The Season of Creation

October 11, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME

Prelude "Earth and All Stars" by David N. Johnson

Welcome & Announcements *Jim Berg*

Those who are able and interested are invited to process outside to dedicate the tree.

Tree Dedication

Celebrant O God, open our lips.
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, O God,
creator of heaven and earth.
Your Word calls all things into being,
and the light of dawn awakens us to life.
May your wisdom guide us this day
that we may cherish and care for your good creation,
so all may flourish together,
and offer to you the sacrifice of our lips,
praising you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
One God, Mother of us all.
People **Blessed be God for ever.**

A brief word about the tree is shared. Then, the liturgy of dedication continues.

Celebrant Let us affirm our commitment to care actively for God's creation and all humanity.
People **Lord of life and giver of hope,**
we pledge ourselves to care for your people and world:
to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation
and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

May your wisdom guide us,
so that all creation may flourish
and sing your praise.

Celebrant May the commitment we have made this day be matched by our faithful living.

People **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Celebrant Let us pray: Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image.
Give us grace to wonder at your gift,
to treasure the earth
and to work for its protection and renewal.
May this tree flourish,
and may it remind us of the commitment we have made this day
to You and to Your wondrous creation;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns over all things,
now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The congregation is invited to return to the sanctuary to join in our opening hymn.

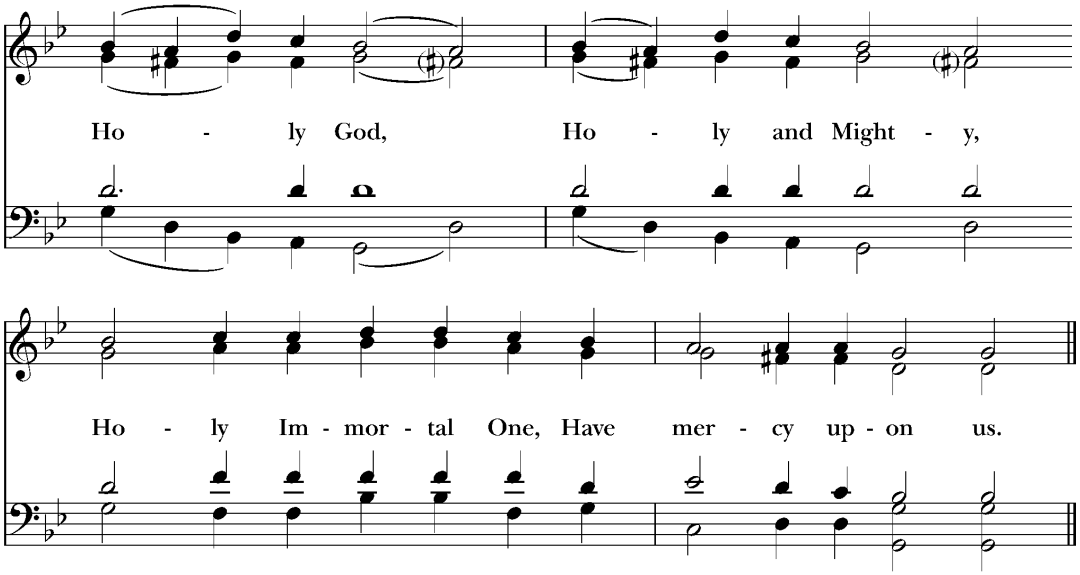
Opening Hymn, #394 Creating God *The Hymnal 1982*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant This is the day the Creator has made.

People **Let all creation rejoice and be glad in it!**

Trisagion #S102 *The Hymnal 1982*



Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Creator be with you
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.
Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
People **Amen.**

Children's Greeting *The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

The Readings

First Reading, "Lullaby for the Grieving, at the Sipsey River" by Ashley M. Jones *Nina Scribner*

make small steps.
in this wild place
there are signs of life
everywhere.
sharp spaces, too:
the slip of a rain-glazed rock
against my searching feet.
small steps, like prayers–
each one a hope exhaled
into the trees. please,
let me enter. please, let me
leave whole.
there are, too, the tiny sounds
of faraway birds. the safety
in their promise of song.
the puddle forming, finally,
after summer rain.
the golden butterfly
against the cave-dark.
maybe there are angels here, too–
what else can i call the crown of light
atop the leaves?
what else can i call
my footsteps forward,
small, small, sure?

Lector Holy wisdom, holy word.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

O God, you are my ‘shepherd; *
I shall not be in ‘ want.
You make me lie down in green ‘ pastures *
And lead me beside ‘ still waters.
You revive my ‘ soul *
And guide me along right pathways for the sake of your ‘name.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no ‘ evil, *
For you are with me: your rod and your staff , ‘ they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who ‘ trouble me; *
You have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running ‘ over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my ‘ life, *
And I will dwell in the house of God ‘ for ever.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9 *Nina Scribner*

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s Creation.
People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn, #316 This is the hour of banquet and of song *The Hymnal 1982*

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 *The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, O God.**

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

Sermon *The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

Moment of silence for reflection

Anthem "Earth Song" by Frank Ticheli

Sing, Be, Live, See...
This dark stormy hour,
The wind, it stirs.
The scorched earth
cries out in vain.
O war and power,
You blind and blur.
The torn heart
cries out in pain.

But music and singing
have been my refuge,
And music and singing
Shall be my light.
A light of song
Shining strong: Alleluia!
Through darkness, pain and strife, I'll
Sing, Be, Live, See...
Peace.

Affirmation of Faith

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith in the triune God as we say together:

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 *Laurie Hyndman*

RESPONSE

Leader God of grace,

People hear our prayer

PRAYER LIST:

Sasha, Paige, Nathaniel, Haskell, Gregory, Andy, Molly, Nova, Matt and Shannon, Lem, Hana, Melanie, Susan, Sue, Brooke, Elizabeth, Danny, Lin, Caroline, Ed, Greg, Tom, Diane, Laura, Judy, Celeste, Lisa, Jackie, Dan'l, Mike, Sarah and Stefan, Margot, Hannah, Richard, Peggy, Bruce, Branden, and the family of Ellie Pascarella.

Confession & Forgiveness

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

Silence for reflection.

Celebrant God of compassion,

People have mercy upon us.
Heal our relationship with your living creation.
Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect
of the flora and fauna who share the earth with us.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent
for what we have done to harm them,
and for what we have not done to help them.

Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may care for one another and for all creation,
according to your will and in the fullness of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant In Christ we are a living creation.

People We see God around us and within us.
We give thanks to our Creator.

Celebrant Let us show the love God has instilled within us
by greeting each other with a sign of God's peace, love, forgiveness, and grace.

The peace of our Creator be with you always.

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)

The bread and wine are brought forward while the ushers collect the offering.

Offertory Hymn, #412 Earth and all stars *The Hymnal 1982*

The offering is brought forward.

Offertory Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

People God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

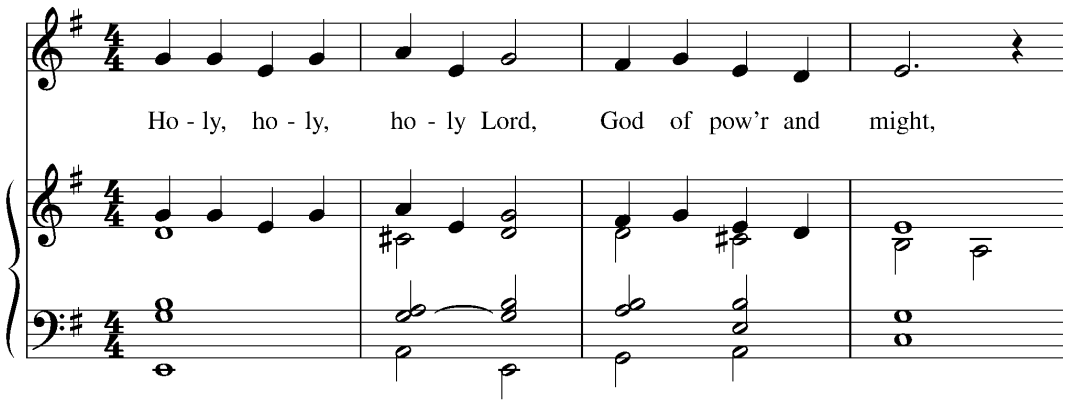
The Great Thanksgiving

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 We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.
From before time you made ready the creation.
Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:
sun, moon, and stars;
earth, winds, and waters;
and every living thing.
You made us in your image,
and taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;
and yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.
Time and again you called us
to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus, #851 *Wonder, Love and Praise*



Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
“Take, eat:
This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,
with all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever.

People Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

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 forward to stand around the chancel to receive the bread and the wine. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, simply come forward and cross your arms at your chest. Please use the side aisles to return to your seat.

Communion Music	"The Fall of the Leaf" by Imogen Holst	*Fred Edelen, cello*
Communion Hymns, #S228	A Song of Creation/Benedicite, omnia opera Domini	*The Hymnal 1982*
#645	The king of love	*The Hymnal 1982*

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray together:

People Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us
and renew the face of the earth.
May we be one with you
so that our work is yours
and your work is ours.
Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.

Benediction

Celebrant 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 and more than human community,
to heal the Earth,
to remember the children.
Let us go forth to put our words into action.

People Amen.

Closing Hymn, #409 The spacious firmament *The Hymnal 1982*

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve God's Creation.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Allegro, by G.F. Handel

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Liturgy: Content for our Season of Creation liturgy is from or adapted from “Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes Perennial Edition 2025”

The Old Testament, New Testament and Gospels readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Psalm is from *The Saint Helena Breviary*

Offertory Prayer is from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006

Eucharistic Prayer is from *Enriching Our Worship* © 1998 Church Publishing Inc.

Tree Dedication: “Tree Planting Liturgy & Prayers” The Communion Forest.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Eucharistic Minister	Laurie Hyndman
Lector	Nina Scribner
Chalice Bearer	Barbara Barhydt
Ushers	Nancy Gunzelmann, Mary Strnad
Altar Guild	John and Linda Perkins
Flower Arranger	Joyce Cassidy
A/V	Joe Michaud
Bread Baker	Susannah White
Music	Dr. Christina Edelen
Musicians	The St. Bart's Choir
	Fred Edelen, cello
Counters	Jan Burson, Susie Soule
Lawn Care	Tom Hyndman
VPOW	Jim Berg
Coffee Hour	Nancy Gunzelmann & Jamie Michaud

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

Rector	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Rector Email	amanda@stbartsyarmouth.org
Music Director	Dr. Christina Edelen
Sr. Warden	Susan Garrett
Jr. Warden	Ann Donaghy
Pastoral Care	Barbara Barhydt, Susan Peixiotto
Pastoral Care Email	pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org
Parish Administrator	Katie Clark
Office Hours	Mon – Thurs, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Office Email	admin@stbartsyarmouth.org
Telephone	207.846.9244
Website	www.stbartsyarmouth.org