

Season of Creation

To Hope and Act with Creation

Sep 8, 2024, 9:30 am

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth, ME

Prelude "Allegretto" (from *Athalia*), by G.F. Handel

Welcome & Announcements *Harriet Davis*

Opening Hymn, #416 For the beauty of the earth *The Hymnal 1982*

Opening Acclamation & Litany

Celebrant Blessed be the One who creates all things.
People **The Holy One's love is new every morning.**

Intern Eternal God, maker of the skies above,
lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people,
unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts,
People **you are present among us.**

Celebrant O hidden mystery,
sun behind all suns,
soul within all souls,
in all we touch, in all we meet,

People **you are present among us.**

Intern As bearers of your image,
we come to be reshaped;

People **dependent on your mercy,
we ask to be made new.**

Gloria, #S280



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly

King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant
People
Celebrant

The Creator be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts;
 for, as you always resist the powerful who oppress and
 dominate Creation, so you never forsake your creatures
 who live in harmony with nature's order; through Jesus

Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Children's Greeting & Message-- Blessing the Backpacks!

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

THE LESSONS

First Lesson, Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

John Perkins

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favour is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:
the Lord is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;
for the Lord pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's Creation.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146, sung



1. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, ' O my ' soul! *
I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God ' while I ' have my ' being.

4. Happy are they who have the God of Jacob ' for their ' help! *
whose hope is ' in the ' Lord their ' God;

5. Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and ' all that is ' in them; *
who ' keeps his ' promise for ' ever;

6. Who gives justice to those who ' are op- ' pressed; *
and ' food to ' those who ' hunger.

7. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the ' eyes of the ' blind; *
the Lord lifts up ' those who ' are bowed ' down;

8. The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord ' cares for the ' stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and the widow, but ' frustrates the ' way of the ' wicked.

9. The Lord shall ' reign for ' ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all gene- ' rations. ' Halle- ' lujah!

Poem "God's Grandeur" by Gerard Manley Hopkins

John Perkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Gospel Hymn, #405

All things bright and beautiful

The Hymnal 1982

Holy Gospel, Mark 7:24-37

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Celebrant The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, O God.**

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were

astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Hymn, #428

O All Ye Works of God, vs. 1-5

The Hymnal 1982

Affirmation of Faith

Intern Let us affirm our faith as we say together:

People

**We have faith
in one God,
one Source of all life,
one Ground of the whole Earth,
who created all things good.**

**And we have faith
in Christ,
in whom we have been shown
the special role of humanity
to bear God's likeness
in working and caring for Creation,
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,
in working with these powers
for the wellbeing of life on Earth.**

**And we have faith
in God's Spirit
who leads us to a meek, unselfish and compassionate lifestyle.
So that the Earth is inherited in peace,
her life is transformed for all creatures
and her bounty shared justly.
So be it. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Jan Burson

Leader

Eternal God:
We thank you for the beauty of the World:
for the teeming life of the seas,
the flight of birds,
and the diversity of animal life.
Grant us grace to treat Creation with respect and care;
to protect endangered species,
to preserve the variety of habitats,
and to honor the delicate balance of nature.

People

hear our prayer.

We thank you for the wealth
of blessings from land and sea;
for the power of wind, and the warmth of sun.
We pray for the nations of the earth,
give us the will to cherish this planet
and to use its resources sustainably for the welfare of all.

God of justice:
hear our prayer.

We pray for the faithful witness of the Church,
called to reconcile and heal:
For this parish, our Rector, Amanda, and our Bishop, Thomas.
For our siblings in the Anglican Communion, especially The Church of the Province
of Myanmar (Burma)
And, for our siblings in the Diocese of Maine, especially Trinity, Portland, St.
Matthew, Lisbon Falls, and for those who advocate for the poor and the oppressed
God of grace:
hear our prayer.

We pray for the human family.
We exult in our diversity and giftedness,
we repent of our sins, divisions and violence.
By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us.
As every human being is known and loved by you,
may we care for one another with love and respect.
We pray for those you have commended to our care and who are listed on our St.
Bart's prayer list:

**Pat; Antonia; Al; Alex; Virginia & Jamil; Mike; David; Sarah; Jenny & Matt; Perry;
Jim; Elaine; Sasha; Paige; Diane; Karl; Nathaniel; Will; Nancy A.; Robert & Mary;
Karen; Debra; Haskell; Sue; Deb; Don; Matilda; Gregory; Michael Curry; Andy;
Sally; Ruth; Molly; Wes; Alison; Alice; Patrick, Rebecca; Jessie; Nova; Nate;
Richard; Isaac; Bill; Dave & Judy; Steven; Jennifer; Pamela; the family of Jason
West; and the family of Linda Sue Diers.**

And, we pray for those we name before you now, aloud or silently...
God of compassion:
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died
whom we entrust to your eternal love; especially Jason West, nephew of Kathy
Abernathy, and Linda Sue Diers, aunt of Jamie Michaud,
may we support and comfort those who mourn.
And, we remember those we name before you now, aloud or silently...
God of peace:
hear our prayer.

Celebrant

O merciful Creator,
your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature.

Gracious God,
the air sings with songs of glory,
water flashes silver with creation,
and the forests bloom with leaves for healing nations.
May your love fill our hearts and souls and minds,
that we may share your abundant grace with the world.

People **Amen**

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

A brief moment of silence for reflection

Celebrant Holy and merciful God,
People **we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.
We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.
Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as
you desire and intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Celebrant By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives you a new birth, and through the death
and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy
and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

People **Christ dwells among us and is one with us.**

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant "Yours, O God, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty.
For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O God, is the kingdom, and
you are exalted as head over all."
(1 Chronicles 29:11)

At this time we will collect our offering and share our "Awe-fferings" to the glory of God!

The bread and wine are brought forward at this time. The ushers then collect the offering and "Awe-fferings" are brought to the "Awe-ffering" table at the front of the church.

Offertory Anthem "God in Such Love for Us Lent Us This Planet"

God in such love for us lent us this planet, gave it a purpose in time and in space: small as a spark from the fire of creation, cradle of life and the home of our race.

Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty, life that sustains us in body and mind: plenty for all if we learn how to share it, riches undreamed-of to fathom and find.

Earth is the Lord's: it is ours to enjoy it, ours, as God's stewards, to farm and defend. From its pollution, misuse, and destruction, good Lord, deliver us, world without end!

by G.F. Handel, text by Fred Pratt Green

The ushers bring forward the offering.

Offertory Prayer

Intern 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 The Creator be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Creator.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to our loving God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of all. We praise you here where the Royal River meets Casco Bay, where city and farm, wilderness and industry are side by side. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again.

We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who spoke of cedars and listened to ravens.

Together with angels and ancestors, right whales and puffins, maple trees and lupine, eagles and oysters, we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honor song:

Sanctus, S129



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, hea - ven 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. _____

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant

We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told parables of famers and seeds, labor and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me."

Again, after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me."

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and this cup.

Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community.

Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation.

Bring us with all your saints to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar, which is both now and yet to come.

People All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray the prayer our Savior taught us, using the translation from our Season of Creation resources:

People **Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.
Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Fraction

Celebrant This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.
People **All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.**

The Invitation

Celebrant Come, for all is now ready. The gifts of God for the healing of Creation.
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 Bearer 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 "Lord, You Created a World Rich in Splendour"
(see next page)



*Lord, you created a world rich in splendour,
Touched with a beauty no words can express.
Able to move us to outbursts of wonder,
So much to thrill us and so much to bless.*

*Mountains and moorlands rise up to the heavens,
Rivers and streams tumble down to the sea,
Gifts that amaze in profusion surround us,
Each a reflection of your majesty.*

*Promise of springtime and harvest of autumn,
Cold winter mornings and warm summer days,
Season by season brings new joys to greet us,
Reason to thank you and reason to praise.*

*Deep in the forest, remote in the desert,
Down in the ocean or high in the air;
Life in abundance is ev'rywhere round us,
Proof of your power and sign of your care.*

*Lord, you have given a world rich in splendour,
Touched with a beauty that fills us with awe;
Hear now our praises, we bring you our worship,
With all creation we kneel and adore.*

Postcommunion Prayer

*Intern
People*

Let us pray.

Holy One,

**you feed us with bread from heaven
and the gifts of mother earth.**

**In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace
and you call us to friendship with one another.**

You have given us the gift of reconciliation.

**May we who have tasted that gift from you,
offer ourselves in peace and humility to one another.**

And may you always walk among us as friend. Amen

Blessing

Intern Let us join with the Earth and each other—to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air, to protect the animals, to treasure the trees, to gaze at the stars, to cherish the human community, to heal the Earth, to remember the children. Let us go forth to put our words into action.

Celebrant God’s blessing be with you,
Christ’s peace be with you
the Spirit’s outpouring be with you,
now and always.

People **Amen.**

Closing Hymn, #409

The spacious firmament on high

The Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

Intern Let us go forth into all Creation,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Overture to *Athalia*” by G.F. Handel

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Liturgy: Content for our Season of Creation liturgy is taken from “Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes 2024”

Affirmation of Faith: Adapted From India. Source: Sinfonia Oecumenica, Gütersloher Verlagshaus, Gütersloh 1998. Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2003

Absolution & Offertory Prayer: *All Creation Sings* © 2024 Augsburg Fortress

The values that guide our Worship & Music Committee’s process for creating our liturgies are inclusive, grounded, challenging, and creative. At St. Bart’s, we strive to use language and imagery that is both inclusive and expansive for God and humanity.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Music	Christina Edelen
Musicians	The St. Bart’s Choir
Chalice Bearer	Jan Burson
Nonvested Chalice Bearer	Mary Curlew
Lector	John Perkins
Ushers	Pam Hobson, Ann Donaghy
Altar Guild	Jamie Michaud, Paule French
Flower Arranger	Jay Souder
A/V	Joe Michaud
Bread Baker	John Perkins
Counters	Harriet Davis, Dennis Fitzgibbons
Lawn Care	Kevin Gillan
VPOW	Harriet Davis
Coffee Hour	Anne Berg, Carol Hayes