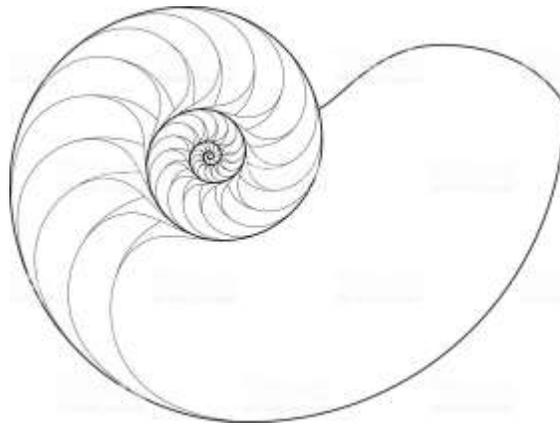


**Church of the Messiah
Woods Hole, Massachusetts**

A Liturgy of Morning Prayer

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
in the Season of Creation
September 13, 2020**



Prelude

“Präludium”

by Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome

Opening Hymn 390

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

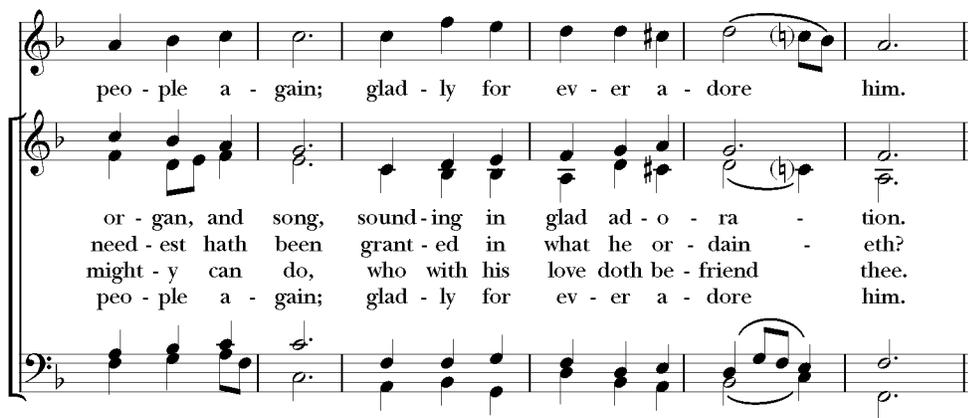
Lobe den Herren

Descant

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -
 1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with
 a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his
 health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.
 or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

Opening Sentences

We gather in the name of the Triune God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures.

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wonderous Light of all mysteries known and unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

- Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century.

A Song of Creation

I The Cosmic Order

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, *
 O heavens and all waters above the heavens.
 Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, *
 praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, *
 all winds and fire and heat.
 Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, *
 praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, *
 drops of dew and flakes of snow.
 Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, *
 praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, *
 O shining light and enfolding dark.
 Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, *
 praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

II The Earth and its Creatures

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,
and all that grows upon the earth, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

- *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) pp. 88-89

Psalm 114

- 1 Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

First Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

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

Second Reading

"You do not have to be good"

Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting —
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

- *Mary Oliver, quoted in Earth Prayers. Edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elisa Amidon. New York: Harper Collins. 1991.*

Third Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

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.”

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

Profession of faith

Leader We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

All In God we are breathing, in God we are living, in God we share the life of all creation.

Leader We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and humanity.

All In Christ God is breathing, in Christ God is living, through Christ we are reconciled.

Leader We belong to the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

All In the Spirit love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living, the breath of God always moves us.

Leader We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

All In God we are all made, in Christ we are all saved, in the Spirit we are all united.

- *written Per Harling, adapted by DMW*

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer *(said by all – with microphones muted)*

Collect for the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Morning

God,
you are our beginning and you will be our end;
we are made in your image and likeness.
We praise and thank you for this day.
This is the day on which you created light
and saw that it was good.
This is the day in whose early morning light
we discovered the tomb was empty,
and encountered Christ, the world's true light.
This is the day you have made;
we shall rejoice and be glad in it. *Amen.*

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 106

Prayer for the Absent

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We pray that you graciously behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) p. 830

For children and parents as the school year begins

God, another school year is now underway – and with it comes excitement, nervousness and anticipation of what will be learned and discovered and how.

This year, this beginning feels different. For children who are returning to in-person learning, the reality that closeness to friends, classmates and teachers is being experienced and expressed in new ways - always at a safe distance.

For teachers who are teaching in person and/or online, the weight of responsibility and paying close attention takes on new meaning as the role of creativity takes shape.

For children who are learning at home – either alone or with the help and companionship of a parent or grandparent, they are discovering the need to focus and form new ideas in the midst of the familiar.

For parents and grandparents now home schooling or teaching their children may have insight, humor, a sense of balance and patience as they try to navigate what feels like a new way to be family.

We ask for your love and companionship for each of these people – and those who are still denied an education and/or the resources to read and study as they wish here in this commonwealth, country or global community.

Be with each of them and each of us that we may continue to learn to live fully and faithfully in an uncertain time. May we be surrounded by your love and companionship even as we rest in your peace now and always. Amen.

- *written by The Rev. Deborah Warner*

For those who are sick

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. *Amen.*

- *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) p. 461

Concluding Collect

God of peace,
let us your people know,
that at the heart of turbulence
there is an inner calm that comes
from faith in you.
Keep us from being content with things as they are,
that from this central peace
there may come a creative compassion,
a thirst for justice,
and a willingness to give of ourselves
in the spirit of Christ.
Amen.

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 464

Concluding Sentences

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia

Sermon

The Rev. Deborah Warner

Offertory Sentences

Offertory Music

“*Ubi caritas*”

by Jacques Berthier

Prayers for the Season of Creation

Leader We pray in thanksgiving for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called till and keep this garden.

People enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

Leader All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one, Creative Spirit,

People enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

Leader God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the Earth. Creative Spirit,

People enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

Leader Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. Creative Spirit,

People enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

Leader In the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic, hear our cries for compassion, and heal our world and all creatures. Inspire our hearts with a holy imagination, to rise, freed from the demands to produce and consume to imagine a just, sustainable way of living, where all have enough, and all may be restored.

People enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

Leader During this Season of Creation, 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 the ground.

People enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

Leader We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Creative Spirit

People enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Amen.

- *Adapted for "A Prayer for the Earth" by Pope Francis, Laudato Si.*

Closing Prayer of Offering

Almighty God;
you give seed for us to sow,
and bread for us to eat;
make us thankful for what we have received;
make us rich to do those generous things
which supply your people's needs;
so all the world may give you thanks and glory.

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book (1988) p. 141*

A Prayer for Our Future

O God, Giver of all good gifts, we thank You for the grace of serving You by serving our neighbors. May our hearts be kind and generous. May our ministry be rooted in love and bold in imagination. Having transformed the Parish and Community Center, may our lives and the lives of all who join us, continue to be renewed by Your love and the power of the Spirit. *Amen.*

Benediction

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives
To reflect God's glory in creation.

- *Adapted from the CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme by DMW*

Greeting

Hymn 690

“Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”

Cwm Rhondda



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,



hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,



bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to



more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Postlude

“A Modal Menuet”

by Eric H. Thiman

Note on today's service: Unless otherwise cited, the following parts of our service are taken from Jubilee for the Earth: 2020 Celebration Guide for Season of Creation published by the World Council of Churches in 2020. These parts are: Opening Sentences, Profession of Faith, Prayers for the Season of Creation and the Benediction. The “Season of Creation” runs from September 6th – October 4th 2020

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CCLI # 11052833*

Liturgical Leaders

Officiant

Jean Taft

Preacher

The Rev. Deborah Warner

Organist

Brittany Lord

Musicians and Readers

Dicky Allison, Helen Gordon

Technology

Dicky Allison, Helen Gordon

Altar Guild

Tammy Amon

Flowers

**Lovingly offered by
Parishioners**

Church of the Messiah

2020 Vestry

The Rev. Deborah M. Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Jean Taft	<i>Warden</i>
Nancy Rea	<i>Warden</i>
Winifred Dick	<i>Clerk</i>
John Nolan	<i>Treasurer</i>

Susan Morse	2021	Mary Fran Buckley	2021
Don Aukamp	2022	Paul Graney	2022
Charles Mann	2023	Peg Nicholson	2023

Deanery Representatives

Dicky Allison	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Helen Gordon	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Carol Casey	Deanery Representative

Staff

The Rev. Deborah Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Brittany Lord	<i>Music Director, Organist</i>
Nancy McDonald	<i>Parish Administrator</i>
Jennifer Kelly	<i>Bookkeeper & Financial Recorder</i>
Bruce Bagley	<i>Church Sexton</i>
Doug Amon	<i>Cemetery Sexton</i>
Jessica Morrison	<i>Webmaster</i>

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