

**SEASON OF CREATION I,
SEPT 4, 2022**



“I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life, so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying God, and holding fast to God; for that means life to you and length of days.”

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

**ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks

The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise)

LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)

In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe.

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

Opening Hymn

When morning gilds the skies

H 427

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Song of Praise

A Scottish Blessing

(Sung to hymn tune Holy Manna)

Be a light before to lead me; be a guiding star above;
Jesus, may I always know thee, may I always know thy love.
There's no bird that soars the mountain,
there's no deer upon the hill,
there's no creature of the forest,
but shall sing thy praises still.

Be a kindly shepherd for me, keep me safe through all my days;
Jesus may I always know thee, may I always know thy praise.
There's no life that swims the ocean;
there's no creature of the sea,
there's no fish within the river,
but proclaims its praise for thee.

As the day falls into evening, as the night is lit with stars,
at the ending of life's journey may thy heavenly peace be ours.

Let all creatures in God's kingdom,
let all life upon the shore
sing praise to God, the world's creator,
sing praises now and evermore.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Source of life and blessing,
of garden, orchard, field,
root us in obedience to you and nourish us by your ever-flowing Spirit,
that perceiving only the good we might do,
our lives may be fruitful, our labor productive, and our service useful,
as we follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

A Reading from The Book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 30, verses 15-20.

Moses said to all Israel the words which the Lord commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1, Beatus vir qui non abiit

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

**4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.**

A Reading from Paul's Letter to Philemon, verses 1- 21.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister,
to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from

your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

Glory to you Lord Christ.

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to

complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Catherine Hicks

Affirmation

**We believe in God, the source of love,
who created humanity in God's own image and likeness,
who blessed them and asked them to procreate, nurture and
preserve God's creation for prosperity.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate,
who was born of a woman and was a carpenter,
who identified himself with women, men, and children,
transforming them to have life abundantly.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit active before creation,
who through the ages has inspired Christians without number,
who continues to inspire us to usher in the reign of God,
where no one is cast out, lonely or bereft.**

The Prayers of the People

Loving God, we offer our prayers this day in gratitude and thanksgiving, for in Christ you have laid a foundation for us that we might follow you more closely.

We pray for the mission of your church and thank you for the joy and encouragement we receive from you through our church family: Give

us the grace to plant faith and build love wherever you lead us to the benefit of your reign. **Lord, give us strength.**

We pray for all leaders and people of this world: give us a clear vision of the world as you intend and the will to realize that dream of justice and peace for all. **Lord, give us courage.**

Until your reign of peace has come to fulfilment on this earth, we pray for those serving in the armed forces, especially those on our prayer list, that they may be protected, serve with honor, and come home safely when their work is done. **Lord, grant us your peace.**

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially John Whitfield, Roger Key, Lydia O'Neil, Toni Faibisy and all on our prayer list: bring refreshment to their hearts through Christ that they may know your abiding presence and healing power. **Lord, give us compassion.**

We pray for your creation: convict us of the ways in which we break down and destroy the fabric of your world and give us the will to amend our ways as we seek to live in harmony with the goodness you have created. **Lord, give us hope and courage.**

We pray for all victims of gun violence and for those who mourn their loss. We pray for the dying and those who have died, especially Eli Casteel and William Luck: may they rest in your eternal glory with all the saints in light. **Lord, give us comfort.**

Thanks be to you, O God, for the stirrings of new life within us this day, for rising from the dreams of the night to a fresh flowing of energy, for the vitality that awakens our bodies and the desires that stir our souls. Let us know the power for life that is in us, the life-force that is in our senses and the might that is in our hearts. Let us know you as the source of such force and be wise to its true stream and false currents. Let us serve love with our strength this day, let us serve love with our strength. In heart and mind and body this day, let us serve love.

Amen

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

BCP 830 #51/431

Offertory

The Holy Communion

WE GIVE THANKS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is always right to give you thanks, God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong.

You brought forth all of creation and filled it with life, from the shining stars at the farthest reaches of the universe, to the abundance of the earth itself; its dark rich sustaining and life-giving soil replenished by rain, and the springs and creeks, streams and rivers that water the earth.

You made us in your image to dwell within your miraculous creation, but we wandered away from your endless gifts of abundance into the dry and dusty waste lands of our own making.

So you sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Savior, Mary's child, born in a stable, who revealed your goodness and lovingkindness to all who would listen.

Breathing in and living out your love, Jesus spread the good news of your kingdom throughout the land of Galilee with stories about seeds, soil, birds, trees, sheep, and lilies of the field. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, cast out demons and offered living

water for all to drink. He prayed alone in the mountains and walked alongside the sea as he revealed to all with eyes to see the everlasting richness and abundance of your kingdom come to earth.

He suffered and died on a cross fashioned from a tree to reunite us with God and with all creation. He was buried in a garden tomb. On the third day, you raised him in glory from death into resurrected life.

And you continue to send your Spirit to bring new life and breath to the world, to clothe us with power from on high, to restore us and all of creation to you.

And so we join the angels as we celebrate and sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

Father, on the night before he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and then died and redeemed all of creation to you, Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this and find me present in your midst.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
The new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this and find me present in your midst.

Jesus Christ has died.
Jesus Christ has died.

Jesus Christ is risen.
Jesus Christ is risen.

Jesus Christ will come again.
Jesus Christ will come again.

Father, as we offer You this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Holy Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, share the good news of Jesus, and live in hope as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honor and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn For the beauty of the earth (Verses 1,2)
(Sung to Dix)

H 416

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing

May the strength of the rising sun,
the strength of the swelling sea,
the strength of the high mountains,
the strength of the fertile plains,
the strength of the everlasting river
flow in us and through us this day.

May the strength of the river of God flow in us and through us this day.

Closing Hymn

This is my Father's world
(Sung to Terra Patris)

H 651

Dismissal

Resources:

Today's collect: Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

Affirmation: Daily Prayer for All Seasons

Prayers of the People: Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year C, Vol 2, Worship Companion, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.

Closing prayer for Prayers of the People and Today's Blessing: Newell, John Philip. Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter: Morning and Night Prayer.

Announcements

Welcome to St Peter's. May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship. The communion bread is gluten free. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work through this church. Mail - PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. online - <https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

Sunday worship Sept. 4 — On Zoom at 11AM.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86999263545?pwd=WHpNa1JrU0J0OGdMV3NMRlhmWUVCZz09> Meeting ID: 869 9926 3545 Passcode: 889278

Thursday, Sept 8, 3PM Parish House Tea to welcome Alice Hughes.

Returning soon...

- Compline at 6pm on Sundays beginning Sunday, Sept 11.
- Monday Morning meditation 6:30am on Mondays, beginning Monday, Sept 12.

Happy Birthday! Denise Gregory (Sept 2) ,Cleo Coleman (Sept 5)

All are welcome at Coffee Hour in the pavilion immediately after this service.

The Season of Creation begins today and continues through October 4th. Our relationship with all of creation is a spiritual matter that affects our relationship with God. Creation is a reflection of the glory of God and is ongoing. The Bible speaks of a God who is not passive or distant, but active and involved. God gave humankind the responsibility to tend and serve the garden (Gen. 2:6), i.e., to care for "this fragile earth, our island home" (Eucharistic Prayer C). The Season of Creation challenges us to reorient and broaden our relationships with all of creation, and with God.

During the Season of Creation a class is being offered by Ben Hicks based on the book Goodside's M.O.R.E Model for Effective Climate Action. M.O.R.E is measure, offset, reduce and educate. Download the book here.

<https://news.churchsp.org/wp-content/uploads/GoodsideMore.pdf>

The class will be held on four consecutive Monday nights on Zoom, starting on Monday, Sept 12, 7pm Week 1 --understanding the basis of climate change with our use of carbon (Educate).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87815309573?pwd=cGVlUTdQZ0RsV1FLZUVuQ1RpUHRZZz09> Meeting ID: 878 1530 9573 Passcode: 276113

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535

Website: www.churchsp.org Parish Office: (804) 742-5908

The Vestry

Becky Fisher, Andrea Pogue (2023), Cookie Davis, Robert Bryan (2024)

Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)

Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar

Becky Fisher, Senior Warden

Cookie Davis, Junior Warden

Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(540) 809-7489, (540) 898-1586, stpetersrev@gmail.com

Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring

Prayer List

Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Roger Key, Charles McGuire, Brad Volland, Clarence and Betty Kunstmann, Robert Bryan, Cornesha Howard, Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Mike and Marilyn Newman, Fred and Crystal Pannell, Bill Wick, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom

Mrs. Watson (Linneth Feliciano's mother), **John Whitfield** (Laura Carey's son), **Michael and Rhonda Walsler**, **Ann Pyle** (Carolyn Duke's mother), **J.T. Moriarty** (Hicks' friend), **Harvey Yarus** (friend of Tom Kramer), **Patty Reno** (cousin of Tom Kramer), **Joanne Wilkerson and Jimmy Davis, Julie Davis** (sister, brother and daughter of Johnny Davis), **Lois Christie, Sandra Smith, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Nathaniel Schakenberg, Mary Grace Dorsey, Martha Oldham** (Mike Newman's sister), **Jonathan Coleman** (Cleo Coleman's son), **Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear** (BJ's grandson), **Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith** (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), **Jeremy Pitts, Orville Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's brother), **Gloria Jewell, Mary Ann Betchy, K. D., Kathryn, David and Bobby Hill** (Lydia O'Neil's family), **Lorena McElwain**, (friend of the Pogues), **Odessa Davis, Kelly Paterino, G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw** (Brad Volland's cousin), **Joan Pemberton** (Brad Volland's aunt), **Anna Haug, Morgan Chapman and Jess Suggs**, (friends of Laura Long), **Albert Barnett** (Andrea's uncle), **Scott Crabtree** (Eunice Key's brother), **Louise Chapman** (Barbara Segar's cousin), **Dot Wright, , Gracelyn McCallum, Carolyn and Butch Delhagen** (Newman relatives), **Mary Lawrence Hicks** (Catherine and Ben Hicks' daughter), **Tommy Hicks and the Reynolds family, Rodney C. Johnson** (Hicks' friend), , **Charlene Schakenberg**, (Becky Fisher's mother)

Passed into eternal life: Eli Casteel (friend of the Everetts), **William Luck** (relative of Johnny Davis)

Serving in the Armed Forces

PJ Koons

Scott Estes

Joseph George

Cliff Lance

Steven Lee

Greg Merkl

Alexis Rye

Michael Hobbs

Alex Long V