

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
SEASON OF CREATION
SEPT. 24, 2023, 11AM**



"Late Arriving Workers" MAFA

Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.
Matthew 20:10-16

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Season of Creation IV

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

The Lord is in His Holy Temple St Peter's Choir

Opening Hymn

Not here for high and holy things

H 9

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.

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.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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 Jonah, Chapter 3, verses 10 through 4:11.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you

did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8 Exaltabo te, Deus

1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *

and bless your Name for ever and ever.

2 Every day will I bless you *

and praise your Name for ever and ever.

3 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *

there is no end to his greatness.

4 One generation shall praise your works to another *

and shall declare your power.

5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *

and all your marvelous works.

6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *

and I will tell of your greatness.

7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *

they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *

slow to anger and of great kindness.

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 Philippians, Chapter 1, verses 21 through 30.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in

faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Amazing grace

H 671

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree

with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Tom Hughes

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People

The children have been studying water in their class, so today’s prayers focus on water.

In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. The water that God called into being is at the heart of all that lives. Mindful of the many ways water affects our lives, let us pray for our waters, especially for the health of the Rappahannock River, and for the life of the world around us.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all people of faith, and for the transformations in their lives that are marked by the sacredness of water: at the Red Sea, in the Jordan River, in ritual baths, in the washing of feet, and in Holy Baptism. We give thanks for the living water that Jesus gives, the spring of water gushing up to eternal life in us, and that takes away our thirst.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the leaders of nations, corporations, and communities around the world, that they may exercise wise stewardship over the waters of their lands, so that all people may have clean water to drink and may live free from waterborne diseases. May all have the wisdom to shape creative solutions to conflicts over water in the dry places of our planet. We give thanks for the City of God to come, where the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, flows through the middle of the City, lined with the tree of life, with its leaves for the healing of the nations.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all of creation, and especially for the waters of the earth: for oceans and seas, for rivers and streams, for lakes and ponds, for watersheds, marshes, and swamps, for the waters beneath the ground; and for all creatures that live in the waters of the earth. We give thanks that at the beginning, God gathered together the waters under the sky, and let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who travel or work at sea or on inland waterways, and for oceanographers and for all who work for the conservation and health of the world's waters.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all those afflicted with too much water in flood or tsunami, storm, or ice; and for those people and creatures who suffer as glaciers and ice floes melt and shrink, for all who suffer from any natural disaster.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those on our prayer list, especially Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Andrea and Ken Pogue, for Toni and John Faibisy, and for Ruth Smith. May the healing waters of God's love wash over them and bring them health, healing and peace like a river in their hearts.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who have died and for all who mourn, that their tears of grief may be turned to wellsprings of joy.

Silence

Almighty God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share:
Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation.

Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family.

Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land and sea, and to hear and understand those who extract its resources.

Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.

Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people and to shape beloved community.

For you are the One who seeks the lost, binds our wounds and sets us free,

And it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. **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

God be in my head

St Peter's Choir

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 **For the bread** **H 341**

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

Let us join with the Earth and each other—

To bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air,
to protect the animals, to treasure the trees, to gaze at the stars,
to cherish the human community,
to heal the Earth, to remember the children.

Let us go forth to put our words into action.

Closing Hymn **Rise up, ye saints of God** **H 551**

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 Prayers of the People are from "Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation," *Reports To The 78th General Convention: Supplemental Materials* (Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music: SCLM, 2015)

The closing collect for the Prayers of the People is from Carol Gallagher (Member of the Cherokee Nation, Bishop in the Episcopal Church, and Regional Canon, Diocese of Massachusetts), "A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth," from the 2019 meeting of the House of Bishops, Fairbanks, Alaska.

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 Dianne L. Neu, *Return Blessings: Ecofeminist Liturgies Renewing the Earth* (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2003), 61, quoted in *God’s Good Earth*, 210.

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 – Robert Bryan 9/24, Anne Tyree 9/26, Marion Mahoney 9/28

Coming up, every Sunday, 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. 24, Worship, On YouTube at 11am or afterward.

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

Mon., Sept. 25, 3PM, ECW Tea at the Heimbach 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. **(DUE TODAY!—Please donate water bottles, granola bars, and other healthy snacks.)**

Bible Study, Weds, Sept. 27, 10am-12pm. Parish House, reading the lectionary for 18th Pentecost

https://lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Pentecost/AProp21_RCL.html

During the Season of Creation online, a specific environmental area is highlighted on the website. This week's topic is food waste.

<https://news.churchsp.org/2023/09/21/season-of-creation-food-waste>

waste In the near-term, food production is sufficient to provide for all, but food doesn't reach everyone who needs it. In fact, one-third of the world's food—1.3 billion tons—is lost or wasted at a cost of \$750 billion annually. When we throw away food, we waste the wealth of resources and labor that was used to get the food to our plates.

Sept 29 is the day to celebrate Michael and all the angels. Archangel Michael, whose name means "Who is like God?" is often depicted as a warrior angel who leads the heavenly armies against the forces of evil.

Coffee Hour will take place next week after the 11AM service. Bring a snack or dish to share and enjoy the company of one another.

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

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

Scott Estes

Cliff Lance

Steven Lee

Greg Merkl

Grace Grimaldi

Alexis Rye

Michael Hobbs

Alex Long V