



St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching out to Others

September 10, 2023

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
in the Season of Creation

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

----- A Special WELCOME to all! -----

We are pleased to have you worship with us this morning and hope you feel warmly welcomed. Today we continue with a “new season” in the church year, an international and ecumenical observance of God’s presence in Creation; and our roles as caretakers, stewards and fellow creatures. The Season of Creation will conclude on Sunday, October 1, when we celebrate the life and witness of St Francis of Assisi (d. 1226).

Be sure to join us following the service in Vandenberg Fellowship Hall for a time of conversation and refreshments.

New to our church? We’d love to get better acquainted. Please leave your name and email or phone number in one of our guestbooks, located at both entrances of the worship space; or by filling out one of the Welcome cards in the pew.

COVID is still a concern in our area. Face masks are optional; they are provided at all entrances to the worship space. Hand-sanitizing stations are also provided, and recommended for use prior to receiving Communion. **All persons who desire to receive Holy Communion are served here**, no questions asked. The bread is gluten-free. All are offered the cup for a sip of wine; you can decline by crossing your arms in front of your chest. Instead of receiving Communion, you may ask a blessing from the priest.

Hymn # These hymns are located in the blue Hymnal 1982 in your pew.

WLP # These hymns are located in the green hymnal books located near the library entrance to the church.

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude _____ Pastorale, Robert Lau

Opening Hymn #405 Please stand & join in singing _____ All Things Bright and Beautiful

Open Acclamation & Collect _____

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Song of Praise Please join in singing _____

1. All crea - tures, wor - ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
sky: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er
sun, in splen - dor bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
Refrain
O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

(continued on next page)

3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong;
drive far the shadows, join the throng:
alleluia, alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
Make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 Let all things their creator bless,
and worship god in humbleness,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
To God all thanks and praise belong!
Join in the everlasting song:
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

All **Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the powerful who oppress and dominate Creation, so you never forsake your creatures who live in harmony with nature's order; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading *Please be seated* _____ *Exodus 12:1-14*

Reader A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take

some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm _____ *Psalm 149*

1 Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

2 Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his people *
and adorns the poor with victory.

5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.

6 Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand;

- 7 To wreak vengeance on the nations *
 and punishment on the peoples;
- 8 To bind their kings in chains *
 and their nobles with links of iron;
- 9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
 this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

The Second Reading _____ Br. Keith Nelson, SSJE,
Newsletter of the Society of St. John the Evangelist March 8, 2016

Reader A reading from “*Our Relationship with Creation*”

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.

Reader Here ends the reading.

Sequence Hymn #674 *Please stand* _____ *Forgive our sins as we forgive*

The Gospel Reading *Please stand* _____ *Matthew 18:15-20*

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon *Please be seated* _____ *The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams*

Please remain in silence for a moment of reflection following the sermon.

The Nicene Creed *Please stand* _____

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People *Please stand or kneel* _____

Intercessor Let us pray.

O God, Creator of all, we come before you in this time of deepening social and climate crises to confess our complicity and inaction, to pray for those most severely affected, and to ask for the courage to be diligent in prayer and truth-seeking. Open our hearts to be transformed by prayer and Spirit-led action, for the good of this community, our planet, and all its creatures.

Silence

Hear us, gracious God.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor We confess that we have not valued the air, which sustains every breath, and have instead polluted it with toxic chemicals and waste products. Help us to change our ways.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor We confess that we have wasted and polluted the waters, our drink of life and the main substance of our bodies. We have discharged heavy metals into the seas and rivers, we have choked them with agricultural run-off, clogged the oceans with plastic, and poisoned vulnerable children with industrial chemicals and lead-filled water from old pipes. Lead us out of disaster.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor We confess that we have abused the soil, which you created to provide food and homes for all land creatures. We have squandered the earth's resources, depleting its substance by overuse and greed. We have buried toxic and radioactive waste; we have stolen land from indigenous people who loved and tended the earth with greater respect than we have. Guide us to better solutions.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor We confess that we have caused the deaths of many millions of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and water creatures out of a sense of human entitlement; and we have destroyed their living places so that we can have more hamburgers or housing developments or fossil fuels. We have denied the inter-connectivity of all life on our planet. Help us to see more clearly.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor We confess that we have dominated, enslaved and exploited our human siblings, for economic gain and political power. We have turned neighborhoods into ghettos, denied the need of every family for living wages and decent health care, and forgotten Jesus' command to love every neighbor. Help us to act more justly.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor Have compassion on us, merciful God;

People **Free us from the gods of greed, wealth, and “private” property.**

Intercessor Free us from despair and paralyzing fear, and from the privilege of caring most about our own well-being while we see others suffer.

People **Free us from the lie that we are separate from our human and non-human siblings.**

Intercessor Let justice and peace flow from our lives like clear water;

People **Restore our relationship to all of Creation.**

Intercessor Gracious God, hear our prayers for the people we love who are in any need, sickness or danger; especially those we name ...
The People add their petitions either silently or aloud.

Intercessor Hear our prayers for the animals in our lives, who rely on our care and give us joy; especially those we name ...
The People add their petitions either silently or aloud.

Intercessor Hear our prayers for the places where we find peace and refreshment, reminding us of the goodness of Creation; especially the places we name...
The People add their petitions either silently or aloud.

Intercessor Hear our prayers for those who have ended their time upon earth, and now live with you in your heavenly kingdom; especially those we name...
The People add their petitions either silently or aloud.

Presider Gracious God, the air sings with songs of glory, water flashes silver with creation, and the forests bloom with leaves for healing nations. May your light and love fill our hearts and souls and minds, that we may share your abundant grace with the world. We pray through the power of your Spirit and in the name of Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand as we greet our fellow worshipers* _____

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good
your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

If you wish to give online, point your phone's camera at the QR code to the right and tap the webpage that pops up. It will take you to the St. Jude's online giving form!



Offertory Anthem _____ *O Taste and See, Paul Mealor*

The Doxology *Please stand* _____



Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low; praise



him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Father, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Eucharistic Prayer, For Creation *Please remain standing* _____

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Priest Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption.

Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life. Through the Holy Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you— for the restoration of Creation, and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord,
God of power and might, _____ heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

S 128--Setting by William Mathias

Priest In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to you, O God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Jesus also took a cup of wine, and gave thanks to God.

He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Priest Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries, reconcile us to the world you made and called good; and empower us to restore your creation back to health and balance, in fulfillment of your will. Stir in us

your own creativity and redeem our destructive ways. Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

As we offer you these gifts of bread and wine, send your life-giving Spirit upon them + and upon us + gathered in faith to receive them. Fill every heart with sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when you are all in all.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God our Creator, now and forever.

All AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer _____

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **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.**

The Breaking of Bread, *silence follows* _____

Fraction

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

Communion *Please be seated*

All are welcome but no one is obliged to receive. If you would prefer not to receive Communion, please cross your arms across your chest indicating you would like to receive a blessing instead.

If you wish to receive bread only, please take the bread and walk back to your seat or, if you wish to remain at the rail, place your arms across your shoulders when the Lay Eucharistic Minister comes by with the cup to indicate your preference. If you wish to drink wine, please drink from the cup only. Please do not intinct (dip your bread) in the wine.

Communion Hymn #606 _____ *Where true charity and love dwell*

Prayer after Communion *Please stand* _____

Priest Let us pray.

People **Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. We thank you for feeding us with this bread. May it strengthen us that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Sending Out of LEV's _____

Priest or Deacon gives LEV the Visitation Kit,

Priest Let us all pray together:

People **In the name of this congregation, we send you out bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

The Sending Out

Milestones & Announcements *Please be seated* _____

Blessing _____

The Presider blesses the People and the People respond:

Amen.

Sending Out Hymn #379 *Please stand* _____ *God is Love, let heaven adore him*

Sending Out _____

The Deacon dismisses the congregation, after which the people respond:

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude _____ *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*, J. S. Bach

Prayer List _____

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Prince, our Bishop Provisional; for Susan, our Priest-in-Charge; for Judy, our Deacon; for the Vestry.

For Al; Margaret; Bill; Rita; Todd; Diane; Sue; Barbara & Joe; Cindy; Cathy; Molly; Cory; Dale; Sue; Linda; Marcia; Gabe; Kady; Rose; Joan; Rex & Judi; Jim; Bob; Jim; James; Sharon; Mia; June; Ed; Carl; Sydne; Laura; Mike; Mary Lou; Randy; Jack; Sherry; Kathy & Tom; John; Pam; Marsha; Chet; Leonard; Ellen; Glenn; Jim; Patti; Brad; Vince; and Zack.

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
(810) 629-5681

www.stjudesfenton.com
Facebook: St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Sunday Service In-Person and on Facebook Live @ 10:30 am
Our full Sunday schedule resumes next week:
Adult Formation: Sundays @ 9:30 am Youth Group: Sundays @ 11:45 am