



The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

October 1, 2023 • 10 am

St. Francis Episcopal Parish & Community Center
2216 Pot Spring Road, Timonium, MD 21093
410-252-4465 • www.stfrancismd.org

*Please note the invitation to stand or kneel is always as you are able and as you have need.
It is the posture of one's heart that is most pleasing to God.*

From The Episcopal Church on the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation, September 1st through October 4th, is celebrated by Christians around the world as a time for renewing, repairing and restoring our relationship to God, one another, and all of creation. The Episcopal Church joins this international effort for prayer and action for climate justice and an end to environmental racism and ecological destruction. The 2023 theme is *Let Justice and Peace Flow*.



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

In celebrating the Season, we are invited to consider anew our ecological, economic, and political ways of living. The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland joins sixteen other dioceses in authorizing the use of curated liturgical resources for Episcopal parishes from which the contemporary readings are chosen.

Note: this service begins outside the church building in the Memorial Garden.

As part of our observance of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, whose call to ministry began outdoors as he felt God call him to "rebuild his church," so too will we begin our next chapter of ministry outdoors.

After today's service during Fellowship Hour, the St. Francis Community Agreements will be signed by all who feel called to make this commitment to our shared life here.

For those unable to join in the garden and process indoors, you are welcome to begin inside the sanctuary, where the outdoor portion of the service will be livestreamed.

WELCOME

A LITURGY FOR BEGINNINGS

Presider God, you were present at the beginning.

All **Be with us as we begin a new program year, full of:**

One person music ministries

One person youth & young adult ministries

One person community of care ministries

One person food ministries

One person administrative ministries

One person liturgical leadership ministries

One person financial stewardship ministries

One person environmental efforts

One person interfaith initiatives

Presider And be with us especially today, as we begin and adopt:

One person new childrens' ministry

One person new Community Agreements.

All **Help us remember that your light shines in all places.**

Comfort us when we are unsure. Strengthen us when we stumble.

All this we ask through you, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Amen.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

We remember and honor the Indigenous people of the world, especially the Susquehannock and Piscataway tribes. We acknowledge that the land we now occupy was once their home. We lament that it was taken from them. We give thanks for them and express our gratitude for their witness on how to live a life that is honorable and humble. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us; that we belong to the Earth, and that we are all relatives in life. Help us to learn from past mistakes and be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world, particularly the original Indigenous inhabitants. **Amen.**

A LITURGY IN THE GARDEN

Presider God, you are a great God, greater than all Gods.

All **In your hands are the caverns of the earth.**

Presider You made majestic mountains.

All **You made the deep sea and all that lives in it.**

Presider You prepared the dry land for beasts, bugs, and birds.

All **And you brought us into your creation.**

Presider You called us to tend the land.

All **Yet we have polluted it. Help us to clean up your creation.**

Presider May we always remember our baptisms in your living water.

All **And let that memory inspire us to provide life-giving water to others.**

We will sing the first verse of the Processional Entrance Hymn in the Garden, and then sing the remaining six verses as we make our way inside. Rev. Sara and the children will split off from the Procession to the new One Room Sunday Schoolhouse, and rejoin at the passing of the Peace.

PROCESSIONAL ENTRANCE HYMN 400 *All creatures of our God and King*



1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
 *2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
 *3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
 *6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
 5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
 6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
 7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

Refrain



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

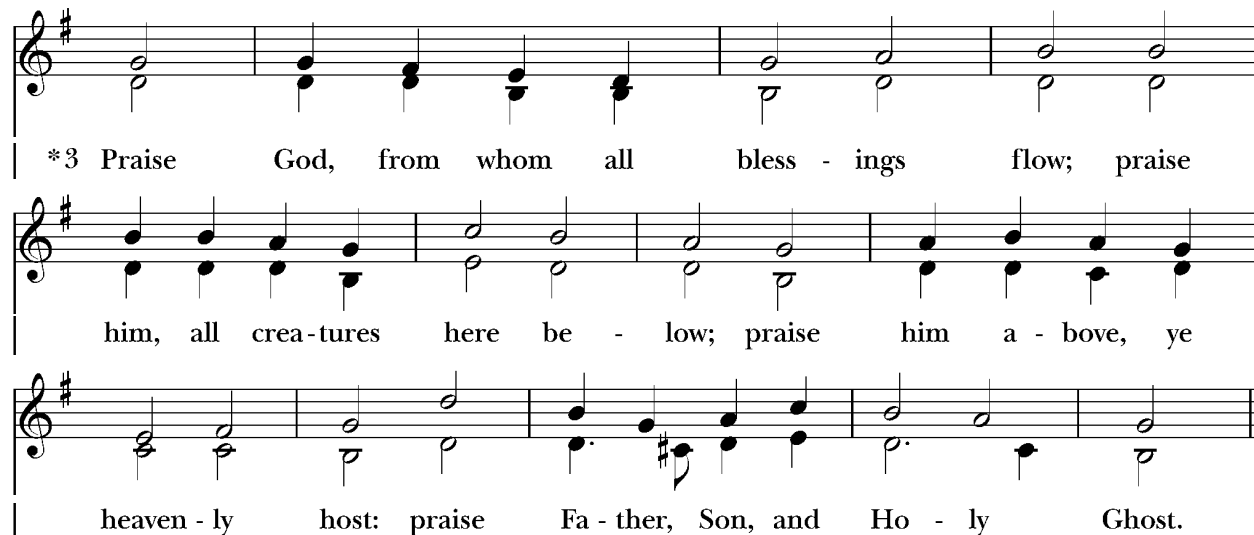
OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be the One who creates all things.
People **The Holy One's love is new every morning.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE - H 380 verse 3 *From all that dwell below the skies (Old 100th)*



*3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Job 39:1-18

Reader A Reading from the book of Job.

¹"Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer?

²Can you number the months that they fulfill, and do you know the time when they give birth,

³when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of their young?

⁴Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them.

⁵"Who has let the wild ass go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass,

⁶to which I have given the steppe for its home, the salt land for its dwelling place?

⁷It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver.

⁸It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing.

⁹"Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will it spend the night at your crib?

¹⁰Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes, or will it harrow the valleys after you?

¹¹Will you depend on it because its strength is great, and will you hand over your labor to it?
¹²Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing floor?
¹³"The ostrich's wings flap wildly, though its pinions lack plumage.
¹⁴For it leaves its eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground,
¹⁵forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that a wild animal may trample them.
¹⁶It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own; though its labor should be in vain, yet it has no fear;
¹⁷because God has made it forget wisdom, and given it no share in understanding.
¹⁸When it spreads its plumes aloft, it laughs at the horse and its rider.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121

St. Helena Psalter

Reader We will read the psalm responsively by half verse.

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills — *

from where will my help come?

²My help comes from God, *

the maker of heaven and earth.

³God will not let your foot be moved; *

the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

⁴Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel *

shall neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵The Holy One watches over you *

and is your shade at your right hand.

⁶So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *

nor the moon by night.

⁷God shall preserve you from all evil; *

and is the One who shall keep you safe.

⁸God shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *

from this time forth for evermore.

SECOND READING

Reader The Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon, by St. Francis of Assisi.

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord, all praise is Yours, all glory, all honor and all blessings. To you alone, Most High, do they belong, and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.

Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day through whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor, of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water, so useful, humble, precious and pure.

Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial. Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death, from whom no one living can escape. Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will. No second death can do them harm. Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks, and serve Him with great humility.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN – *Word Of God Speak* – Millard & Kipley

*Word of God speak, would You pour down like rain
Washing my eyes to see Your majesty
To be still and know, that You're in this place
Please let me stay and rest, in Your holiness
(x2)*

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:25–30

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Priest The Gospel of our Savior.

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

Please be seated.

THE SERMON - The Rev. Dr. Amy Slaughter

Please stand.

THE CREED

Presider Together, let us affirm our faith in the words of our ancestors,

All **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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped
and glorified, who 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reader Friends in Christ, there is nothing we cannot bring to God in prayer. We invite you to review the prayer list included in today's bulletin, and to offer your spoken intercessions during the silence of our prayers. Let us pray to God, saying, "Creative God, *Hear our prayer.*"

Reader We pray for all of the human family, for those that live in deserts, on plains, nestled amongst mountains, and alongside your waters. We ask that you give us your wisdom, so that we might care for the earth we inhabit in the way that you care for us. Creative God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Reader We pray for this and all nations, for those that span across your land, and for those that encompass just a small piece of this fragile earth, our island home. We ask that you guide all leaders, so that they prioritize the needs of Mother Earth. Creative God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Reader We pray for your peace to encompass the globe; for weapons to cease firing, for hungry stomachs to growl no more, and for safe, dry places for all to rest. We ask for your mercy on the people of Ukraine & Russia, Afghanistan & Iraq, Mexico & Colombia, and all places riddled with violence. Creative God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Reader We pray for our local communities; for Lutherville-Timonium, for Baltimore County, for Maryland, and for the whole Chesapeake Bay watershed. We ask that you may help us see more clearly all of the ways in which we are connected, not only to each other but to the ground we stand on, too. Creative God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Reader We pray for the grounds of St. Francis Episcopal Parish & Community Center. We ask your blessings over the apiary and our many gardens; from those that grow nourishment for bodies, to those where bodies rest, and from those that need regular tending, to those we let grow wild. Help us to love who we share these grounds with; the deer, the groundhogs, the bunnies, the bees, and the creatures in the trees. Creative God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Reader We thank you for giving us a life with milestones worth celebrating. We pray for all who are rejoicing, especially _____. [15 second pause] We ask that they may feel joy, connection, and love in the happy times they have. Creative God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Reader We know that this wonderful life you've given us also comes with pain. We pray for all who are hurting, especially _____. [15 second pause] We ask that they receive all the support they need to endure the difficult times they face. Creative God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Reader We know that through Jesus' resurrection, life is changed, not ended, at the moment of death. We pray for all who have died, especially _____. [15 second pause] We ask that you welcome them into your presence with open arms, and that we may be united with them in the fullness of time. Creative God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

Please kneel.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SIN

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

All **Merciful and sustaining God, we have sinned against you.**

**We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of your creation:
teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.**

We confess that we have misused your earth: grant us amendment of life.

**We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:
strengthen us in self-control.**

**We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted:
make us urgent now for its protection.**

Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider 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.**

Please stand.

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

OFFERTORY ANTHEM - Christ Has a Garden - Gerald Near

You are invited to give financially by cash, check, or electronically at stfrancismd.org/give or by scanning the QR code on the right.



Thank you for your generosity!



Please remember to place any paw prints you were able to get from your pets at home in the offering plate today. They will be part of a collaborative art project shared for everyone later this fall!

Presider All things come from you, O God.
People **And of your own have we given you.**

Please stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to God.**
Presider Let us give thanks to God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body.

Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

SANCTUS S 130 *Holy, holy, holy (Schubert/Proulx)*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, and when he had given thanks, he 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.”*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons and children, that with Francis, Clare, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Presider This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.

People **And of your own have we given you.**

INVITATION

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Episcopal Prayer Book for the Armed Forces

Presider In solidarity with those who do not have access to the consecrated bread and wine today, we pray,

All **In union, God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Christ Jesus; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Christ Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

AT HOME DISTRIBUTION

Presider Receive the Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven.

People **Amen.**

All are invited to receive communion here.

Please come forward by pew as ushers indicate. Gluten-free wafers are available, just let the presider know when you come up. At this time, no intinction (dipping) is allowed, but you are welcome to receive wine by taking a sip from the chalice. If you choose not to, know that it has long been the teaching of the Church that receiving Communion in one kind (i.e., by bread alone) is sufficient as full Communion.

COMMUNION HYMN 405 *All things bright and beautiful*

SECOND COMMUNION HYMN 8 *Morning has broken*

POST-COMMUNION SONG - In The Garden - St. Francis Handbell Choir

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

All **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.**

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN 416 verses 1, 2, 4, & 5 *For the beauty of the earth*

DISMISSAL

Presider Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve God's Creation.

People **Thanks be to God the Creator. Alleluia, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE - *Crashing Waters at Creation* (Voices Found #67) - Instrumental

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A Liturgy for Beginnings

Adapted version of *A Prayer for Beginnings* from *Call on me: A Prayer Book for Young People*.

Land Acknowledgement

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A Liturgy in the Garden

Adapted version of *A Prayer for the Environment* and *A Prayer for Clean water* from *Call on me: A Prayer Book for Young People*.

All Creatures of our God and King

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Prayers of the People

Prayers: The Rev. Sara Yoe; Closing Collect: *For Knowledge of God's Creation* (BCP, 827)

Confession of Sin, & Dismissal

Season of Creation 2023: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes

Sanctus

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All things bright and beautiful

Descant copyright © 1979, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Morning has broken

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Post-Communion Prayer

Season of Creation 2023: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes; Postcommunion prayer 4 from "Prayers of Intercession for Creation Time 2012," prepared by Sister Catherine Brennan SSL and Sister Ann Concannon SSL for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) (2012).

For the Beauty of the Earth

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Information about the Season of Creation from their website (www.seasonofcreation.org)

"Let Justice and Peace Flow" is the theme chosen for Season of Creation 2023, the ecumenical celebration we hold each year from September 1, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

The prophet Amos cries out, "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5:24), and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to embrace climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities that are most impacted by climate injustice and biodiversity loss.

Our prayers must call for justice not only for human beings, but for all creation. In covenant with peace, we are called to repent of our ecological sins and to change our attitudes and actions.



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

"A mighty river" is the symbol chosen to go with this theme, representing biodiversity at risk. The urgency is growing and we must make peace with the Earth and on the Earth visible, while justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. When we join the river of justice and peace with others, it creates hope instead of despair.

We are invited to join the river of justice and peace on behalf of all Creation and to converge our individual identities, of name, family or faith community, in this greater movement for justice, just as tributaries come together to form a mighty river.

Prophet Isaiah proclaims "Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:[A](#)19)



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

Information about Land Acknowledgements from The Episcopal Church office of Indigenous Ministries:



At the 80th General Convention (2022), two resolutions were passed regarding the inclusion of Indigenous land acknowledgements in our corporate life and worship.

Resolution C072 reads as follows:

Resolved, that The Episcopal Church commits to ensuring that all public gatherings and worship of The Episcopal Church, its boards, commissions, committees of the same, will, before the 81st General Convention, implement land acknowledgement liturgies and prayers to begin any public meetings or worship held in North America...

Resolution D019 reads as follows:

Resolved, that the 80th General Convention shall promote the acknowledgement of Indigenous Lands at all gatherings within the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (TEC) and its affiliate organizations...

In response to these resolutions, many congregations, dioceses, and other church groups and organizations have begun the practice of making land acknowledgements regarding the Indigenous tribal people who used to live on the land they currently occupy, and in some cases still do.

A land acknowledgement is not:

- A statement intended to make everyone feel guilty and ashamed.
- A one-and-done task that gets everyone “off the hook.”
- A call to vacate our homes and return overseas to the land of our ancestors.

A land acknowledgement is:

- Truth-telling about what happened in our homeland years ago and how it affects the way we live today.
- A recognition of the Indigenous tribal people whose home was the land we now occupy. By doing so we remember them and begin to ask questions about what happened to them and why.
- An invitation to right relationship with Indigenous tribal people, particularly if the people still reside in the region. A recognition that Indigenous people currently live in all areas of this country, even if we do not see them. They are still here.