



# Worship with Communion

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost – Season of Creation, week 3

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 10AM on September 26, 2021

[go.mysjec.com/facebook](https://go.mysjec.com/facebook) or [go.mysjec.com/youtube](https://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!**

## ♪ 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..."

Text: © 2008 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Tune: *HYMN TO JOY*, Ludwig van Beethoven 1824.

*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. Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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*.

## A Lament for the Earth

*Celebrant* “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs”. With these words, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her... This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in childbirth” (*Romans 8.22*). And so we confess...

Jesus Christ could not find a place to lay his head. Because of our will to dominate, millions of our human family are displaced from their homes. Many lack access to clean water, sanitation and dignified places for personal hygiene.

*People* **Have mercy on us, for the sake of the Earth and all that is in it.**

*Celebrant* Foxes of the field and birds of the air have a place to call home. Because we misuse the land, the soil, water and air, habitats are desecrated, and millions of species no longer have a home.

*People* **Have mercy on us, for the sake of the Earth and all that is in it.**

*Celebrant* Your promise was to be a blessing for all the peoples of the Earth. But when we exploit the gifts of creation, Indigenous lands are devastated and those who live close to the Earth lose their ways of life.

*People* **Have mercy on us, for the sake of the Earth and all that is in it.**

*Celebrant* The mustard seed is great because it provides shelter for many. But we seek security for ourselves, instead of mutual care and faithful hospitality towards our co-creatures.

*People* **Have mercy on us, for the sake of the Earth and all that is in it.**

*Celebrant* Let us remember “that we ourselves are dust of the earth”; our very bodies are made of her elements, we breathe her sacred air and we receive life and refreshment from her sacred waters. May we hear it as a promise and a calling.

*People* Turn us O God, from our desire to unroot ourselves from our home in the garden, and from our will to dominate your Earth. Call us again, to till and to keep. Gather us into the power of just relationships that heal and sustain. Enlighten us by your Spirit that renews the face of your Earth and safeguards a home for all. AMEN!

## **First Lesson**

*Reader* A reading of Proverbs chapter 31, verses 10 through 31.

A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson. She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

*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 1.

*All* Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on his law day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper. It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

## New Testament

*Reader* A reading of James chapter 3, verse 13 through chapter 4, verse 3 and verses 7 through 8.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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

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

## **Gospel**

Mark 9. 30-37

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

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

*Celebrant* Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

*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.

## ♪ **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, 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](http://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!

## ♪ 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 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

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