

Season of Creation

To Hope and Act with Creation

Sep 15, 2024, 9:30 am

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth, ME

Prelude "Andante," by Jean Titelouze

Welcome & Announcements *Pal Covie*

Opening Hymn, #580 God who stretched the spangled heavens *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.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Creator be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

First Lesson, Isaiah 50:4-9a

Linda Perkins

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens--
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

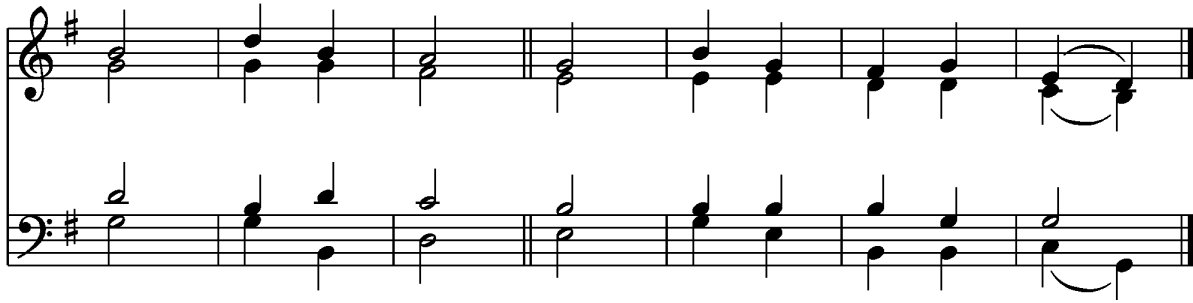
for the Lord pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116, 1-8, sung

Charles H. Lloyd
(1849–1919)



1. I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my ' suppli- ' cation, *
because he has inclined his ear to me, when- ' ever I ' called upon ' him.

2. The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the ' grave took ' hold of me; *
I ' came to ' grief and ' sorrow.

3. Then I called upon the ' name of the ' Lord: *
"O Lord, I ' pray you, ' save my ' life."

4. Gracious is the ' Lord and ' righteous; *
our ' God is ' full of com- ' passion.

5. The Lord watches ' over the ' innocent; *
I was brought very ' low, ' and he ' helped me.

6. Turn again to your ' rest, O my ' soul, *
for the ' Lord has ' treated you ' well.

7. For you have rescued my ' life from ' death, *
my eyes from ' tears, and my ' feet from ' stumbling.

8. I will walk in the ' presence of the ' Lord *
in the ' land ' of the ' living.

Poem "The Sweetness of Dogs" by Mary Oliver

Linda Perkins

What do you say, Percy? I am thinking
of sitting out on the sand to watch
the moon rise. It's full tonight.
So we go

and the moon rises, so beautiful it
makes me shudder, makes me think about
time and space, makes me take
measure of myself: one iota
pondering heaven. Thus we sit, myself
thinking how grateful I am for the moon's

perfect beauty and also, oh! How rich
it is to love the world. Percy, meanwhile,
leans against me and gazes up into
my face. As though I were just as wonderful
as the perfect moon.

Gospel Hymn, #675

Take up your cross

The Hymnal 1982

Holy Gospel, Mark 8:27-38

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

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

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Anthem

I See His Blood upon the Rose, by William C. Witherup

*I see his blood upon the rose
and in the stars the glory of his eyes,
his body gleams amid eternal snows,
his tears fall from the skies.*

*I see his face in every flower;
the thunder and the singing of the birds
are but his voice--and carved by his power
rocks are his written words.*

*All pathways by his feet are worn,
his strong heart stirs the ever-beating sea,
his crown of thorns is twined with every thorn,
his cross is every tree.*

(poem by Joseph Mary Plunkett)

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

Laurie Hyndman

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 God of life:

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 Nigeria.
And, for our siblings in the Diocese of Maine, especially Good Shepherd, Rangeley,
and for Christian Education and Formation programs
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; Andy; Sally; Ruth; Molly;
Wes; Alison; Alice; Patrick; Jessie; Nova; Nate; Richard; Isaac; Bill; Dave & Judy;
Steven; Jennifer; Pamela; the family of Jason West; the family of Linda Sue Diers;
Nina; and Jen.**
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" Altar at the front of the church.

Offertory Hymn

"O Lord, of Every Shining Constellation" (CP263)



O LORD of every shining constellation
that wheels in splendour through the midnight sky,
grant us your Spirit's true illumination
to read the secrets of your work on high.

- 2 You, Lord, have made the atom's hidden forces,
your laws its mighty energies fulfil;
teach us, to whom you give such rich resources,
in all we use, to serve your holy will.
- 3 O Life, awaking life in cell and tissue,
from flower to bird, from beast to brain of man;
help us to trace, from birth to final issue,
the sure unfolding of your age-long plan.
- 4 You, Lord, have stamped your image on your creatures,
and, though they mar that image, love them still;
lift up our eyes to Christ, that in his features
we may discern the beauty of your will.
- 5 Great Lord of nature, shaping and renewing,
you made us more than nature's sons to be;
you help us tread, with grace our souls enduring,
the road to life and immortality.

ALBERT F. BAYLY 1901-1984

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.

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

People

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 #254 You are the Christ *The Hymnal 1982*
#434 Nature with open volume

Postcommunion Prayer

Intern Let us pray.
People **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.**



1. God the sculp-tor of the moun-tains, God the mil-ler of the sand,
 2. God the nui-sance to the Pha-raoh, God the cleav-er of the sea,
 3. God the un-ex-pect-ed in-fant, God the calm, de-ter-mined youth,
 4. God the dress-er of the vine-yard, God the plant-er of the wheat,



God the jewel-er of the heav-ens, God the pot-ter of the land:
 God the pil-lar of the dark-ness, God the bea-con of the free:
 God the ta-ble turn-ing pro-phet, God the res-ur-rect-ed Truth:
 God the reap-er of the har-vest, God the source of all we eat:



you are womb of all cre - a - tion, we are form - less; shape us now.
 you are gate of all de - liv' - rance, we are sight - less; lead us now.
 you are pres-ent ev-ery mo - ment, we are search - ing; meet us now.
 you are host at ev-ery ta - ble, we are hun - gry; feed us now.

Dismissal

Intern

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

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Gloria Patri" by Jean Titelouze

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
Pastoral Intern	Mary Curlew
Musicians	The St. Bart's Choir
Chalice Bearer	Laurie Hyndman
Lector	Linda Perkins
Ushers	Nancy Gunzelmann, Ann Donaghy
Altar Guild	Jamie Michaud, Paule French
Flower Arranger	Susannah White
A/V	Pal Covie
Bread Baker	Barbara Barhydt
Counters	Tom Hyndman, Ann Donaghy
Lawn Care	John Duncan
VPOW	Pal Covie
Coffee Hour	Pam Hobson + Joanne & Jim Berg



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

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Intern:	Mary Curlew
Sr. Warden:	Laurie Hyndman
Jr. Warden:	Joe Michaud
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