *The Gift of Good Land*)

Let us confess our sins against God and the Creation:

Celebrant We have forgotten who we are.

**People We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.
We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.
We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.**

Celebrant We have forgotten who we are.

**People We have sought only our own security.
We have exploited others for our own ends.
We have distorted our knowledge.
We have abused our power.**

Celebrant We have forgotten who we are.

**People Now the land is barren.
And the waters are poisoned.
And the air is polluted.**

Celebrant We have forgotten who we are.

**People Now the forests are dying.
And the creatures are disappearing.
And humans are despairing.**

All We have forgotten who we are.

**We ask forgiveness.
We ask for the gift of remembering.
We ask for the strength to change and the power to make amends.
Help us to remember who we are.**

Celebrant 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.

All stand and exchange a sign of God's peace.

Announcements happen.

Backpacks are blessed.

The Offertory

Celebrant: Let us walk in love as Christ loved us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.

At the presentation of the money offering and the bread and wine, we stand and sing

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God, all creatures here below

Praise God above, ye heavenly host

Praise Maker, Son, and Holy Ghost

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues as the People sit

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and with blessed Andrew, and with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray the Lord's Prayer as adapted for use in the Season of Creation:

Celebrant Our Father and Mother in heaven

People You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans

Celebrant Hallowed be your name

People By the care we take of your Creation

Celebrant Your kingdom come

People All that you make is good

Celebrant Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven

People Your will to till and care

Celebrant Give us this day our daily bread

People That all may have enough to live life in fullness

Celebrant Forgive us our trespasses

People **Our greed and our lack of concern for other species and for future generations**
Celebrant As we forgive those who trespass against us

People **By reconciliation with justice and peace.**
Celebrant Lead us not into temptation

People **The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation**
Celebrant And deliver us from evil

People **The evil of abusing your gift of creation**
Celebrant For yours is the kingdom

People **Yours, Lord, not ours**
Celebrant The power and the glory

People **In the cross and resurrection**
Celebrant For ever and ever

People **You are the beginning and you are the end. Amen.**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread in silence. Then we say

This is Christ's Body, Living Bread, broken and given for us and all Creation.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says:

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Let us take them in remembrance that Christ was born and lived and died and rose for us and for all Creation, and feed on him in our hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

During the Communion, there may be music.

When all have shared in Communion, the Celebrant says,

Let us pray.

**Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your Spirit may work
in us and renew the face of the earth.
May we be one with you
so that our work is yours
and your work is ours.
Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant blesses the People:

Go forth now to care for God's world.

Use resources wisely. Share your knowledge. Use your political power.

Sacrifice where necessary.

Live in harmony with all creation.

Go into all the world as prophets of a new way of living and preach the good news to all.

And the blessing of the Creator God, the Risen Son,

and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you

that you might be a blessing to others

today and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn "The Climate Is Changing" by Carolyn Gillette

Sung to the tune of "Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise"

The climate is changing! Creation cries out!

Your people face flooding and fire and drought.

We see the great heat waves and storms at their worst.

We pray for the poor, Lord — for they suffer first.

We pray for the animals here in our midst

who cannot defend their own right to exist.

We pray for the mountains and forests and seas

that bear the harsh footprint of our human greed.

We thank you for people who treasure the earth,

whose faith has long taught them its beauty and worth.

We thank you as well for the children and youth

who look to the future and speak out the truth.

We thank you for leaders, courageous and brave,

who know that the earth is worth fighting to save,

who care about justice and what they should do,

who listen to science and work hard for you.

You love this good earth, and you sent us your Son!

May we love our neighbors — there's work to be done.

May we, by your Spirit, do all in our power

to care for your earth in this critical hour.

The Dismissal

Remembering that abundance is real only if we share what we have and work for fairness and justice, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.



*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God
by Jinx and Wayland Abernathy
In thanksgiving of their many blessings*

Prayer Requests

Ron J.

Elsie C.

Steve

Bill

Lisa O.

Christine

Tony P.

Gene A.

Scarlett

Katherine

Jon

Wayne

Judy

Gene C.

Patricia H.

Bruce

Serving in our Armed Forces: Sean, Veronica H., Jericca S., Matt K., Eric O., Fletcher, Jonathan K., Will M., Rodney M., Jeffery B., Adam M., James W., and for all Veterans of the United States.

For Those Who Have Died: Polly

Welcome to St. Andrew's on this Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost.
 If you are visiting this morning, please sign our *Guest Book*
 on the welcome table in the Commons. Also located
 there are Visitor's Packets and our parish newsletter, *The Call*.

The choir will meet on Sunday, October 1st at 9:15am to discuss plans for the upcoming year. Please make every effort to attend.

Financial Status as of September 10, 2023

Contrib. Rec'd this week \$849
 Avg. Wkly Contrib. Needed \$6,314
 Rec'd YTC \$238,694
 Spent YTD \$185,201

If you have questions about your pledge or other contributions, call Rosemary Clark, our bookkeeper, at 443-2070 on Monday or Thursday afternoons.

St. Elizabeth's Guild meets Oct. 2nd from 12-1pm in the Parish Hall. The theme this year will be Discovering the Disciples. Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided by our Hostess Rachel Dix. Come join the fellowship!

Starting in October we will go back to two services at 8am and 10:30am. Adult and Children's Christian Education will begin as well.

Our Wednesday Healing Services will start back up on October 4th.

Mark Your Calendars:



Blessing of the Animals October 7th at 10am



Oktoberfest October 13th at 6pm

We now offer Gluten Free wafers at Communion. They come individually wrapped so there is no concern for cross contamination. Just let the reverend that Sunday know you need one when you go up for Communion.

Serving next Sunday, October 1

8:00am

LAY: Ron Jancso

LAY: Tim Knapp

Acolyte: Walker Wells

Ushers: Dan Melnyk and Don Mucci

Greeters: Dan Melnyk and Ashley Newcomb

Pantry Volunteers: Mary Ann Crawford, Diane Dunstan, and Marie Inscore

Pantry Distributors: Patty Kennedy, Tommy Parker, Elizabeth Hunter

10:30am

Martha Lamm

Martha Lamm and Sandy Suggs

“For God is not unjust, he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do.” Hebrews 6:10