



## Worship with Communion 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Season of Creation, week 3

VIDEO: View & interact on any device live at 10AM on September 27

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

Amma Diane

### ♪ **At the Dawn of Your Creation**

At the dawn of your creation, God, you spoke, "Let there be light!"

You divided earth from heaven, you created day and night.

You made sunbeams dance with shadows, you created energy!

Peaceful evenings, bright tomorrows, all began with "Let there be..."

By your word, you formed creation: dry land, water, ocean breeze.

Soon there burst forth vegetation — plants with fruit, majestic trees.

Rain and snow and changing seasons, creatures filling land and sea —

God, your very good creation all began with "Let there be..."

When you made us as your children, sending us throughout your lands,

You commanded, "Have dominion — care for earth; it's in your hands."

Yet we hurt this world you've given; we harm earth and sky and sea.

We forget it's your creation — you, who once said "Let there be..."

At this joyful celebration, may we hear your word anew: \*

May we care for your creation, knowing it's a trust from you.

Just as daily there's a dawning, bringing light to all we see,

So we daily hear your calling — you, who once said, "Let there be..."

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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: Jubilee**

*Celebrant* This year, the global reach of the novel coronavirus revealed our shared human nature and the inter-connectivity of our economies, political structures, health care systems, food production chains, energy, and transportation systems in devastating ways. The pandemic also demonstrated that the entire web is rooted in the Earth and limited by the Earth's capacity to sustain our economic and ecological demands. The unjust effects of climate change are a consequence of our inability to find a sustainable balance of this web. The scriptures begin with God's affirmation that all of creation is "very good." As caretakers of God's creation, humans are called to protect and nurture its goodness, especially relating to the sustainability of ecological, economic, social, and political systems. A just balance between these aspects of life must be maintained for the health of the Earth and all creatures.

According to this wisdom, the Law of Moses included provisions for the Sabbath. On the seventh day of each week, God's people were free from the need to produce or consume. The rest was extended to animals and the land itself, honoring the Creator by allowing creation to rest. Following the seventh, seventh (49<sup>th</sup> year), God's people were to dedicate a year to this ecological, social, and economic restorative justice. A Jubilee for the Earth.

Moving forward, can we imagine new just and sustainable ways of living that give the Earth the rest it requires? Ways that satisfy everyone with enough? Ways that restore habitats and renew biological diversity? May Holy Wisdom inspire our imagination. Let us pray.

*All*

**Creator of Life: At your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit. The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas, and forests sustained life. The eyes of all looked to you to satisfy the needs of every living thing. And throughout time the Earth has sustained life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time.**

In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath; a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all that you have given; a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption; a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demands for growth, and our never-ending cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.

We ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation. In the name of Jesus Christ, who came to proclaim good news to all creation. AMEN!

## **First Lesson**

Exodus 17.1-7

*Reader 1*

A reading of Exodus 17. 1-7.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the

sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

*Reader 1* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Unison Reading

Psalm 78. 1-4 & 12-16

*Reader 1* Let us read in unison Psalm 78. 1-4 & 12-16.

*All* Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times. That which we have heard and known, and what our ancestors have told us, we will not hide from their children. We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, who has done wonderful works.

God worked marvels in the sight of their ancestors, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan, splitting open the sea and letting them pass through, making the waters stand up like walls; leading them with a cloud by day, and all the night through with the glow of fire; splitting hard rocks in the wilderness, and giving them drink as from the great deep; bringing streams out of the cliff, and the waters gushing out like rivers.

## Gospel

Matthew 21. 23-32

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

*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 the 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.

## ♪ **Creator God, You Made the Earth**

Creator God, you made the earth, a gift beyond comparing!  
 You called it good, you gave it worth, you placed it in our caring.  
 You gave your gift of Sabbath rest, your pattern for creation.  
 You give us times to heal, to bless, to join in celebration.  
 You give us Christ, who reconciled the things of earth and heaven.  
 In him, you call each one your child! What wondrous love you've given!  
 Because we've turned away from you, your world still needs your healing.  
 Creation longs to be made new through Christ, your love revealing.  
 God, by your Spirit, may we be communities of caring,  
 That as we're healed, your world may see the hope that we are sharing.

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## **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!

♪ **If My People** *You may sing the first part or the echoed part*

If my people (If my people) **called by my name** (called by my name)

turn from evil (turn from evil) **and seek my face.** (and seek my face.)

If my people (If my people) **called by my name** (called by my name)

turn from evil (turn from evil) **and seek my face.** (and seek my face.)

I will hear, (I will hear,) **I'll forgive,** (I'll forgive,)

I will heal, (I will heal,) **will heal their land.** (will heal their land.)

I will hear, (I will hear,) **I'll forgive,** (I'll forgive,) **I will heal, I will heal their land.**

We, your people (We, your people) **called by your name** (called by your name)

turn from evil (turn from evil) **and seek your face.** (and seek your face.)

We, your people (We, your people) **called by your name** (called by your name)

turn from evil (turn from evil) **and seek your face.** (and seek your face.)

Hear our cry, (Hear our cry,) **Lord, forgive,** (Lord, forgive,)

come and heal, (come and heal,) **come heal our land.** (come heal our land.)

Hear our cry, (Hear our cry,) **Lord, forgive,** (Lord, forgive,) **come and heal, come and heal our land.**

Words: From 2 Chronicles 7:14. Music: Eddie Smith ©1992 Maranatha! Music (adm The Copyright Co)

## **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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