



Worship with Communion

19th Sunday After Pentecost – Season of Creation, week 4 / St Francis

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 10AM on October 3, 2021

go.mysjec.com/facebook or go.mysjec.com/youtube

You can watch the videos at any time after their premier.

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

♪ **O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth**

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn to offer you their praise.
You made the pets we welcome in — they're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, they offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace these creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace to all pets everywhere.
You made the creatures on each farm; you know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm, and safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep, you know their joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep; may all farms be humane.
Your creatures live in every land; they fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command to love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here — to care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, we offer you our praise.

Text: © 2011 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Tune: *ELLACOMBE, Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, 1784.*

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

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

Celebrant 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.

People **AMEN!**

All Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. AMEN!

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People AMEN!

The 2021 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 "A Home for All? Renewing the *Oikos* of God". The Psalmist proclaims "the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." There are two statements of faith at the heart of this song. The first is that every creature belongs to the Earth community. The second is that the entire community belongs to the Creator. A Greek word for this Earth community is *oikos*. *Oikos* is the root of the word *oikoumene*, or ecumenical, which describes our 'common home'. Our common home, the Earth belongs to God, and each beloved creature belongs to this common *oikos*.

St Francis of Assisi

Celebrant On October 4th, the Church celebrates the life and witness of Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan and Clarissine Orders, advocate for the poor, and friend of the animals. Born in the late 12th century, Francis was the son of a wealthy merchant and his high-born wife. Despite living a life of general comfort and ease, he found himself called toward a life in pursuit of poverty. After a series of humbling interactions with the poor, Francis devoted himself to the care of the sick and poor, giving up his business interests and material possessions (much to his father's chagrin). It could not have been easy, but Francis' faith demanded that he trade in his fine clothes for sackcloth and financial security for scarcity. In the words of the prayer attributed to the saint, he found that "it is in giving that we receive." We may perhaps remember St Francis best for his devotion to nature and animals. He believed that the Creator is praised through all creatures and, indeed, creation itself. It is in this spirit that many Episcopal churches offer blessings of pets and other animals each year to commemorate Francis's feast day. If you have a pet, I invite you to have them nearby for the blessing we'll do in a few moments.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

People **For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea: we thank you.**

Celebrant For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers: we thank you.

People **For all that is gracious in the lives of people: we thank you.**

Celebrant For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life: we thank you.

People **For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees: we thank you.**

Celebrant For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets: we thank you.

People **That pets everywhere may be treasured with care: we thank you.**

Celebrant That we may love and honor all your works, O God: we thank you.

People That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation: To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever. AMEN!

Blessing of Animals

Celebrant At this time, I invite you to hold your pet if you are able, or you can simply think of your pet or other animals.

To all of our pets and other animals, near and far: May you be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May you and your human companions enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you.

All **AMEN!**

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Most high, almighty Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honor and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong. Be praised for giving us the animals, birds, and fish which fill your world. May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets. Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to enjoy. We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy. O God, your world is wonderful. May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven where we shall see even more wonderful things, and where we shall live and love for ever. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. AMEN!

First Lesson

Reader A reading of Job chapter 1, verse 1 and chapter 2, verse 1 through 10.

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Unison Reading

Reader Let us read in unison Psalm 26.

All Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered. Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind. For your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful. I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked. I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession round your altar, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and

recounting all your wonderful deeds. Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides. Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with those who thirst for blood, Whose hands are full of evil plots, and their right hand full of bribes. As for me, I will live with integrity; redeem me, O Lord, and have pity on me. My foot stands on level ground; in the full assembly I will bless the Lord.

New Testament

Reader A reading of Hebrews chapter 1, verses 1 through 4 and chapter 2, verses 5 through 12.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this

reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Mark 10. 2-16

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

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

Celebrant Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

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, 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!

Prayers of the People: The Way of Love

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

All Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.

Reader 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 the age to come; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All AMEN!

Reader 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 the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People **AMEN!**

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their birthdays.

All **O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN!**

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their anniversaries.

All **O God, you teach us through the example of Jesus that love is the fulfilment of the Law; help those couples celebrating anniversaries to persevere in love, to grow in mutual understanding, and to deepen their trust in each other; that in wisdom, patience and courage, their life together may be a source of happiness to all with whom they share it. AMEN!**

Celebrant To all of you celebrating milestones: May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you to guide and protect you and all those you love, today and always!

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.

♪ All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,
 lift up your voices, let us sing: Alleluia, alleluia!
 Bright burning sun with golden beams, pale silver moon that gently gleams:
 Sing praises, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 Swift flowing water, pure and clear,
 make music for your Lord to hear: Alleluia, alleluia!
 Fire so intense and fiercely bright, you give to us both warmth and light:
 Sing praises, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 Dear mother earth, you day by day
 unfold your blessings on our way: Alleluia, alleluia!
 All flow'rs and fruits that in you grow, let them God's glory also show:
 Sing praises, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 Let all things their Creator bless,
 and worship God in humbleness: Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise, God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
 Sing praises, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Words: Francis of Assisi, c 1225; tr WH Draper, 1926. Tune: *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*, 1623.

Offering Our Gifts

Celebrant Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the church mail slot, or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate. We are grateful for your continued financial support of our ministry and mission.

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.

People In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. AMEN!

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!

♪ Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

Lord, make us servants of your peace: where there is hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we make one.

Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.

Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek to be consoled, but to console, nor look to understanding hearts, but look for hearts to understand.

May we not look for love's return, but seek to love unselfishly, for in our giving we receive, and in forgiving are forgiven.

Dying, we live, and are reborn, through death's dark night to endless day: Lord, make us servants of your peace, to wake at last in heaven's light.

Words: James Quinn, based on prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi. Tune: *DICKINSON COLLEGE*

Sending

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

People 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.