



## Worship with Communion 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Season of Creation, week 1

VIDEO: View & interact on any device live at 10AM on September 13

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*You can watch the videos at any time after they air live.*

**Welcome! We're glad that you chose to worship with us today!**

Amma Diane

### ♪ **The Earth is the Lord's**

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." Creation reminds us, O God, of your love. By grace we are learning, as year leads to year, We're called to be stewards, your caretakers here. Your rainforests nurture the world that we share. Your wetlands give animals shelter and care. Your coral reefs cradle the life of the sea. You've shown us, in love, what your good world can be. Too often, O God, we abuse your good earth. We fail to remember its beauty and worth. We take from creation much more than we need, We threaten your world through indifference and greed. May we be good stewards of all that you give, Protecting creation wherever we live. May we be a church that renews and restores And lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.

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*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*All* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. **AMEN!**

### **Season of Creation**

*Celebrant* The Season of Creation, September 1 through October 4, 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. This year's theme is *Jubilee for the Earth: New Rhythms, New Hope*. In celebrating the Season, we are invited to consider anew our ecological, economic, and political ways of living. In these remaining Sundays of September, we will focus on this theme, culminating with our special St Francis of Assisi celebration on October 4.

### **A Litany for the Planet**

*Celebrant* On your earth, the garden of life... On soil, that it may be fruitful in all seasons... On rocks and minerals that form the foundations for life... On volcanoes and lava flows that reveal the power of earth's core... On hills and great mountains; on cliffs, caves, and valleys... On deserts and their hardy creatures: Creator, have mercy.

*All* **On your waters, which sustain a diverse community of life... On coral reefs, and on the animals, plants, and fish that inhabit them... On ocean deeps, teeming with life... On rivers, bringing water to thirsty places... On lakes and streams, home to a diversity of life... On ponds and marshes, cradles of life: Creator, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* On wetlands and estuaries; on rocky coasts and beaches... On islands and atolls, oases and all harsh outposts of life... On glaciers and ice fields, holding the delicate balance of waters: Creator, have mercy.

*All* **On storms, floods, and tempests, and all fearsome forces of weather... On rains that water the earth, causing plants to sprout and grow... On snow and hail, sleet and winter cold, and on the dormant things that wait for spring... On mists and fog silently watering the ground: Creator, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* On the atmosphere of your planet earth, that it may sustain all that breathes... On winds that carry seeds and spores; on breezes that warm and cool the earth... On lightnings and fires that cleanse and destroy, and on all that lies in their path: Creator, have mercy.

*All* **On all the ecosystems of your earth and their intricate communities... On forests of many kinds; on trees and shrubs and vines... On grasslands, tundras, and plains, and on their varied plants... On ferns and fungi; on spore-bearing and seed-bearing plants: Creator, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* On micro-organisms of endless variety, the complex and the simple... On the larger life forms, including reptiles, amphibians, fish, mammals, marsupials, birds, insects... On the human family across the globe, of many colors and communities, in kinship with all creation: Creator, have mercy.

*All* **On all impacted by diseases, including COVID... On those who care for loved ones who are ill... On doctors and nurses, and all who render help and healing skill... On scientists and researchers, and all who search for treatments and cures: Creator, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* On all who work for public health, safety, and well-being... On all who are fearful for their health and life, and on those who are alone and in great need... On those who are dying and those who have died, and on all who mourn: Creator, have mercy. Let us pray.

*All* **Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life in all its diversity and beauty. Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we praise you that you came to redeem all of creation. Holy Spirit, we rejoice that you breathe in the life of the world. Grant us faith and courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus as caretakers of, and justice-seekers for, your beautiful and bountiful creation. For the blessing of your people, the sustaining of the earth and the glory of your name. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN!**

## **First Lesson**

Romans 14.1-12

*Reader 1* A reading of Romans 14.1-12.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since

they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

*Reader 1* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Unison Reading**

Psalm 103.8-13

*Reader 1* Let us read in unison Psalm 103.8-13.

*All* **O Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. You will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger for ever. You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is your mercy great upon those who fear you. As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our sins from us. As parents care for their children, so do you, O Lord, care for those who fear you.**

### **Gospel**

Matthew 18. 21-35

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

Amma Diane

**Nicene Creed**

*Celebrant* Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

*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: 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**

*Reader 2* Creator God, by the mercies of your son, our Lord, Jesus, compel us to TURN our hearts to his Way of Love. That we might follow Jesus together as your faithful people, we pause, listen, and respond in prayer.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader 2* Jesus, your life, death, resurrection, and ascension inspire the church to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship. Guide your people to LEARN your Word, that we might see God's story unfolding in our midst.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader 2* Son of God, you responded to your Father in PRAYER and pleaded that we might all be one. Guide the leaders and faithful citizens of this nation to respond to God and to one another in compassion — in thought and deed, with or without words — that the people of the United States might live in unity and peace.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader 2* Light of the World, you taught us to WORSHIP in spirit and in truth. Lead us to join with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, that the whole world might be united in the truth of your love.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader 2* Lord, you came not to be served but to serve. Empower us to BLESS one another and our neighbors, that your spirit of generosity, compassion, and selfless action transform us and the people in our midst.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader 2* Savior, you came into our midst that we might know life. Embolden us to GO among those who are weary, burdened, sick, or imprisoned, that we might live like you, crossing the boundaries that divide rich from poor, sick from well, and sinner from saint.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader 2* Lamb of God, in your death you destroyed death and taught us the way to eternal life. Compel us to daily die to self and REST in your grace. May all who have died rest in peace and rise in glory.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader 2* We lift up the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader 2* Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life for the life of all, we commit our lives to following you. Continually guide us in your way and draw us in to live as your Beloved Community in this age and in age to come; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*All* **AMEN!**

*Reader 2* We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*All* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. AMEN!**

*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.

*All* **AMEN!**

### **Passing the Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

### **Invitation to Communion**

*from the Iona Community, Scotland*

*Celebrant* The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

## ♪ **For the Beauty of the Earth**

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;  
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.  
One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.

Words: Foliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838; William Henry Monk, 1861.

## **Offering Our Gifts**

*Celebrant* Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at [mysjec.com/donate](https://mysjec.com/donate). Thank you for your financial support as we've adapted our ministry and mission together these past few months.

*Celebrant* Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

*People* **Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.**

## **Great Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Celebrant* God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

*All* **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

*Celebrant* At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

*All* **By your will they were created and have their being.**

*Celebrant* From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

*All* **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

*Celebrant* Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*All* **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

*Celebrant* And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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

*Celebrant* And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*All* **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

*Celebrant* Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekah, of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*All* **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

*Celebrant* Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

*All* **AMEN!**

*Celebrant* 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!

### **Breaking Bread**

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*All* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN!**

### **Blessing**

*Celebrant* May the blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains, be upon you and all you love and pray for, this day and for ever more.

*All* **Alleluia! AMEN!**

### **♪ The Trees of the Field**

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.  
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, the trees of the fields will clap their hands,  
the trees of the fields will clap their hands while you go out with joy.

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### **Sending**

*Celebrant* Go forth into the world, sharing the Good News of God's love. Alleluia, alleluia!

*All* **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!**

## **St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220**

If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

*Thank you for your support! Gifts may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank.*

*There are also online giving options on our web site at [mysjec.com/donate](https://mysjec.com/donate).*

*September's special offering supports Painting Pathways Clubhouse—please label accordingly.*

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