

The Season of Creation



Pear Tree, Gustav Klimt

St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
9 AM Sunday

Introduction to the Season of Creation

For many years, St. Bart's has celebrated the Season of Creation during the months of September and October. While this season offers an opportunity to "break up" the long liturgical season of Pentecost, The Season of Creation is also a vital contribution to our worship and ministries as it draws our attention to the *whole* of God's creation: flora and fauna; mountains, rivers, and seas; the cosmos!

This year, we are using resources assembled by a global ecumenical committee of religious leaders. Churches and congregations around the world are speaking the same prayers and hearing the same stories – challenging all of us to "Listen to the Voice of Creation" and to respond to God's call to love all of Creation.

Please see the back cover for a letter from the creators of the Season of Creation resources.



A Congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth Maine

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Gathering

Prelude

See Insert

Welcome

Opening Hymn

See Insert

Opening Acclamation

adapted from Hildegard of Bingen

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

The Collect

Celebrant: All that is holy surrounds us.

People: **The Spirit dances in our midst.**

Presider: Let us pray.

See Insert for the Collect of the Day.

People: **Amen.**

Children's Greeting

After the Children's Greeting, all children are invited to attend Sunday School. They are escorted to the Education Wing by this week's Teachers.

The Lessons

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible

See Insert

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *See Insert*

A Reading from the New Testament *See Insert*

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's churches.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn *See Insert*

The Holy Gospel:

Celebrant/Deacon: The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, O Holy One.**

Gospel *See Insert*

Celebrant/Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

The Sermon

Anthem *See Insert*

The Affirmation of Faith

Celebrant: Let us declare our faith in God.

All: **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

During the silence after each bidding, the people offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader: Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

A short moment of silence.

Leader: In the beginning,

People: **God was.**

Leader: Here and now,

People: **God is.**

Leader: In the future,

People: **God will be.**

Leader: Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,
People: **Hear our prayer.**

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help, especially...*[see insert for prayer list.]*

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died, especially... [*See insert for prayer list.*]

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Concluding Collect

Celebrant: Great Spirit God, we give you thanks for another day on this earth. We give you thanks for this day to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator. We acknowledge with one mind our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life. Bind us together in the circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and one another.

People: **Amen.**

The Confession

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

A brief silence is kept for self-reflection.

People: **Holy and merciful God,
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.

The Absolution

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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: If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation.

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

Celebrant: Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice, peace, love, forgiveness, and grace. The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: You are invited to care and share peace with your neighbor. And, speak a word of peace to the land in which you gather and the creatures who share this common home.

The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: Alleluia. See what love has been given to us, that we should be called children of God; for indeed so we are. Alleluia. ~ 1 John 3:1

The Communion elements are brought forward.

Offertory Hymn

See insert

The offering is brought forward.

Offertory Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray,

People: **All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own
have we given Thee. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to God.**


Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God, our Creator.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Worship and praise belong to you, O God, in every place and at all times. All power is yours. You created the heavens and established the earth; you sustain in being all that is. In Christ, our life and yours are brought together in a wonderful exchange. Jesus made his home among us that we might forever dwell in you.

Through your Holy Spirit you call us to new birth in a creation restored by love. As children of your redeeming purpose we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Sanctus S124



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.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Creator, for the gift of your Child born in human flesh. Jesus is the Word existing beyond time, both source and final purpose, bringing to wholeness all that is made. Obedient to your will, Jesus died upon the Cross. By your power you raised him from the dead. Jesus broke the bonds of evil and set your people free to be the Body of Christ in the world.

On the night when Jesus was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end. At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey Jesus' command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living

sacrifice. Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that they may be the Body and Blood of your Child, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the saints, the apostles and prophets, and of all our siblings, living and departed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, God of all ages, world without end.

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.

The 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.**

The Invitation

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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 — with some space between families — 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 cup of wine. At this time, 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 and abstain from sipping. 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.

During Communion, you are invited to add "flames" to our burning bush: Red flames signify things you have heard from creation; Yellow flames signify things you commit to doing to protect creation; and, Orange flames signify an action you've taken recently to help heal creation.

Communion Music

See Insert

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

The Blessing

Celebrant: May God who established the dance of creation,
who marveled at the lilies of the field,
who transforms chaos to order,
lead us to transform our lives and the Church
to listen to the voice of all creatures that reflect
God's glory in creation.
And may God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
bless you now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Announcements

VPOW

Closing Hymn

See Insert

The Dismissal

Celebrant/Deacon: Let us bless our God and all Creation. Alleluia,
alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

See Insert

Worship Resources

Cover Image: *Pear Tree* by Gustav Klimt. The Harvard Art Museums

Opening Acclamation: "Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2022" *Season of Creation*. 2022

The Collect, Prayers of the People, The Confession & Absolution: *Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation*. Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. Reports to the 78th General Convention: Supplemental Materials. 2015

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

Concluding Collect: Native American/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Liturgies, prepared for the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, Anaheim, California, July 2009

The Peace: *adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People*, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA

The Great Thanksgiving: adapted from the *Scottish Episcopal Church Eucharistic Prayer I – Liturgy 1982*

The Lord's Prayer: *Adapted from The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. This version of the Lord's prayer was influenced by Maori theologians*

Post Communion Prayer: *Adapted, Churches together in Britain and Ireland – resources for creation time.*

Benediction: adapted from the *CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme*

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Dear Siblings in Christ,

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to pray and protect our common home.

The Season “Celebration” begins on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

This year we will unite around the theme, “Listen to the Voice of Creation.”

The Psalmist declares, “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge...***their voice is not heard;*** yet their voice goes out through all the Earth, and their words to the end of the world.” (19: 1-4)

During the Season of Creation, our common prayer and action can help us listen for the voices of those who are silenced. In prayer we lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems who are lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change. In prayer we center the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

May this 2022 Season of Creation renew our ecumenical unity, renewing and uniting us by our bond of Peace in one Spirit, in our call to care for our common home. And may this season of prayer and action be a time to Listen to the Voice of Creation, so that our lives in words and deeds proclaim good news for all the Earth.

In God’s grace,
Members of the Season of Creation Advisory Committee