



Morning Prayer
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Creation Season
Vestry Forum following the Service
September 20, 2020 9:00am

On the Sundays in September we have joined with an international interfaith community to pray in thanksgiving for the beauty and abundance of our planet. We pray for the wisdom to conserve our resources, the grace to be mindful of the harm caused by our carelessness, and the courage to change.

Ministers of the Liturgy

The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee

Members of the Vestry:

Ginny Starkis & Susan Edmondson, Wardens

Edla Ann Bloom, Lucille Clinkman, Steve Ketcham, Lisa Ruggiero, Gayle Ruscitti, Peach Warren

Musicians: Randolph Bloom, Mary Johnson, Jeff Lukas

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. [Psalm 98:5]*

Organ Prelude

Benediction

Alexander Schreiner

Opening Sentence

*People from every corner of creation, celebrate with all creatures on earth!
Young and old across the planet, rejoice in the day that God has made.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

The holy and undivided Trinity, one God: **O come let us worship.**

The Confession

Ann Rowthorn

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Holy and Loving God, Creator and Sustainers of seas, lands, and skies: Your loving hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature, yet we have turned against you and against your creation. We have failed to love your creation and all your creatures. We confess that we have polluted your waters and lands and soiled your heavens; we have ignored the weak and vulnerable and those who seek justice. We repent of our sins against you and your creation, and remembering the account that we must one day give, we vow to work to restore all that is broken, polluted, and harmed with the help of Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Absolution

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

Opening Versicle & Doxology

Let us lift up our voices in song, lift our arms in praise, and open our hearts in gratitude.
Let us greet God with our hymn of praise.

Venite [Psalm 95:1-7]

Come, let us sing to the Lord; * let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving * and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, * and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, * and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, * and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, * and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 65:5-7, 9-13

12 A Song of Creation *Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, * praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, * praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, *

O heavens and all waters above the heavens.

Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, * all winds and fire and heat.

Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, * praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, * drops of dew and flakes of snow.

Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, * praise him and highly exalt him forever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, * O shining light and enfolding dark.

Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, * praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *

O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, * praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, * and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, * praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

The First Lesson: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah [55:6-13]

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Canticle: A Song of God's Love [1 John 4:7-11]

Beloved, let us love one another, * for love is of God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, * for God is Love.

In this the love of God was revealed among us, * that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Jesus Christ. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us * and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven. Beloved, since God loved us so much, * we ought also to love one another. For if we love one another, God abides in us, * and God's love will be perfected in us.

The Second Lesson: The Gospel of Mark [4:26-32]

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.'

Jesus 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.'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Song of Mary *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,* he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,* and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **Amen.**

Musical Meditation

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Hear our cry, O God. **And listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray. God be with you. **And also with you.**

The Lord's Prayer

A Litany to God Our Creator

Peoples from every corner of creation, **Celebrate with all creatures on Earth.**

Young and old across the planet, **Rejoice in the day that God has made!**

Indigenous peoples of every land, **Help us sense the spirit deep in each land.**

All humanity on Planet Earth, **Praise God for our planet home.**

Sing, peoples, sing! **Sing, creation, sing!**

Collect of the Day

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Let us offer our prayers to God who gives life and breath to all creatures, saying God of glory, hear us.

I ask your prayers for the mission of the church throughout the world, that we may share the promise of abundant life for all peoples,

God of glory, hear us.

I ask your prayers for the international bodies and non-government organizations working to combat climate change and to bring peace and relief to the world's most vulnerable communities.

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for peace with justice around the world, especially for an end to violent competition for limited resources. We pray for all who suffer poverty, injustice or violence, especially as a result of environmental instability that they may receive the comfort and justice that is God's purpose for them.

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for our schools, community organizations and our own Trinity family, that we may look with joy and wonder at the beauty and abundance of creation.

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for the fellowship of the Church, for its worship and its teaching, for all who share in our discipleship of Christ and for all who have inspired and guided us and are no longer with us on this earth, especially those we now name silently or aloud. *Pause.*

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy and Loving God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer Attributed to St Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, **let us sow love;**

where there is injury, **pardon;**

where there is discord, **union;**

where there is doubt, **faith;**

where there is despair, **hope;**

where there is darkness, **light;**

where there is sadness, **joy.**

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Musical Meditation

How Great Thou Art

*O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder consider all The works Thy Hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed,
When through the woods and forest glades I wander I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze,*

Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,

How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,

How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

A Litany for the Healing of our Country

from God's Good Earth

Almighty God, giver of all good things: We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them. **Heal us.**

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them. **Forgive us.**

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, even though we often fall short of them. **Inspire us.**

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light. **Enlighten us.**

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again. **Renew us.**

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus. **Amen.**

A Prayer in Time of Transition

God of growth and discovery, yours is the inspiration that has changed our lives. Yours is the power that has brought us to take new risks and face new opportunities. You shape our dreams. May your Spirit guide us in our preparations to search for a new Rector: open our eyes to what is possible and what is unfinished; open our ears to words of wisdom that assure us and challenge us; open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined and to what we have neglected, that we may be both bold and humble; through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

A Prayer for those who have died from Coronavirus

Lord, your ways are mysterious, and your purposes unknowable. But we know that when we feel sorrow, you feel sorrow, too. That when we suffer, you also suffer. That when we mourn, you mourn, as well. That when our hearts are broken, so is yours. Lord, we feel that sorrow now, that suffering now, that mourning now, and our hearts are breaking now that in this nation over 195,000 of our sisters and brothers have already been taken from us by this disease. Yet, we know that your Son who suffered death itself for us, is by our side, and shares our burden. So, Lord, comfort those who have lost, protect those who remain, and take those you have gathered into that greater light where pain, and suffering, and death itself exist no more. **Amen.**

A Prayer for an End to Racism

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society, our world and ourselves. Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others. Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities. Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy purpose. Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with compassionate understanding and unity. Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Teachers and Students

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you have committed to your holy Church the care and nurture of your children. Enlighten with your wisdom those who teach and those who learn, that rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation; grant us the vision to imagine new ways to learn and to teach and to create safe and joyful places of learning, and grant us the compassion to understand different perspectives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Social Justice <https://socialjustice.org>

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war; for we know that You have made the world in a way that people must find their own path to peace within themselves and with their neighbors.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation; for You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice; for You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair; for You have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease; for You have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing, if we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, for strength, determination and will power, to do instead of just pray, to become instead of merely to wish. **Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Blessing

May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal:

Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!