

# *The Season of Creation*

*Sunday, September 24, 2023*



*"Calm Sea" by Gustave Courbet*

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

Yarmouth, ME

*Welcome to this year's Season of Creation! Each year, from the beginning of September through the beginning of October, Christians from around the world unite for this ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home.*

*The theme for the Season of Creation this year is "Let justice and peace flow" from the prophet Amos who cries out "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24). We, as the community of St. Bart's, are called to join the river of justice and peace along with our Christian siblings across the globe, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.*

### *Let us pray...*

Creator of All, from your communion of love, life sprung forth like a mighty river and the whole cosmos came into being. On this Earth of overflowing love, the Word was made flesh and went forth with the life-giving waters proclaiming peace and justice for all creation.

You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationship with each creature, but we failed to listen to the cries of the Earth and the cries of the most vulnerable. We broke with the flowing communion of love and sinned against you by not safeguarding the conditions for life.

We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats, we grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and livelihoods that have been displaced or perished, and we ache at the sight of an economy of death, war and violence that we have inflicted on ourselves and on the Earth.

Open our ears to your creative, reconciling, and sustaining Word that calls to us through the book of Scripture and the book of creation. Bless us once again with your life-giving waters so that the Creator Spirit may let justice and peace flow in our hearts and overflow into all creation.

Open our hearts to receive the living waters of God's justice and peace, and to share it with our suffering siblings, all creatures around us, and all creation.

Bless us to journey together with all people of good will so that the many streams of the living waters of God's justice and peace may become a mighty river all over the Earth.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prelude "Voluntary" by Henry Purcell

Welcome & Announcements

*Pal Covie*

Opening Hymn, #7

Christ whose glory fills the skies

*The Hymnal 1982*

Opening Words

*Celebrant* We gather in the name of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all creatures!

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Praise be to the Holy Trinity!

*People* **God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.**  
*(from Hildegard of Bingen)*

Thanksgiving for Baptism

*Celebrant* We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in these fonts, and for all water everywhere.

*Here members are invited to add their water offering to the fonts in the center of the sanctuary naming the local bodies of water which are the sources of our offerings.*

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love, O God. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

*People* **Amen.**

## Gloria, sung as a round

**Gloria, gloria (canon)**

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

### Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* May God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray,

O God, full of compassion, we commit and commend ourselves to you, in whom we live and move and have our being. Be the goal of our pilgrimage, and our rest by the way. Give us refuge from the turmoil of worldly distractions by the refreshment of your living water. Let our hearts, so often a sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

### The Lessons

#### First Lesson, Jonah 3:10-4:11

*Nancy Gunzelmann*

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a

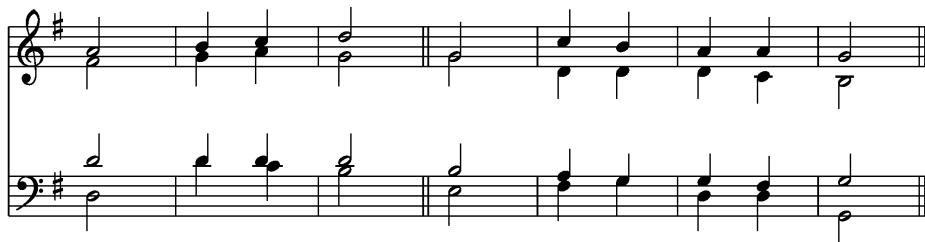
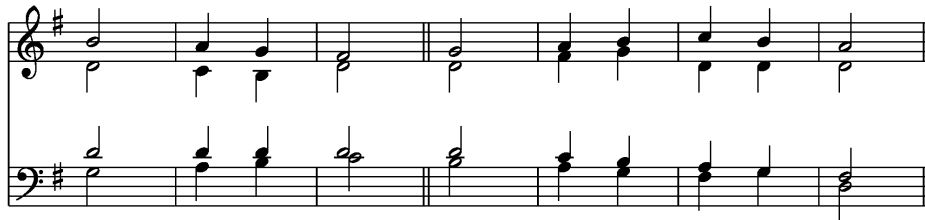
hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

*Lector* Holy wisdom, holy word.

*People* Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1-13 (sung)

William Crotch  
(1775–1847)



1. Bless the Lord, ' O my ' soul, \*  
and all that is within me, ' bless his ' holy ' Name.
2. Bless the Lord, ' O my ' soul, \*  
and for- ' get not ' all his ' benefits.
3. He forgives ' all your ' sins \*  
and ' heals all ' your in- ' firmities;
4. He redeems your life ' from the ' grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and ' loving ' kind- ' ness;
5. He satisfies you ' with good ' things, \*  
and your ' youth is re- ' newed like an ' eagle's.
6. The Lord ' executes ' righteousness \*  
and judgment for ' all who ' are op- ' pressed.
7. He made his ways ' known to ' Moses \*  
and his ' works to the ' children of ' Israel.
8. The Lord is full of com- ' passion and ' mercy, \*  
slow to ' anger and ' of great ' kindness.
9. He will not ' always ac- ' cuse us, \*  
nor will he ' keep his ' anger for- ' ever.
10. He has not dealt with us ac- ' cording to our ' sins, \*  
nor rewarded us ac- ' cording ' to our ' wickedness.
11. For as the heavens are ' high above the ' earth, \*  
so is his mercy ' great upon ' those who ' fear him.
12. As far as the east is ' from the ' west, \*  
so far has he re- ' moved our ' sins from ' us.
13. As do parents ' care for their ' children, \*  
so does the Lord ' care for ' those who ' fear him.

**Second Lesson**

“Passamaquoddy Girl” by Mary Ellen Socobasin

*Nancy Gunzelmann*

A proud Indian girl grows up on the reservation  
Takes a walk to the white community  
She knew nothing of “them”  
She was greeted with laughter  
She was treated unfairly  
For she did nothing to “them.”  
She was called a redskin

She looked upon herself saw only brown skin  
She wonders what is wrong with “them.”  
She is called an Apache with a sneer.  
She says, I am Passamaquoddy eyes full of tears.  
She asks herself what have I done to “them.”  
They make funny noises imitating her language.  
She says to “them” I know two languages.  
Doesn’t that mean anything to you.  
But to “them,” they only understood one language.

The language of hate.

She asks herself what have I done to “them.”  
They don’t know her. Still they condemn.  
She committed no crime still they prosecute  
Stones of injustice are thrown at her  
Her heart starts to fill with bitterness.  
She proclaims her hate for “them.”  
Years of ignorance go by.  
Then she realized what was happening.  
She was getting to be just like “them.”  
She says I am not one of “them.”  
I will not condemn all of “them.”  
For I am Passamaquoddy  
A proud Indian woman.

*Lector*            Holy wisdom, holy word.

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

**Gospel, John 3:1-17**

*The Rev. Anne C. Fowler*

*Celebrant*     The holy gospel according to John  
*People*         **Glory to you, O God.**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

*Celebrant*     The gospel of our Lord.  
*People*         **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*The Rev. Anne C. Fowler*

**Hymn, #184**

Blessed Assurance  
(see next page)

*Lift Every Voice and Sing II*

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! — O what a  
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, — Vi - sions of  
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, — I in my

1. fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! — Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of  
 2. rap - ture now burst on my sight; — An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -  
 3. sav - ior am hap - py and blest; — Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

1. God, — Born of His spir - it, washed in His blood. —  
 2. bove — Ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. —  
 3. bove, — Filled with His good - ness, lost in His love. —

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, — Prais - ing my

sav - ior all the day long; — This is my sto - ry, this is my

song, — Prais - ing my sav - ior all the day long. —



## Affirmation of Faith

*Celebrant*

Let us declare our faith in God.

*People*

**We believe in God, who creates all things,  
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,  
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.  
We believe in God as the source of all life,  
who baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,  
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,  
who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.  
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,  
who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,  
who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.  
We believe in everlasting life in God.  
And we believe in the hope that one day  
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.**

## Prayers of the People

*Lisa Fitzgibbons*

*Leader*

Loving God, even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she places her young near Your altar. You are attentive to all you have made. God, who listens to every living thing,

*People*

**Help us listen as you do.**

Loving God, help us provide refuge to every animal and plant with whom we live. Help us be attentive to all you have made. God, in whom all creation subsists,  
**Help us listen as you do.**

Loving God, when Jesus cried out and gave up his Spirit, the earth shook and the rocks split. You are known by the whole of creation that listens to you. God, to whom all creation responds,  
**Help us respond to you.**

Loving God, help us hear and know you just as the earth and rocks do. Help us to learn from the way in which we see creation recognize your glorious beauty. God, to whom all creation responds,  
**Help us respond to you.**

Loving God, you are present in your creation and seek to heal her wounds. You can be found walking in the garden. Open our eyes to see you, the gardener. God, who is present with your creation,  
**Help us be present too.**

Loving God, we often abandon your creation and cause its wounds. Help us to follow in your footsteps and learn to walk in the garden like you. God, who is present with your creation,

**Help us be present too.**

Loving God, we pray for those on our prayer list...

**Charles; Pat; Marcella; Tim; Sam; Matthew; Antonia; Al; Alex; Virginia & Jamil; Ed; Hannah; Mike; David; Sarah; Jenny & Matt; Rich, Nancy & Jonathan; Perry; Jim; Matt & Shannon; Elaine; Sasha; Paige; Anne & Richard; Courtney; Diane; Karl; Sudon; Aunt Niki; Ron; Nathaniel; Terry; Will; Tom & Laurel; Nancy A.; Dennis; Robert & Mary; Karen; Marshall; Samantha; John; Dianne; Meghan; and Tommie.**

And, we pray for those we name before you now either aloud or silently (*Silence is kept for intercessions*). God, who is the great healer,

**Help us to be agents of your healing too.**

Loving God, you created us from the earth and to the earth we all shall return. We pray for those who have died, especially Mary O'Brien, niece of Beth LaSalle, and those we name before you now either aloud or silently (*Silence is kept for intercessions*). God, who receives us in love,

**Help us to grieve in love too.**

Loving God, who hears every voice, knows each cry of injustice, and is attentive to the suffering of the earth: teach us to listen. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may listen to the world you have created and not close ourselves off from it. Reveal to us the ways in which we have failed to hear your voice in how we treat the earth. God, who listens to every living thing,

**Help us to listen as you do. Amen.**

## **Confession**

*Celebrant* Trusting in the everlasting mercy of God, and in the vulnerability and sacredness of this gathered community, let us confess our sin against God and God's creation.

*A brief silence is kept for self-reflection*

*Celebrant* Holy God,  
*People* **We confess to you our ignorance to your presence in creation and our disregard for the creatures of this planet and their habitats. Our human hearts are set on personal gain and material wealth, and our drive for more has caused great harm.**

Forgive us our sins against your beloved creation  
and empower us to journey humbly with you and with one another.  
Help us to reconnect with your web of creation  
and lead us to the community you envision for us,  
the creatures of your beloved Planet Earth. Amen.

*During this time of reflection we listen for the cries of creation. You are invited to visit one of the fonts to write a sin against creation (personal or collective) on a slip of paper and then place it in the water and watch it dissolve. As the waters of baptism liberate us from being defined by sin and death, we give thanks for the resilience of nature to recover and wash away many of our sins over time. We pray for God's forgiveness and revelation to call us back into right relationship with all of God's creation.*

### **Absolution**

*Celebrant* God our Creator is merciful, and forgives our sins, for the sake of the one who became flesh and dwelt among us, Jesus Christ our Savior. God gives us new hearts to bear Christ's love to all who inhabit the earth, and to advocate for their protection and well-being.

*People* **Amen**

### **Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with those around them.*

### **Offertory Sentence**

*Celebrant* In gratitude for the abundance of blessings God has bestowed on us, let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to our God.

### **Offering**

*The bread and wine are brought forward as the ushers collect our financial offerings.*

### **Anthem**

"Lord, We Come to Ask Your Healing" (traditional)

*Lord, we come to ask your healing,  
teach us of love;  
all unspoken shame revealing, teach us of love. Take our selfish thoughts and  
actions,  
petty feuds, divisive factions,  
hear us now to you appealing,  
teach us of love.*

*Soothe away our pain and sorrow, hold us in love;  
Grace we cannot buy or borrow, hold us in love.  
Though we see but dark and danger, though we spurn both friend and stranger,  
Though we often dread tomorrow,  
hold us in love  
Help us live for one another,  
bind us in love;  
Stranger, neighbour, father, mother – bind us in love.  
All are equal at your table, through your spirit make us able to embrace as sister,  
brother, Bind us in love.*

*The offering is brought forward.*

### **Offertory Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray,  
*People* **Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant* God be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

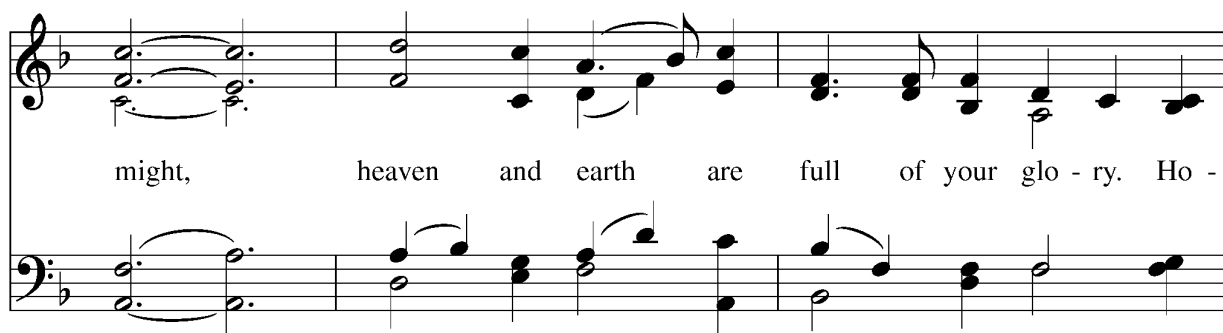
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to our God.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Holy One.  
*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

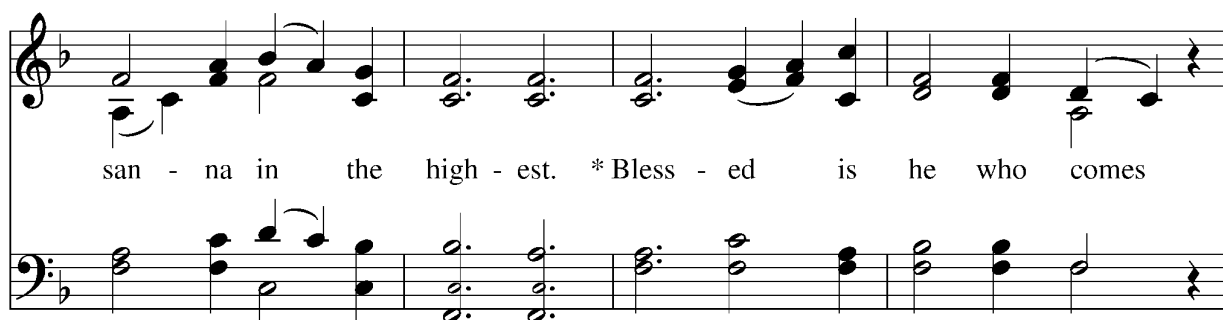
*Celebrant* It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who entered the heart of the Earth, opening the way for humanity to be restored with all Creation to your divine goodness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on Earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



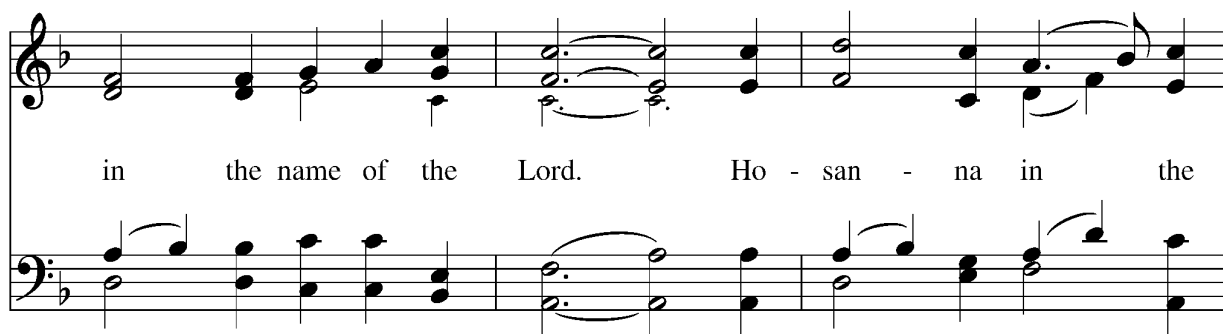
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



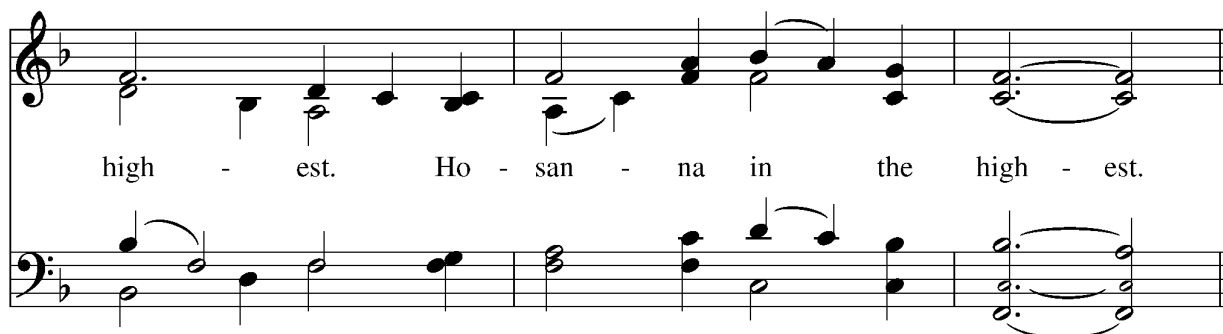
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. \* Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

*Celebrant*

Sculptor of the Earth, we praise you for the way your fingers traced the rivers across the land and lifted up the mountains.

Painter of the landscapes, we praise you for how your brushstrokes bring color to our forests and vitality to our wilderness spaces.

Breath of life, we praise you for the gift of your wind that sustains our very living, and which brings all flora and fauna dancing into being.

In great joy you sent to the canvas of the cosmos your Son, Jesus Christ, to bring restoration and healing to all that is broken.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

By your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and wine that they may be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Bless us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; weaving our stories into the eternal web of your wisdom that, at the last, we may join with all your saints in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

O Holy God, reveal the Word made flesh through the mending of your watersheds and the healing of your vernal pools, in the restoration of the ocean depths and the vitality of valley streams. Renew our awareness of our place in your great creation. Send us with a yearning hunger to advocate for a healthier planet.

All glory is yours, blessed Trinity, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant*

We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us,

*People* Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the people of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope  
and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever.  
Amen.

#### Fraction

*Celebrant* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ  
*People* We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

#### Invitation

*Celebrant* Come, for all is now ready. The gifts of God for the people of God.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

#### Holy Communion

*Everyone is welcome to receive communion at St. Bart's! The ushers will invite you to come forward through the center aisle, individuals and families are invited to stand along the rounded edge of the chancel to receive the bread, hands facing upward for bread with gluten, hands facing down will indicate you'd like gluten free bread. The Chalice Bearers will follow the Priest with the chalice of wine. You are invited to sip from the cup but not to dip. If you would prefer not to sip from the cup, you may place your hands across your chest to receive the blessing of the words. If you would prefer to receive neither the bread nor the wine but would like to come forward for a blessing, please come forward as described above and simply cross your arms at your chest and the Priest will offer a blessing. Hand sanitizer is available in the aisle. Please use the side aisles to return to your seat once you have received.*

#### Music at Communion

489 The great Creator  
302 Father, we thank thee

*The Hymnal 1982*  
*The Hymnal 1982*

## Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray,

*People* We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Blessing

*Celebrant* May we be blessed to open our hearts to receive the living waters of God's justice and peace within us:

*People* Amen.

*Celebrant* May we be blessed to share the living waters of God's justice and peace with our suffering siblings and all God's creatures around us:

*People* Amen.

*Celebrant* May we be blessed to journey together with all people of good will so that our many streams of living water of God's justice and peace may become a mighty river all over the Earth:

*People* Amen.

*Celebrant* And may God bless us on this journey, + Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit Eternal.

*People* Amen.

## Closing Hymn, #347

Go forth for God

*The Hymnal 1982*

## Dismissal

*Deacon* Tend the earth, care for God's good creation;  
As you have received freely, so give freely.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## Postlude

"Allegretto" by Henry Purcell

*Many in our community choose to be seated during the Postlude to listen and give thanks for this musical offering. However, you do not have to remain seated but are invited to join us for coffee hour or depart as your schedule allows.*



## THE ORANGE CANDLE

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The Worship & Music Committee decided at their spring retreat to light the orange candle in remembrance of victims of gun violence each week as a prayerful vigil rather than lighting the candle only at the 5th Sunday Healing Services. The Worship & Music Committee hopes that by lighting this candle each week, our community will not allow itself to forget about the severity of this issue and of our need as a community to remember and to engage in meaningful change. For more information about the Orange Candle and the "Wear Orange" movement, visit <https://wearorange.org/>

## RESOURCES

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Opening Words & Blessing: Season of Creation Resource Guide

Thanksgiving for Baptism, Offertory Prayer: All Creation Sings © 2023 Augsburg Fortress

Gloria: Jacques Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France

Collect of the Day: Evangelical Lutheran Worship, "Protection Through Life"

Second Reading/Poem: Mary Ellen Socobasin, "Passamaquoddy Girl" from

<https://indigenoupeoplenet.wordpress.com/2017/01/30/passamaquoddy-literature/>

Affirmation of Faith: Gurukul Theological College, India / adapted by Keld B. Hansen 2009

Prayers of the People, Dismissal: Season of Creation Resource, Diocese of Western MA

Confession & Forgiveness: adapted from the Liturgy for Earth Week 2021 from Diocese of Maine

Great Thanksgiving & Eucharistic Prayer: The Northern Illinois Synod Creation Care Committee

The Lord's Prayer: The New Zealand Book of Prayer

Cover Image: "Calm Sea" by Gustave Courbet, Metropolitan Museum of Art

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Anne C. Fowler
<b>Music</b>	Dr. Christina Edelen
<b>Musicians</b>	The St. Bart's Choir
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	Lisa Fitzgibbons
<b>Nonvested Chalice Bearer</b>	John Perkins
<b>Lector</b>	Nancy Gunzelmann
<b>Ushers</b>	Jay & Basil Souder
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary Ann Hodsdon, Beth LaSalle
<b>Flower Arranger</b>	Chrystena Hahn
<b>A/V</b>	Peter Sillin
<b>Counters</b>	Pam Hobson, Pamela Trudo
<b>Lawn Care</b>	Peter Sillin
<b>VPOW</b>	Pal Covie
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Kathy Abernathy, Pam Hobson

## **Feast of St. Francis – Blessing of the Animals Service** **Sunday, 10/1 at 2 pm**

Please join us on Sunday, October 1st at 2 pm for a Blessing of the Animals Service in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

This abbreviated prayer service will include many elements of our typical Sunday morning service – like prayers and music! – and will focus on the wonderful bond between humans and animals. St. Francis believed that God was present in all created things, including animals! This service is celebrated in his memory and in gratitude for our kinship with God's creation.

Animals welcome! Dogs and cats on leash (or in carrying crates) are welcome to join us for this outdoor service along with hedgehogs, guinea pigs, hamsters, ferrets, fish, or other pets that can be easily transported and won't escape or cause harm to the other pets in attendance. If the weather is bad, we will hold the service inside; please bring animals who are OK being inside with other animals.

If you're not comfortable bringing your pet in-person or if you have a beloved pet who has died, you're welcome to bring a photo, collar, kerchief, toy, or other memento of your pet that can also be blessed and added to our table of remembrance.

A reminder that there is no Sunday morning service on October 1. Rather, members are invited to help hand out water to runners during the Maine Marathon. Please email Peter Sillin for more details on the St. Bart's water station ([sillin@gmail.com](mailto:sillin@gmail.com)).

## ST BART'S VISION STATEMENT

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St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Yarmouth, Maine is a place to explore and deepen one's faith through worship, music, education, and open dialogue to help each of us and our community faithfully navigate today's ever-changing world. We are an open, inclusive, creative, and welcoming community. Building on the vision of those who established St. Bart's 50 years ago, we continue to strengthen and grow our community by grounding our ministries in the love of Jesus Christ, telling our story joyfully, and caring for the needs of our congregation and the greater Yarmouth and surrounding communities. St. Bart's is a great landing place for those seeking a welcoming and inclusive faith experience.

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### **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME** *A Congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Maine*

<b>Priest-in-Charge:</b>	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
<b>Priest-in-Charge Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:amanda@stbartsyarmouth.org">amanda@stbartsyarmouth.org</a>
<b>Music Director:</b>	Dr. Christina Edelen
<b>Deacon:</b>	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
<b>Intern:</b>	Mary Curlew
<b>Sr. Warden:</b>	Michele Johns
<b>Jr. Warden:</b>	Laurie Hyndman
<b>Pastoral Care:</b>	Imelda Schaefer, Barbara Barhydt
<b>Pastoral Care Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org">pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org</a>
<b>Parish Administrator:</b>	Teri Coviello
<b>Office Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@stbartsyarmouth.org">admin@stbartsyarmouth.org</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tue-Thur, 9-3
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