

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST
SEASON OF CREATION
SEPT. 10, 2023, 11AM**



“ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” – **Matthew 18:20**

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

and smell the breath of the springtime.
Grant us, we pray thee,
a heart wide open to all this joy and beauty,
and save our souls
from being so steeped in care
or so darkened by passion
that we pass heedless and unseeing
when even the thorn-bush by the wayside
is aflame with your glory.
Enlarge within us
the sense of fellowship with all the living things.

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, in communion with Jesus, our brother. **Amen.**

A Reading from The Prophet Ezekiel, Chapter 33, verses 7 through 11.

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:33-40 *Legem pone*

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

**34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

**36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.**

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

**38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.**

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

**40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.**

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 13, verses 8 through 14. .

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in

quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Jesus, thou divine companion

H 586

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Tom Hughes

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—Honoring God in Creation, Form 2

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

In the beginning,

God was.

Here and now,

God is.

In the future,

God will be.

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

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Fountain of wisdom, empower your church to speak courageously on
behalf of the earth, and forgive us, your people, for the transgressions
and sins that we have committed against it, so that we can turn back
and with all of your creation live in fullness of life.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures. Heal the nations, and bless their leaders with your creative wisdom. We pray for the nations of Haiti and Ukraine, asking for an end to all violence and strife.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain and heal the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help, all on our prayer list, and especially Susan Linne von Berg, Nathaniel Schnackenberg, Charles McGuire, Bill Lauck, and those fighting cancer: Lisa Herbert, Valerie Leitch, Barbara Deal and Albert Barnett.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Gracious One, reaching our need, overcoming our alienation: give us a spirit of gratitude for the abundance of the earth, the wildness of its creatures, the global threads that bind friend and foreigner; may our thanks be the soil in which a dream of justice grows; through Jesus Christ, the Lord of the harvest.

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

Father, we thank thee

H 302

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

May there always be infinite acres of sky above us.

May there always be the story of the earth beneath us.

May there always be the song of the air between us.

And may the love that shook creation from God's hand,

Shake us alive,

That we may walk in God's way,
Now and always.

Closing Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness

LEVAS 189

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia

Postlude

Resources: With the exception of Today's Collect and the Blessing, all other resources are from the 2023 Liturgical Season of Creation: Episcopal Liturgical Guide

The reading at the time of the Song of Praise is taken from Prayers of the Social Awakening, Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918).

Today's collect: Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

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 The Prayers of the People are from "Honoring God in Creation." The closing collect for the Prayers of the People is by Steven Shakespeare in Prayers for an Inclusive Church, (New York: Church Publishing, 2009, 128-130.

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 Blessing is by Roddy Hamilton, from A Heart for Creation.

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>

Today's loose offering goes to the Discretionary Fund. This past month, your contributions helped five families pay rent, one family pay a gas bill, one family pay an electric bill, and one family pay a water bill. **Please be generous!**

Sept. 10, Worship, On YouTube at 11am or afterward.

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

Today! Sept. 10, Youth Fall Pool Party at the Davis house, 2pm-4pm.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85488115724?pwd=K0tJTTV1VTA4Z3RLUWhUZIUwdlkzdz09> Meeting ID: 854 8811 5724 Passcode: 539098

Bible Study, Weds, Sept. 13, 10am-12pm. Parish House, reading the lectionary for 16th Pentecost.

https://lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Pentecost/AProp19_RCL.html

Thurs, Sept. 14, Vestry meeting, 2PM in the Parish House.

Coming up, 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 and Jan Saylor.

Mon., Sept. 25, 3PM, ECW Tea in the Parish House to welcome Jean Devitt, to choose where to send ECW money for outreach, and to plan upcoming activities.

Tues., Sept. 26 5:30-7PM, Caroline County Kickball in conjunction with the Caroline County Public Schools. **NEEDED by Sunday Sept. 24— Please donate water bottles, granola bars, and other healthy snacks.**

During the Season of Creation online, we will highlight a specific environmental area over 5 Sundays. This week's theme is **water.**

<https://news.churchsp.org/2023/09/07/season-of-creation-2023-water> In the Bible, water is a symbol not only of troubled times, but also creation, cleaning, rebirth, and the Holy Spirit.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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

Website: 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

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 Upshaw's granddaughter), Max and Rita Jensen (Duke friends), Ralph Powell (Hicks friend), Barbara Deal, Roberta Rutledge, (friend 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