

# FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPT. 3, 2023, 11AM



**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River  
Amos 5: 24

I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert. – Isaiah 43:19

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;  
love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in  
showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the  
Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.  
Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to  
strangers. – Romans 12:9-13

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

**The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
The Season of Creation I**

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.*

**The Ringing of the Bell**

**Prelude**

**Opening Hymn                      God the sculptor of the mountains                      WLP 746**  
**(Sung to hymn tune Holy Manna)**

**The Word of God**

Blessed be the One who creates all things.

**The Holy One's love is new every morning.**

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise                      Joyful, joyful, we adore thee                      H 376**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**A Reading from The Prophet Jeremiah, Chapter 15, verses 15 through 21.**

O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,  
nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

Therefore, thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 26:1-8 Judica me, Domine**

1 Give judgment for me, O LORD,  
for I have lived with integrity; \*  
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

**2 Test me, O LORD, and try me; \*  
examine my heart and my mind.**

3 For your love is before my eyes; \*  
I have walked faithfully with you.

**4 I have not sat with the worthless, \*  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

5 I have hated the company of evildoers; \*  
I will not sit down with the wicked.

**6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, \*  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving \*  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**8 LORD, I love the house in which you dwell \*  
and the place where your glory abides.**

**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 the Romans, Chapter 12, verses 9  
through 21.**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;  
love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in  
showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the  
Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.  
Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to  
strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn**

**I have decided to follow Jesus**

**LEVAS 136**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "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 will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Profession of Faith**

**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,  
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. Amen.**

**The Prayers of the People--A Litany for the Earth Form A**

Let us offer our prayers to God who gives life and breath to all creatures, saying, "God of glory, hear us."

I ask your prayers for the mission of the church throughout the world, for sharing the promise of abundant life and working toward it for all. We pray today that we may use the resources that this church has been given for God's work in this world and for the good of the earth. **God of glory, hear us.**

I ask your prayers for the leaders of the nations, and for all who make or influence decisions for the health of our planet and the well-being of its peoples. We pray for those in this nation who make legal decisions regarding the earth, that they may protect it as God's beloved creation. **God of glory, hear us.**

I ask your prayers for peace with justice around the world, especially for an end to violent competition for limited resources. We pray for an end to all wars and for the dawning of the peace that only God can give. **God of glory, hear us.**

I ask your prayers for those who suffer illness, want, or exile because of environmental degradation. We pray for those in need of water, food, and space to live in safety and freedom. We pray for those on our prayer list, especially Nathaniel Schnakenberg, Lisa Herbert and John Kirwin. **God of glory, hear us.**

I ask your prayers for the environmental concerns that we lift up now, either silently or aloud. (Silence) We pray for an end to deforestation. We offer our fears.

**God of glory, hear us.**

I ask your prayers for those who in their daily work are stewards and protectors of God's creation in ways large and small; for gardeners, farmers, and ranchers; for rangers and park managers; for fishers and foresters; for climate scientists, ecologists, and activists, and for all who work to restore and heal our wounded Earth.

**God of glory, hear us.**

I ask your prayers for the dead, especially for those holy women and men who taught us to marvel in all God's works. **God of glory, hear us.**

God of glory, give us hearts and minds eager to care for your planet, humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones, justice to share the resources of the earth with all its inhabitants, and love not limited by our ignorance. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who unifies what is far off and what is near, and in whom, by grace and the working of your Holy Spirit, all things hold together. **Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution**

**BCP 360**

**The Peace**

Peace with yourself.

Peace with Creation.

Peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Announcements**

**Birthday and Anniversary Blessings**

**BCP 830 #51/431**

**Offertory**

# The Holy Communion

## Eucharistic Prayer for Creation

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 Creator.

**It is right to give our Creator thanks and praise.**

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God.

From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders.

Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance.

In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

**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.**

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God, the Creator of all. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Jesus took the wine, and gave thanks to God, the Creator of all. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."



So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will.

Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine.

Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**BCP 364**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**BCP 364**

**The Communion of the People of God**

**Communion Hymn**

**I to the hills will lift mine eyes  
(Sung to hymn tune St Anne)**

**H 668**

**Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

**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 our friend. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

God of the galaxies,

God of the starburst and sunlit morning,

God of the forest and shining seas, God of the blooming desert and rolling grasslands –

shine on us today and bless us with your presence.

**Closing Hymn**

**Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing**

**H 344**

## **Dismissal**

Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and all of creation.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

**Resources: All of today's resources are from the 2023 Liturgical Season of Creation: Episcopal Liturgical Guide**

**The Profession of Faith** is from Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute (a seminary in South India), adapted by Keld B. Hansen, 2009, as provided in "Listen to the Voice of Creation," Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2022, 33.

**The Prayers of the People** Phina Borgeson (Deacon of the Diocese of North Carolina), "A Litany for the Earth," adapted as published in "Holy Earth, Holy People." The closing collect for the Prayers of the People is by Anne Rowthorn from God's Good Earth.

**The Eucharistic Prayer** is adapted by Nina Ranadive Pooley from sources including: Eucharistic Prayer One, Season of Creation Two, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (as published online by Green Anglicans, Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environmental Network) and a Creation-specific Eucharistic Prayer in Sam Wells and Abigail Kocher, Eucharistic Prayers (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 2016). Used with permission.

**Post communion Prayer 3** from Lenni Lenape Algonkian Iroquoian Council, Diocese of Huron (Huron LAIC), 2001, as published in "Worship in the Vision of New Agape – A Collection of Resources" (Anglican Church of Canada, 2004), 44. Prayer by Anne Rowthorn from God's Good Earth.

The links for the articles referenced in today's sermon are <https://emergencemagazine.org/feature/the-church-forests-of-ethiopia/>

<https://www.nature.com/immersive/d41586-019-00275-x/index.html>

## 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>

**All are welcome at Coffee Hour immediately following this service.**

**Happy Birthday – Cleo Coleman 9/5**

**Sept. 3, Worship, On YouTube at 11am and available afterward.**

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepiscopalchurchpo677/streams>

**Bible Study, Weds, Sept. 6, 10am-12pm. Parish House, reading the lectionary for 15<sup>th</sup> Pentecost**

[https://lectionarypage.net/YearA\\_RCL/Pentecost/AProp18\\_RCL.html](https://lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Pentecost/AProp18_RCL.html)

**Sun, Sept 10, Youth Fall Pool Party at the Davis house, after church.**

**Tues, Sept 12, Sacred Ground Group meeting on Zoom at 7PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85488115724?pwd=K0tJTTV1VTA4Z3RLU>

[WhUZIUwdlkzdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85488115724?pwd=K0tJTTV1VTA4Z3RLU) Meeting ID: 854 8811 5724 Passcode: 539098

**Every Sunday, starting on Sept 17, 10:30AM, God's Garden in the Parish House**—A gathering of children ages 5-9 for Sunday School activities and fun, led by Elizabeth Heimbach.

**Welcome back, mission trip participants Andrea Pogue, Ken Pogue and Laura Carey. Thanks be to God for your work in Jamaica.**

**The Season of Creation is from September 1-October 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" and the symbol is "A Mighty River".** Creation reflects the glory of God. 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 *online*, the website highlights a specific environmental area** 1. Earth – Sept 3 2. Water – Sept 10 3. Energy – Sept 17 4. Food – Sept 24 5. Deforestation–Oct 1. The segment on the earth <https://news.churchsp.org/season-of-creation-the-earth/>

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

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

**Website: [www.news.churchsp.org](http://www.news.churchsp.org) Parish Office: (804) 742-5908**

**The Vestry**

**Cookie Davis, Larry Saylor (2024)**

**Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)**

**Linda Upshaw (2026)**

**Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar**

**Senior Warden, Elizabeth Heimbach**

**Junior Warden, Cookie Davis**

**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](mailto:stpetersrev@gmail.com)**

**Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring**

**Prayer List**

**Cookie Davis, Laura Carey, Fred and Crystal Pannell, Ken Pogue, Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Lydia O'Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Barbara and Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Bill Wick, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom, Jim Heimbach**

**Lisa Herbert, John Ryan Kirwin (Jean Devitt's son), Ollie Powers Anderson (Linda Upshaws' granddaughter), Sherie Franssen (Matt Hood's aunt), Max and Rita Jensen (Duke friends), Ralph Powell (Hicks friend), Barbara Deal, Roberta Rutledge, (friends of the Pogues), Patterson family, Valerie Leitch, Liz Ruthven, Charlene Schnakenberg, (Becky Fisher's mother), Wayne Cohen (cousin of Andrea Pogue), Jimmy and Nancy Davis (Johnny Davis's brother and sister in law), Herb Collins, Mrs. Watson, Hyacinth Wallace, Bethune Andrews, Orville Watson (Linneth Feliciano's mother, sisters and brother), Sylvia and Jonathan Coleman (Cleo's daughter and son), Milijana Grayson, Nika Corwin (friend of Marcia Kole), Nathaniel Schnakenberg, Otis Felts (friend of Johnny Davis), The Glasgows (friends of the Felicianos), Ann Pyle (Carolyn Duke's mother), Harvey Yarus (friend of Tom Kramer), Joanne Wilkerson and Julie Davis (sister and daughter of Johnny Davis), Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear (BJ's grandson), Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), Gloria Jewell, The Hill family (Lydia O'Neil's family), G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw (Brad's cousin), Joan Pemberton (Brad's aunt), Albert Barnett (Andrea's uncle), Louise Chapman (Barbara Segar's cousin)**

**Serving in the Armed Forces**

PJ Koons

Scott Estes

Cliff Lance

Steven Lee

Greg Merkl

Grace Grimaldi

Alexis Rye

Michael Hobbs

Alex Long V