

TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope

(Rom 8:19-25)

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise**, **welcome,** and **serve**:
· to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
· to **praise** God in all things,
· to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
· to **serve** the needs of one another and of those
on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Pastor Elaine Hewes, Priest in Charge and Celebrant
Connie Mayo, Music Director

Pentecost Proper 18
September 8, 2024

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant: We honor the Indigenous people everywhere, particularly the Wabanaki Nations, acknowledging that the land we now occupy is their ancestral home. May we always remember, as do the Wabanaki peoples, that the Earth does not belong to us, rather, we belong to the Earth.
Congregation: **May we learn from our past mistakes and be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world, and for all creation.**

The bell is rung three times
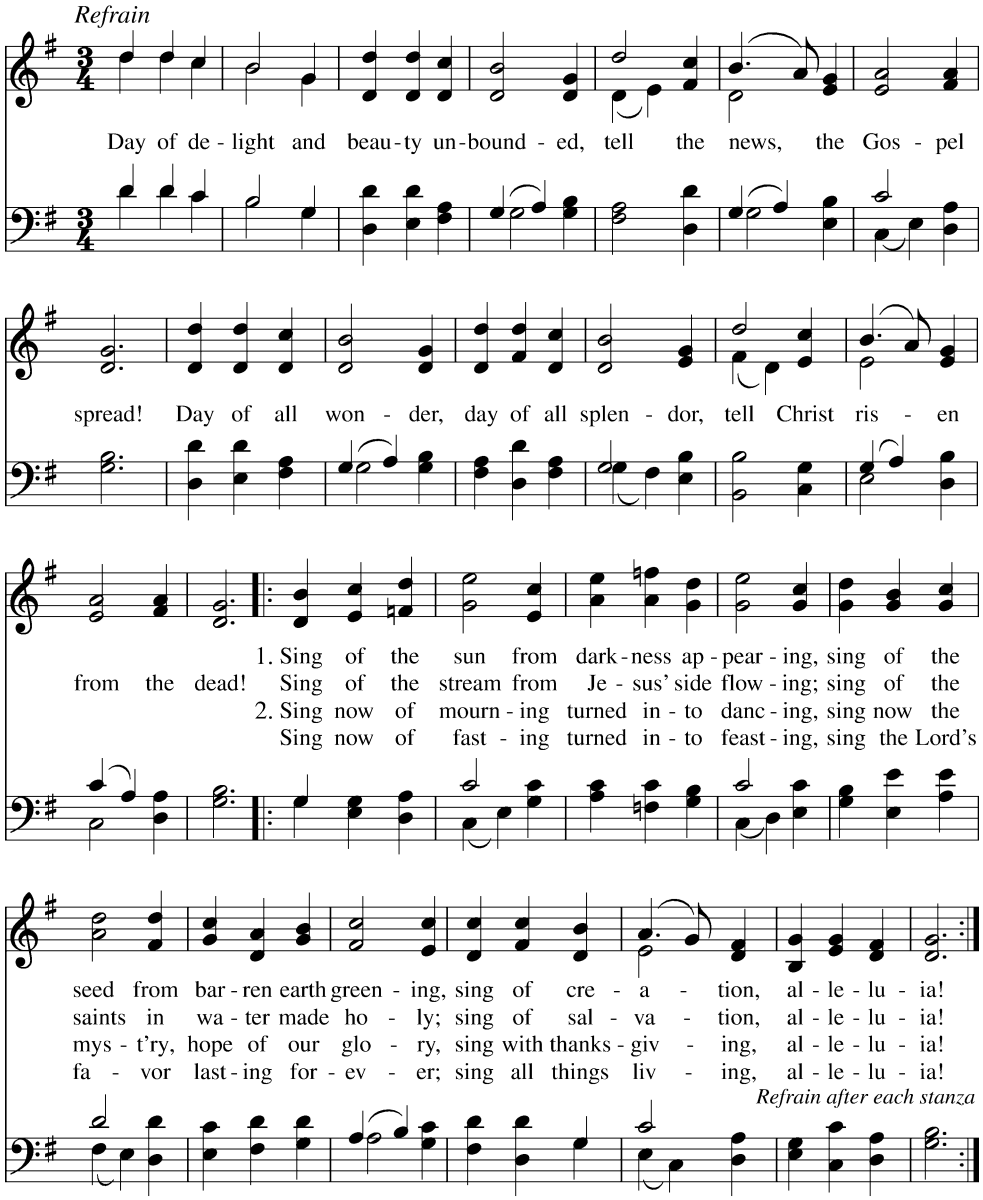
Prelude: *Fughette* Johann Christoph Bach

Silence is begun and ended with a ring of the bell

Opening Hymn 9 *Not here for high and holy things (vss. 1,2,5 and 6, in back of bulletin)*

Opening Sentences
Celebrant: Blessed be the One who creates all things.
Congregation: **The Holy One's love is new every morning.**

Song of Praise: WLP 738 *Day of delight and beauty unbounded (Sing refrain & first line of first verse)*



Words: Delores Dufner, OSB (b. 1939). Music: *In dir ist Freude*, Giovanni Gastoldi (1556-1622); harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944).

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

Congregation: **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 35

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,
the terrible recompense of God. He will come and save you."
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
Yes! Waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert!
The burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water!
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes!
A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return.
They will-come to Zion with singing, everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146

Hallelujah!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,
for there is no help in them.
When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the prisoners free
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger;

he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The LORD shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: Letter of James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn ELW 512 *Lord, let my heart be good soil (in back of bulletin)*

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Congregation: **Glory be to you, O Christ.**

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.
Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."
Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor Elaine Hewes

Silence

Profession of Faith

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
all of creation will be gathered into the fullness of God's love. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Creator God, hear the prayers of our hearts as we strive to care for the earth and each other.

We pray for the holy Church of God to be a light for all creation, a place of healing and reconciliation embodying the love of Christ to a hurting world.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all bishops, ministers, and spiritual leaders, especially we pray for our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Presiding Bishop Elect, Sean, and our Bishop, Thomas; and all priests and deacons who serve our churches.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those in authority here and in the world that they might work together to seek justice and equity for all people. Strengthen them to lead with compassion and wisdom.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for seasonable weather and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth for which we give thanks to our Creator God.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind and spirit, for those struggling with addiction, homelessness, joblessness or loneliness, that they may know the power of your transforming love.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Show us how to respect and appreciate the earth, its oceans, mountains, trees, and all its creatures, the birds and the bears, the bees and the butterflies.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all those who have died and for those who mourn them, for those who are dying and those who care for them, be with them Creator God, may they be comforted by your promise of eternal life in love.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: I invite you to add your own prayers and thanksgivings.

Members of the congregation are invited to add prayers and thanksgivings at this time.

Leader: Do any of you on Zoom wish to add prayers and thanksgivings?

We offer these prayers for all creation in faith and hope that we might be doers of the Word and agents of your love to all whom we encounter. In the name of, Jesus Christ, our redeemer and advocate who lives and reins with you and the Holy Spirit forever.
Congregation: **Amen.**

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

Silence

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Creator 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.
Congregation: **Amen.**

Celebrant: Peace within yourself.
Peace with Creation.
Peace with you who are with us remotely today.
Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**

The people are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord.

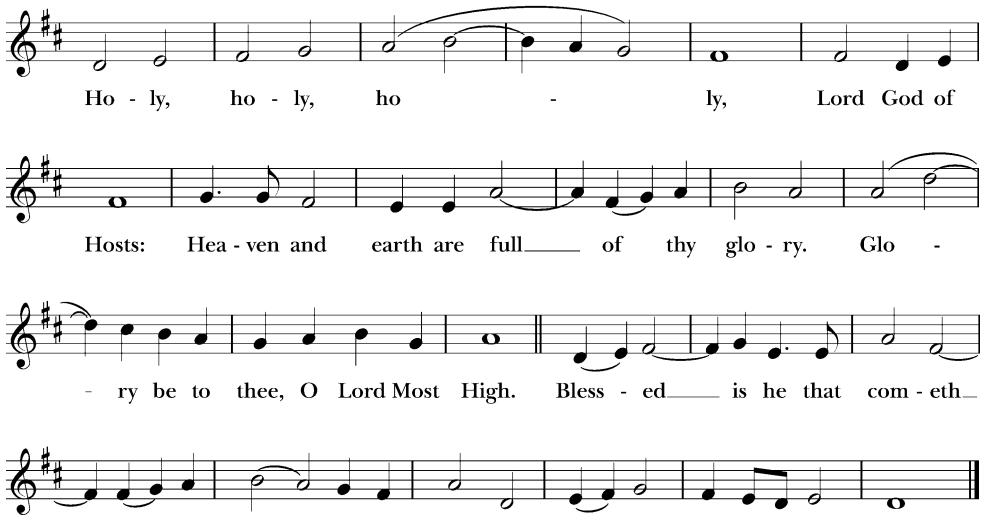
The Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn 493 *O for a thousand tongues to sing (in back of bulletin)*

Eucharistic Prayer
Celebrant: God is with us.
Congregation: **God is present here.**
Celebrant: Rejoice! Lift up your hearts.
Congregation: **We lift our hearts to the Most High.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Holy One.
Congregation: **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**
We do praise you, our intimate God, the one who is with us, and with all of creation, the source of this magical, mystical, sensual, beautiful, earth. You have blessed us with a world of infinite variety and beauty.
Therefore, we praise you, O Sacred One, joining our voices with the cry of your animals, the rocks, the stars, the Moon, the Sun, and all the universe as we sing with joy:

Sanctus S-114

Sanctus *The Hymnal 1982*



Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

We bless you and thank you Gracious God for all of these gifts, and for weaving us, the web of humanity, into this world. But instead of caring deeply for this most perfect of creations, the universe beyond our comprehension and this earth in which we live, we have rebelled against it, against ourselves, against You. We disregarded the interconnected web of life in which we live. You called us to understand that we are not masters of the earth, but instead a part of the earth. You continually remind us that caring for you means caring for your earth and for each other.

Then, All-Holy God, you sent Jesus Christ to be among us. Through His incarnation, You taught us that You are always with us and all of the world. He showed us the way to grace and freedom, and how to show compassion to each other and the world. He gathered a people as your own and filled us with longing for justice and peace for all of creation.

Congregation: **Keep us ever vigilant to follow his example so that we may bring about Your reign that He opened for us, through his life, his death, and his resurrection. It is a reign where all your creation will be one.**

Celebrant: On the night before he died, Jesus came to table with those he loved. Recalling his own actions of feeding the poor and eating with the outcast, 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 in memory of me." When supper was ended, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to You, and passed the cup among his friends and said: "Take this all of you and drink from it, this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant, do this in memory of me."

Therefore, let us pray:
Congregation: **Gracious God among us, help us to feel your presence, and give us the strength to serve your creation and your people this day and every day.**

Celebrant: Now gathered at your table, God of Creation, and remembering what Jesus Christ taught us, we offer to you this bread and this wine, a gift of your creation and work of human hands. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts, O Sacred One. May they become for us the Body and Blood of Christ, just as we, your people, are that same Body. Breathe your Spirit upon us also and upon the entire earth. Make us one with your earth, so that all of Creation may become one with your Body.
The Congregation and Celebrant say together: **Bring all of us, from every clan, tribe, and nation together, to feast upon your abundant banquet, prepared from the fruits of your earth and made possible by the redemption of your Christ.**
Celebrant: Through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the entire Universe, all glory and honor to God and Creator, for ever and ever.
Congregation: **Amen.**

Celebrant: Let us now pray together:
Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.
Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
Congregation: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Celebrant: In recognition of and in solidarity with those who are worshiping with us remotely this morning, we pray:
*Celebrant and Congregation***: In union with the faithful gathered at every altar of the Church where the bread and wine are offered, and in union with those who are with us today by the internet, we offer praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessings of this life. We believe that Jesus is present in the Breaking of the Bread, the Holy Sacrament of Communion and in ways more numerous and mysterious than we can imagine. We embrace you, Jesus, with all our hearts, souls and minds. Nothing can separate us from you, nor are we separated from one another.**

Those gathered at St. Brendan receive the bread and wine.

And now may the Presence of Jesus, in whatever form it has come to you this morning, nourish you in grace, comfort you in love, and inspire you to be Christ's presence in the world.

Post Communion Prayer
Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your meal may work in us
and renew the face of the earth.
May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To listen to the voice of all creatures
that reflect God's glory in creation.

Blessing

Sending Hymn 371 *Thou whose almighty word (in back of bulletin)*

Postlude: *O Blessed Creator* Johann Pachelbel

Announcements

Dismissal

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CALENDAR

All services and meetings will be held both in-person and via Zoom unless otherwise designated.

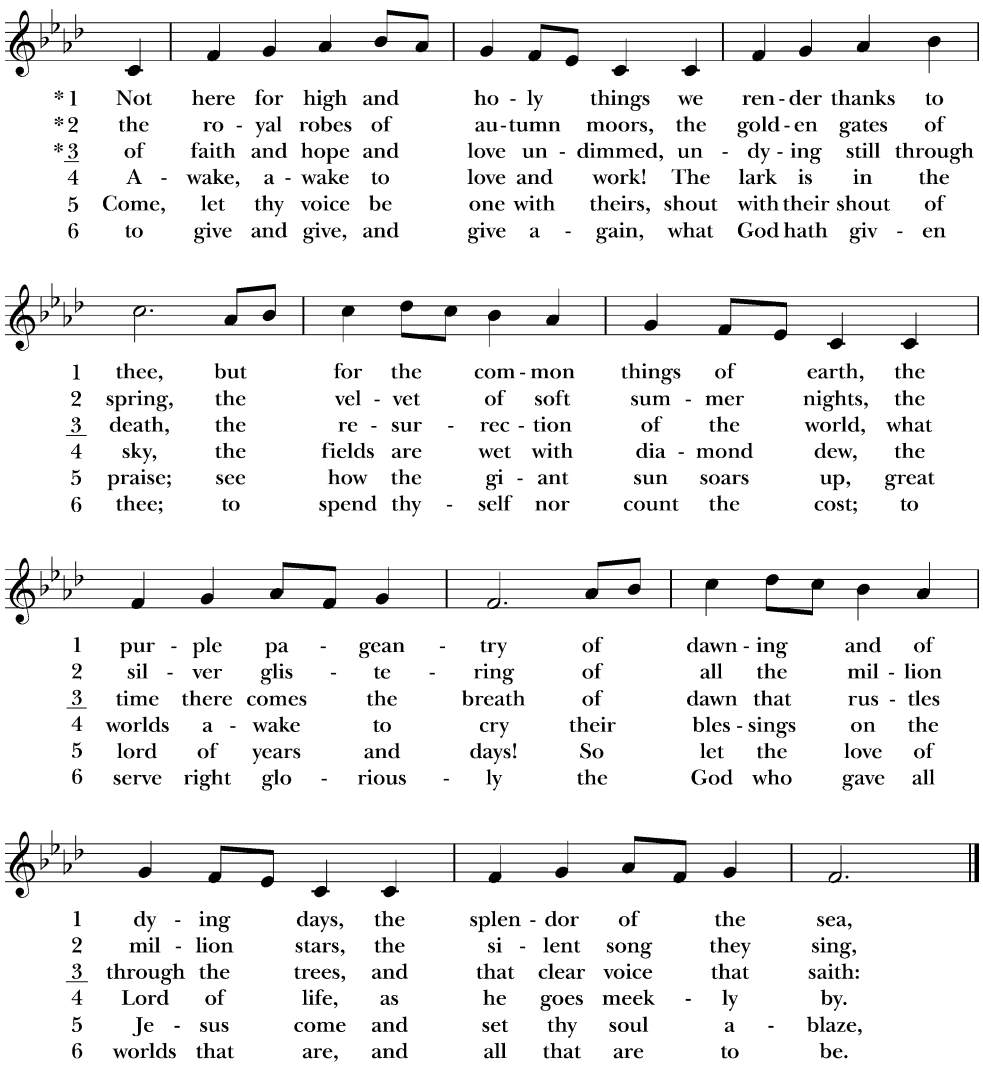
Monday, September 9	10:30 a.m. Education & Spiritual Development Ministry meeting 4:30 p.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (Zoom)
Wednesday, September 11	10:00 a.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (in person) 10:30 a.m. Dr. Sam Harrington—"Tough Questions, Helpful Answers: Hope alone is not a viable plan for the life completion you envision" 4:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Saturday, September 14	7:00 p.m. Reggie Harris concert at the Reach Performing Arts Center
Sunday, September 16	10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Pastor Elaine Hewes presiding with Reggie Harris, musician.

GPS (Giving our Priorities Shape) Action

Care for Creation
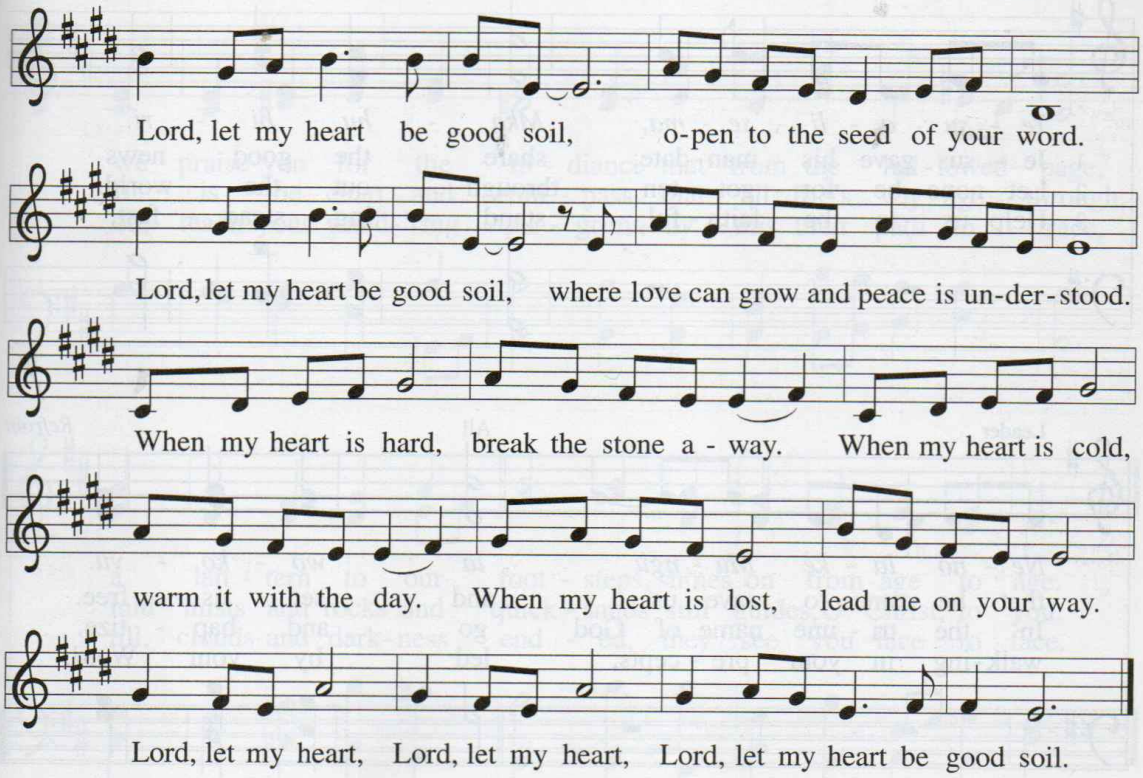
The Episcopal Diocese of Maine celebrates a Season of Creation every year from September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Season of Creation, to October 4, Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. We are invited to reflect on how we can celebrate God's Creation and be better stewards by actions such as planting a tree, reducing our carbon footprint, and advocating for renewable energy.

Not here for high and holy things *The Hymnal 1982,* #9



Words: Geoffrey Anketel Studdert-Kennedy (1883-1929). By permission of Hodder and Stoughton Limited. Music: *Morning song*, melody att. Elkanah Kelsay Dare (1782-1826); harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

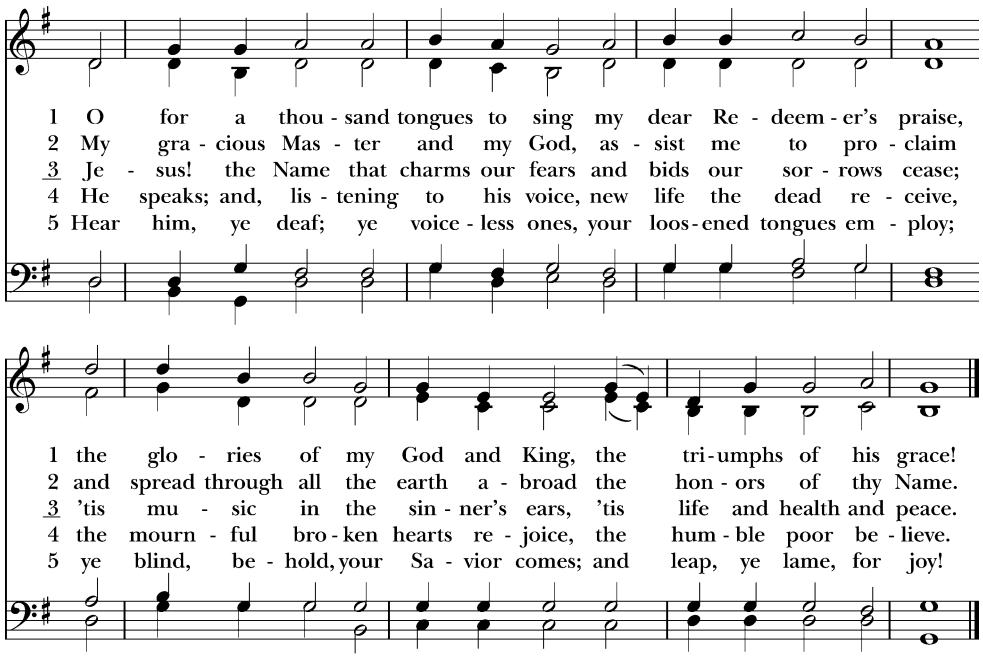
Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil 512



Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: Handt Hanson
Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

GOOD SOIL
P.M.
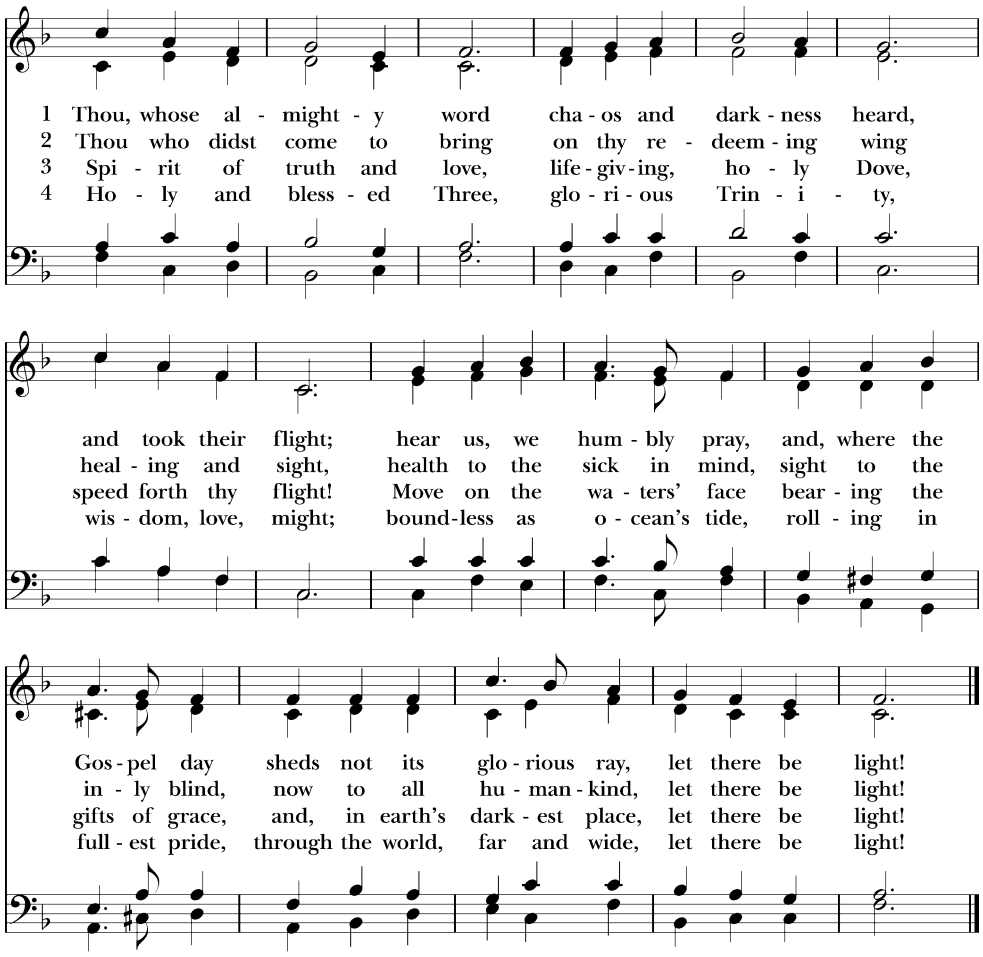
O for a thousand tongues to sing *The Hymnal 1982,* #493



6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Azmon*, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Thou, whose almighty word *The Hymnal 1982,* #371



Words: John Marriott (1780-1825), alt. Music: *Moscow*, Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. *The New Hymnal*, 1916, based on *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792-1872).