

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST  
SEASON OF CREATION  
SEPT. 17, 2023, 11AM**



**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
And all that is within me, bless his Holy Name.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
And forget not all his benefits...**

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy  
Slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**Psalms 103:1-2, 8**

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

## **The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

### **The Season of Creation III**

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**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

**H 390**

#### **The Word of God**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**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.**

**Song of Praise**

**A Scottish Blessing (sung to 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.

O God of Joseph and all his brothers, your forgiveness transcends whatever wrong exists between us. Grant us the courage to forgive others, and to practice reconciliation by the kindness of our speaking, the sharing of our resources, and the honoring of your desire for good.  
**Amen.**

**A Reading from The Book of Genesis, Chapter 50, verses 15 through 21.**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 103 (1-7) :8-13 *Benedic, anima mea***

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
**and forget not all his benefits.**

3 He forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;

**4 He redeems your life from the grave \***

**and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

5 He satisfies you with good things, \*

and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**6 The LORD executes righteousness \***

**and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

7 He made his ways known to Moses \*

and his works to the children of Israel.

**8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \***

**slow to anger and of great kindness.**

9 He will not always accuse us, \*

nor will he keep his anger for ever.

**10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \***

**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*

so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

**12 As far as the east is from the west, \***

**so far has he removed our sins from us.**

13 As a father cares for his children, \*

so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

**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 14, verses 1 through 12.**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also

those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn**

**Bless the Lord, my soul**

**WLP 825**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and

I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Catherine Hicks**

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

**The Prayers of the People**

Eternal God, maker of marvels, you weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship; your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone, and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe as we pray together.

Lord of the Universe, as the earth groans and waits for redemption, and as creation shudders with earthquakes, fires and floods, we pray today especially for the people and creatures of Morocco and of Libya. In solidarity with them, we grieve for the unimaginable loss of life in their nations, and ask that somehow in the destruction, they may find you present with them in their suffering and losses. **God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Creator of heaven and earth, watch over your church universal. May we, your church, be instruments of your love, forgiveness, and grace. **God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of power and might, watch over this global community, and teach us to live for one another in peace and cooperation and share collective responsibility. We pray for the leaders of all the nations, that their hearts may turn to you. **God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, bless our local community. May we be instruments of your peace and your love. Bless those who will come to this week's food distribution. May the food that they receive take away their hunger and fill them with your grace. **God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, relieve those who suffer in mind, body, or soul. May they know that your arms are wrapped around them in love, and help us, the church, to support them, and to bring your healing power to them. We pray for John and Toni Faibisy, for Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, for Laura Carey's sister-in-law, Ruth Smith, who has entered Hospice care, for Daryl Potter, and for all on our prayer list. **God, in your mercy, hear our prayer. (Andrea)**

For the silent intentions we hold in our hearts, we ask for the fortitude to be your people of forgiveness and grace. (Silence) **God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God, forgive the sins we have committed and banish from our hearts any self-righteousness that would withhold forgiveness of others. For you alone are the judge of human hearts, and your mercy is boundless.

**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    Praise my soul, the King of heaven**

**H 410**

**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 God's goodness be yours:

and well, and seven times well, may you spend your lives:

May you be an island of rest in the restless sea;

may you be a stalwart hill on the shifting shore,

may you be a shining star in the darkest darkness;

may you be a strong staff to the weak and the weary;

may the light of Christ Jesus fill every heart for you;

may the Light of Christ Jesus fill you for every heart.

**Closing Hymn**

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah**

**H 690**

## 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, and the Prayers of the People, all other resources are from the 2023 Liturgical Season of Creation: Episcopal Liturgical Guide**

## Today's collect: Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

**The Prayers of the People** are loosely based on the prayers for Proper 19 in Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Vol. 2, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long.

**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.

**Several of today's hymns are paraphrases of today's Psalm 103**, including the opening hymn, *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*, Joaschim Neander, 1650-1680), the sequence hymn, *Bless the Lord, my soul*, from the Taize community, from their 1984 second volume of music, and the communion hymn, *Praise my soul the King of heaven*, a paraphrase by Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847).

## 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>

**Happy Birthday – Catherine Hicks 9/20, Tom Segar 9/20**

**Every Sunday, beginning today, 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.

**Sept. 17, Worship, On YouTube at 11am or afterward.**

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

**Hildegard of Bingen's feast day is today, the day she died in 1179.** She was a Benedictine abbess, composer, and writer (of scientific and theological works). She was a Renaissance person before the Renaissance! Link <https://bit.ly/3F02xEx>. Her music is included in the link.

**Bible Study, Weds, Sept. 20, 10am-12pm. Parish House, reading and studying the lectionary for 17<sup>th</sup> Pentecost.**

[https://lectionarypage.net/YearA\\_RCL/Pentecost/AProp20\\_RCL.html](https://lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Pentecost/AProp20_RCL.html)

**Village Harvest Wed, Sept. 20, 3pm,-5PM.** Please email Andrea to volunteer at [wakepogue.public@gmail.com](mailto:wakepogue.public@gmail.com), or (540) 847-9002. Pack bags 1-3PM, Deliver food to clients' cars 3-5PM.

**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. (Donations by next Sunday Sept. 24— water bottles, granola bars, and other healthy snacks. )

**During the Season of Creation online, we highlight a specific environmental issue online. This week is energy.**

<https://bit.ly/48kKlt4> Power in religious terms is spiritual energy. God is unlimited and this spiritual energy is unlimited in contrast to the energy we seek in the physical world, which is limited.

**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**

**Andrea and Ken Pogue, Cookie Davis, Laura Carey, Fred and Crystal Pannell, 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**

**Daryl Potter, Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law) 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' 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), , 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

Steven Lee

Alexis Rye

Scott Estes

Greg Merkl

Michael Hobbs

Cliff Lance

Grace Grimaldi

Alex Long V