

The Season of Creation

October 8, 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 "Preludium" by L-N Clerambault

Welcome & Announcements

Peter Sillin

Opening Hymn, #9

Not here for high and holy things

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,

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and help us to employ our gifts and talents in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Sovereign, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Children's Greeting

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

The Lessons

First Lesson, Amos 5:18-24

Michele Johns

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;

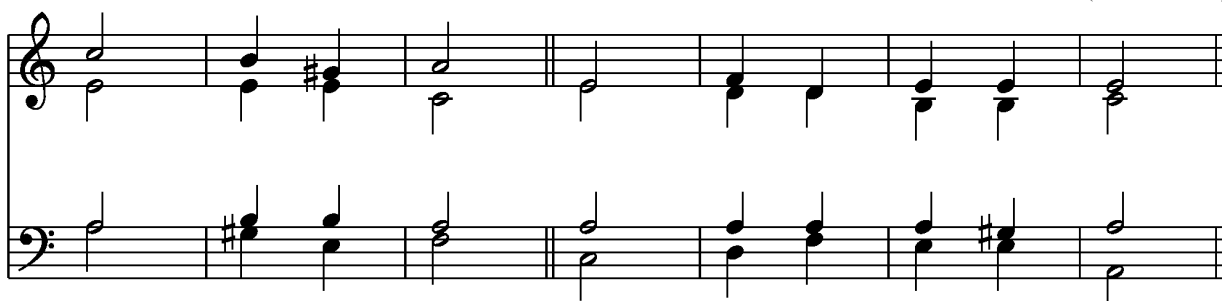
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Lector Holy wisdom, holy word.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 111 (sung)

Thomas Dupuis
(1733–1796)



1. Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with ' my whole ' heart*
in the assembly of the upright, ' in the ' congre-' gation.
2. Great are the ' deeds of the ' Lord! *
they are studied by ' all who de-' light in ' them.
3. His work is full of ' majesty and ' splendour, *
and his ' righteousness en-' dures for ' ever.
4. He makes his marvelous ' works to be re-' membered;*
the Lord is ' gracious and ' full of com-' passion.
5. He gives food to ' those who ' fear him;*
he is ever ' mindful ' of his ' covenant.
6. He has shown his people the ' power of his ' works*
in giving them the ' lands ' of the ' nations.
7. The works of his hands are ' faithfulness and ' justice;*
all ' his com-' mandments are ' sure.
8. They stand fast for ' ever and ' ever,*
because they are ' done in ' truth and ' equity.
9. He sent redemption to his people, he commanded his ' covenant for ' ever;*
holy and ' awesome ' is his ' name.
10. The fear of the Lord is the be-' ginning of ' wisdom;*
those who act accordingly have a good understanding,
his ' praise en-' dures for ' ever.

Second Lesson

“A Song of Hope” – by Oodegeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker)

Michele Johns

Look up, my people,
 The dawn is breaking
 The world is waking
 To a bright new day
 When none defame us
 No restriction tame us
 Nor colour shame us
 Nor sneer dismay.

Now brood no more
 On the years behind you
 The hope assigned you
 Shall the past replace
 When a juster justice
 Grown wise and stronger
 Points the bone no longer
 At a darker race.

So long we waited
 Bound and frustrated

Till hate be hated
 And caste deposed
 Now light shall guide us
 No goal denied us
 And all doors open
 That long were closed.

See plain the promise
 Dark freedom-lover!
 Night’s nearly over
 And though long the climb
 New rights will greet us
 New mateship meet us
 And joy complete us
 In our new Dream Time.

To our fathers’ fathers
 The pain, the sorrow;
 To our children’s children
 the glad tomorrow.

Lector Holy wisdom, holy word.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn, #596

Judge eternal

*The Hymnal 1982***Gospel, Matthew 25:31-45***The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer*

Deacon The holy gospel according to Matthew

People **Glory to you, O God.**

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you

clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

Deacon The gospel of our Lord.

People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Mary Curlew

Hymn, #585

Morning glory, starlit sky

The Hymnal 1982

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

Mary Curlew

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; 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; Dianne; Meghan; Tommie; Hutch; and Pat.

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 Rev. David Glendinning, who served as Interim Minister at St. Bart's, 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

“Rejoice in the Lord” by Thomas Weelkes

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous:

for it becometh well the just to be thankful.

Praise the Lord with harp: sing Psalms unto him.

For the word of the Lord is true: and all his works are faithful.

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:

Sanctus, #858

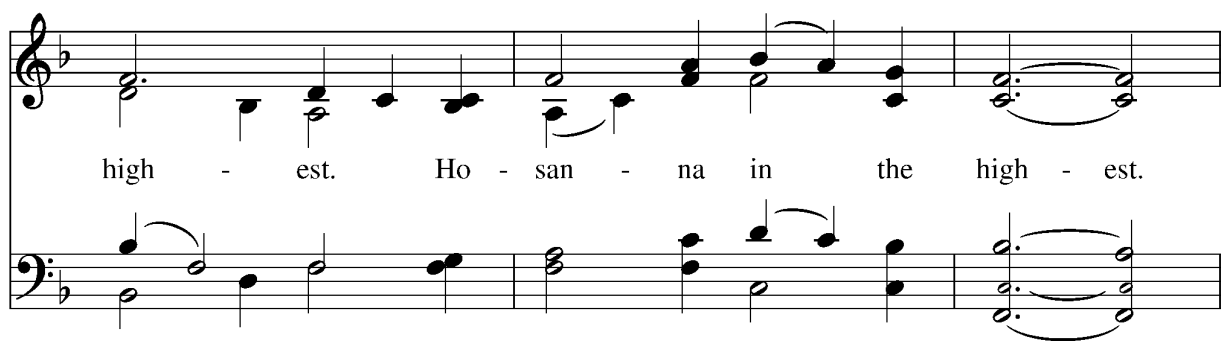
Wonder, Love, and Praise

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



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
People

We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us,
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
People

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Invitation

Celebrant
People

Come, for all is now ready. The gifts of God for the people of God.

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

#311 O saving victim

The Hymnal 1982

#303 Father, we thank thee

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

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (*see next page*)

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

"Overture" by G.F. Handel

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.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of man's mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

But we make his love too narrow
By false limits of our own;

and we magnify his strictness
With a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,
we should take him as his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Need Hearing Assistance?

We have earpieces that receive audio from the sound system. You can find them in charging stations in the entryway. Simply slip the earpiece over your ear, turn it on with the volume switch, and adjust volume. Please return to the charging stations when you are done.

THE ORANGE CANDLE

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

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: Book of Common Prayer, "For Social Justice"

Second Reading/Poem: "A Song of Hope" – by Oodegeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker) from 7 Impactful Poems by Indigenous Australian Writers | Hive Life Magazine

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

Celebrant	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Preacher & Chalice Bearer	Mary Curlew
Nonvested Chalice Bearer	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
Music	Dr. Christina Edelen
Musicians	The St. Bart's Choir
Lector	Michele Johns
Ushers	Dennis & Lisa Fitzgibbons
Altar Guild	Jamie Michaud, Paule French
Flower Arranger	Mary Calvin
A/V	Joe Michaud
Bread Baker	Mary Ann Hodsdon
Counters	Tom Hyndman, Dennis Fitzgibbons
Lawn Care	Joe Michaud
VPOW	Peter Sillin
Sunday School Teacher	Carla Hunt
Sunday School Assistant	John Rush