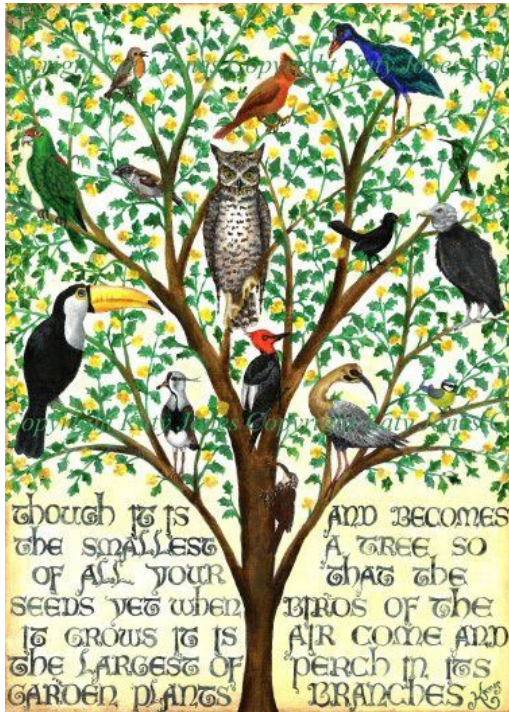


**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST YEAR B
JUNE 16, 2024, 11AM**



"Mustard Tree" - Katy Jones

Jesus also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."— Mark 4:30-32

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

**The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

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 respect and honor with gratitude the land itself, the legacy of the ancestors, and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe

Bell Ringing

Prelude	Study in A	Larry Saylor, Guitar
Opening Hymn	Jesus is all the world to me	LEVAS 77

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
Glory to God for ever and ever.

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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise	To God with gladness sing (sung to Darwall's 148th)	H 399
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The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Creating God, your reign of love makes all things new. Plant seeds of confidence and gladness in our hearts, so that, trusting your word, we may live no longer for ourselves but for him who died and was raised for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A reading from The Prophet Ezekiel, Chapter 17, verses 22-24.

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Psalm 92:1-4,11-14 *Bonum est confiteri*

1 It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, *
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;

**2 To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning *
and of your faithfulness in the night season;**

3 On the psaltery, and on the lyre, *
and to the melody of the harp.

**4 For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; *
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

11 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, *
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

**12 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD *
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

13 They shall still bear fruit in old age; *
they shall be green and succulent;

**14 That they may show how upright the LORD is, *
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.**

**Glory be 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 2nd Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 5,
verses 6-10, 14-17.**

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st

H 598

The Holy Gospel our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

Creator God, you call us to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit through loving your creation and our sisters and brothers. Open our hearts in compassion and receive these petitions on behalf of the church and the world.

We pray for the church, and for our church, St Peter's, as we seek a new priest. Fill our hearts with gladness and bless this congregation in our time of transition. Fill us with your grace and love and expectation, for we know that in every ending is a new beginning, and that you are making all things new. **Let us give thanks to you, O Lord, and sing praises to your name as we worship together.**

We join our Moravian brothers and sisters in praying that in essentials we will seek unity, that in non-essentials we will welcome liberty, and that in all things we will be people of love and blessing to all. **May we flourish in the courts of our God.**

God of all nations, we thank you for your great power and might. Though the nations on this earth wield economic, political, and military power that seems to rule the day, we trust that you are stronger still and we fervently hope for your kingdom of peace and love to at last be realized on this earth. May those who govern with righteousness flourish like a palm tree and spread like a cedar of Lebanon. We pray for all people who have no escape from places torn and destroyed by war and violence. Give us the strength to work for all oppression to come to an end and for injustice to cease, so that people everywhere may live in peace and dignity, and those who have no escape from places torn and destroyed by war and violence may come to dwell in places restored and full of peace. **Give us courage to work for peace rather than to settle for discord.**

God of all creation, we wonder at the power of life that you have hidden in the tiniest of seeds, for their miraculous openings into new shoots of green that seek the light, water and air needed for growth. Fill us with a green and growing hope that someday all creation, whole and once more unblemished by our hands, will rejoice in you, the creator of all. Fill our hearts with the desire and the wisdom to care for all that you have made. **May we shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

Life-giving God, when our lives are dry and brittle, we trust that you can restore us to life, making us green and fruitful once more. For anyone living with depression, chronic pain, or long term illness, we ask for your healing and tender care, especially for those on our prayer list. We pray for the Faibisys, for the Wisdoms, for Linda and Cy Murphy, for Tom Kramer, for Daryl Potter, for Douglas Garrett, for Tommy Hicks, and for children everywhere. For anyone who has come to an ending, whether sought or undesired, we pray that a new beginning will open that promotes new growth and flourishing. **May we bear the fruits of your compassion and love for the healing of the world.**

We pray for all who have died. May they go from strength to strength in their lives of new and perfect service in your heavenly kingdom.

Holy One, hear our prayers. Give us good growth in our discipleship, that we may share your love and work for the reconciliation of the world. Give us faith to trust in your providence. Make us faithful stewards of the fragile bounty of this earth, so that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven. Amen.

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

Absolution

BCP 360

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

BCP 830 #51/431

Offertory

In the bulb there is a flower

Larry Saylor

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer

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 from the dust of the earth to dwell within your miraculous creation, but we wandered far away from your endless gifts of abundance into the dry and barren 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 wilderness and walked alongside the sea as he revealed the everlasting richness and abundance of your kingdom come to earth.

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

And even now, 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 and all the company of heaven 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. 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 to open the way for all of creation to return 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 and eternal 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

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,

For we all share in the one bread.

The Gifts of God for the People of God

Distribution of the Sacraments

Communion Hymn We walk by faith and not by sight

H 209

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing

Creator God, give us a heart for simple things:

Love and laughter, bread and wine, tales and dreams

Fill our lives with green and growing hope

Make us a people of justice whose song is alleluia

And whose name breathes love.

And may God bless you:

The Alpha and Omega

The Beginning and the End

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Closing Hymn

Higher ground

LEVAS 165

Dismissal

Postlude

Resources:

The opening collect is from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers.

The Prayers of the People today are inspired by prayers from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year B, Vol 2, Kimberly Braken Long, ed, The Book of Common Prayer, and by Psalm 92.

Note from Catherine: Today's Eucharistic Prayer is loosely modeled on an African Eucharistic Prayer. I wrote this Eucharistic Prayer with emphasis on creation for this congregation, and Bishop Shannon Johnston approved it for our use.

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>

Online Worship, On YouTube at 11am or afterward.

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

**Happy Anniversary – Phil and Catherine Fitzhugh (June 16),
Chris and Becky Fisher (June 18).**

Chancellor's Village Eucharist, Tues, June 18, 1pm.

Wed., June 19 is Juneteenth. Two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, 250,000 enslaved people were freed in Texas by the US Army. This day is now a national holiday to celebrate the end of slavery in this nation.

In observance of Juneteenth, Bible Study will not meet this week. Instead, you are invited to gather in Market Square in Fredericksburg at 12 noon. Cleo Coleman will be bringing her portrayal of Harriet Tubman to that gathering. The lectionary for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost can be found at

https://lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Pentecost/BProp7_RCL.html

Village Harvest Wed, June 19, 3pm-4PM. Call Andrea (540) 847-9002 to volunteer. Deliver food to clients' cars 3-4PM. **Help needed on Tuesday morning, approximately 9:30AM to help unload food to the Parish House and to pack bags for the distribution.**

Thursday, June 20, 2PM Vestry meeting in the Parish House.

World Refugee Day, Thurs., June 20. "A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group." As of mid.2023, more than 110 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide. This marks the largest ever single-year increase in forced displacement in UNHCR's history, propelled by the war in Ukraine and other deadly conflicts.

Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) is the refugee resettlement program of the Episcopal Church. In 2023, EMM resettled 3,597 from 37 countries which was double the previous year.

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

**Larry Saylor (2025), Elizabeth Heimbach, (2025), Linda Upshaw (2026),
Andrea Pogue (2027), Johnny Davis (2027)**

**Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar
Senior Warden, Johnny Davis**

Junior Warden, Larry Saylor

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

Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Tom Kramer, The Pannells, Terri Harrison, Stanley and Cindy Fields, Marion Mahoney, The Wisdoms, The Pogues, Laura Carey, Rob Dobson, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Barbara Segar, The Faibisys, The Felicianos, Vivian McDonald, Bill Wick, Jim Heimbach

Rose, Debbie, Nichole, Tony, Kathy (friends of Marcia Kole), Rallin Fed Samuels (Andrea's uncle), Terry Allen, Bobby Norman, Joy Newlin, Harald Jenewein, Lola Delbridge, Lois Christie, Ralph and Diane Powell, Enid and Albert Barnett (Pogue relatives), Kristina Childs, Cy and The Rev Deacon Linda Murphy (Saylor friends), Beryl Harrison, Jesse Clarke's family, Daryl Potter (Hughes friend), Joanne and Herbert Wilkerson, Jimmy and Nancy Davis, Julie Davis, (family of Johnny Davis), Dale Brittle, Joyce Smith (Laura Carey's sister-in-law), John Ryan Kirwin (Jean Devitt's son), Max and Rita Jensen (Duke friends), Roberta Rutledge, (Pogue friend), Patterson family, Valerie Leitch, Liz Ruthven, Charlene Schnakenberg, Nathaniel Schnakenberg, (Fisher family), Wayne Cohen (Pogue family), Mrs. Watson, Hyacinth and Morris Wallace, Orville Watson, Tiffany Feliciano and family, The Glasgow Family (Feliciano family and friends), Sylvia and Jonathan Coleman (Cleo Coleman's daughter and son), Ann Pyle (Carolyn Duke's mother), Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear (BJ Anderson's grandson), Gloria Jewell, The Hill family (Lydia O'Neil's family), G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat, Joan Pemberton (Brad's family), 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