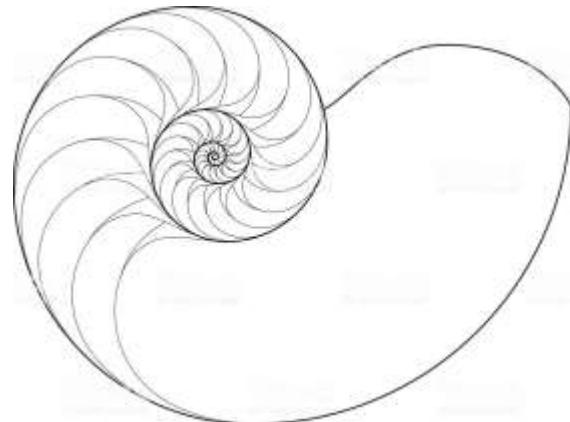


**Church of the Messiah
Woods Hole, Massachusetts**

A Liturgy of Morning Prayer

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
in the Season of Creation
September 27, 2020**



Prelude

“Slow’ from Voluntary V”

by John Stanley

Welcome

Opening Hymn 686 “Come, thou fount of every blessing” Nettleton

1. Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
2. Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
3. Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly
heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a
ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:
Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to
flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and
on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
dan - ger, in - ter - posed for his pre - cious blood.
seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

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.

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

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

12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.

14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

First Reading

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?”

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

Second Reading

“Thanksgiving over the Water”

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water.
Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage
in Egypt into the land of promise.

In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us, through his death and resurrection,
from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, God, for the water of Baptism.
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.
By it we share in his resurrection.
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

May we live in such a way as to safeguard the waters of this earth, our island home,
that no creature may thirst for lack of water.

- *Adapted by DMW from the Book of Common
Prayer (1979), “Baptismal Service” p. 306*

Third Reading

Matthew 21:23-32

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.”

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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 now 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 are 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

For the victims of the fires on the West Coast

Almighty God, who alone created the beauty and the bounty of our land, who cares and loves everyone—from the workers in the field to the owners of the field—be with your people in now in the midst of the fires.

Bring an end to the loss of lives and the loss of homes. Bring aid to the firefighters who, by serving others, serve you. Give them courage and strength to persevere, to find the ability in their bodies and souls to keep working for another day or hour or minute. Ease the winds that spread the flames and disperse the smoke that covers the sky.

Bring hope to the displaced and the homeless. Keep alive inside their minds and hearts memories, the physical traces of which may be lost. Remind us that you are the promise of a new tomorrow. Bring rest and peace to those who have been lost, and let their souls find eternal life with you. Be a comfort and relief to the grieving.

As cities and towns are rebuilt, may no one be left behind. May all be remembered as you remember all. As you led the Hebrew people through the desert, lead your people now, God. From immigrants who face unique obstacles to farmworkers who continue to labor in the fields despite dangerous smoke to families who have lost loved ones to those who have lost everything they have built over a lifetime, may all be included and cared for as we rebuild, guided by your Spirit. May our hearts never turn away from you or from each other in our time of need. May we see you in the faces of those in need. May we see your work in the hands of all those who reach out to help and in the green—the life!—that will soon return, by your hand, to our land. Amen.

*Antonio De Loera-Brust blog, quoted in
www.americanmagazine.org 10/20/2017*

For Sound Government

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to all nations of the earth.

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States and Commonwealths, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in our Country States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts and especially the Supreme Court give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept our responsibilities to our fellow citizens and all who live here, that we may elect trustworthy leader who make wise decisions for the well-being of all living in this country; so we may serve you faithfully in this generation and generations all as a means of honoring your holy Name.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

- *Adapted by DMW from the Book of Common Prayer (1979) pp.821-822*

Silent Prayer

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

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 522

“Glorious things of thee are spoken” (vs. 1-2, 4)

Austria

Descant

4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty
 2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -
 3 Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and
 4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

deem - er's blood! Whom their souls re -

of our God; he whose word can - not be
 ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy sons and
 fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a
 deem - er's blood! Je - sus, whom their souls re -

ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;
 daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.
 cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

'Tis his love his peo - ple raise o - ver
 on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
 Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by night, and
 'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to

 self to reign and as priests, his
 sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
 thirst as - suage? Grace which, like the Lord, the
 shade by day, safe they feed up - on the
 reign as kings: and as priests, his sol - emn

 sol - emn prais - es each an of - fering brings.
 round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 giv - er nev - er fails from age to age.
 man - na which he gives them when they pray.
 prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

Postlude

“Allegro” from Voluntary V

by John Stanley

Dismissal

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

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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