



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

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” -Amos 5:24

Morning Prayer
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023

Welcome! If you are visiting we offer you a special welcome. If you are with us on Zoom and would like more information about our parish, please send the Zoom Usher a chat message, or email office@stjamesvt.org with your name, where you're from, and your email address. On Zoom, please keep microphones muted for most of the service. If you are reading a lesson or adding a prayer request aloud during the time of prayers, please unmute yourself, then mute yourself again. In person, masks may be worn. Please be mindful of the level of comfort of others.

“During the *Season of Creation*, we join with billions of Christians around the world to celebrate in prayer and action our Gospel calling to protect the Earth that God has entrusted to our care. (...) May these prayers and readings deepen our response to the living God and strengthen our resolve to follow Jesus in this critical time for all of Creation.” *Season of Creation 2023*, 4.

Prelude: Fairest Lord Jesus

Dale Wood

All stand as able.

Opening Hymn: At the name of Jesus

Hymnal 435 v. 1-3



1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name
 3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,
 *5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 *6 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,
 3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;
 5 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
 6 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord
 2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
 4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,
 5 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 6 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
4 ev - er to be wor - shiped, trust - ed, and a - dored.
5 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.
6 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), alt. Music: *King's Weston*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Opening Sentences

Officiant The world belongs to God,
People The earth and all its people.
Officiant How good it is, how wonderful,
People To live together in unity.
Officiant Love and faith come together,
People Justice and peace join hands.
Officiant If Christ's disciples keep silent
People These stones would shout aloud.
Officiant Open our lips, O God,
People And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Confession

The Deacon or Officiant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is observed

Officiant and People

Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.
We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.
Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.

Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as
you desire and intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Priest alone says the following. If no Priest is present the Officiant says the following with words in brackets.

May God forgive you [us], Christ renew you [us], and the Spirit enable you [us] to grow in love. *Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant O God, come to our assistance.
People O God, make haste to help us.
All Glory to the One in Three
as it was in the beginning, is now, and evermore shall be.

A Greeting for Creation

Read in a manner chosen by the Presider: direct recitation (unison), antiphonally (side to side) or responsive recitation (leader and people) alternating either by verse or at the asterisk.

Greetings in the name of our God who is good: *
whose love endures forever.

Greetings to you, sun and moon, you stars of the northern sky: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Sunrise and sunset, night and day: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, hills and valleys, rivers and ponds, sea and rain: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, oak and pine, hemlock and birch, tamarack and maple: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, hawks and sparrows, cardinals and robins,
bats and blue jays, ravens and crows: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, bears and deer,
chipmunks and squirrels, and beaver and bobcats: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, people of all genders, elders and children,
indigenous and colonists, diverse cultures of this rainbow land: *

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Nurses and teachers, scientists and artists,
cleaners and clerks, students and job-seekers, *

give to our God your thanks and praise.

All who care, who love, and who pray,

Who laugh and learn, who rest and who play: *

give to our God your thanks and praise. Amen.

The Appointed Psalm

All may sit

Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13

Read in a manner chosen by the Presider: direct recitation (unison), antiphonally (side to side) or responsive recitation (leader and people) alternating either by verse or at the asterisk.

1 Bless the Holy One, O my soul, *

and all that is within me, bless God's holy Name.

2 Bless the Holy One, O my soul, *

and forget not all the gifts of God.

3 O God, you forgive all our sins *

and you heal all our infirmities;

4 You redeem our life from the grave *

and crown us with mercy and loving-kindness;

5 You satisfy us with good things, *

and our youth is renewed like an eagle's.

6 O God, you execute righteousness *

and judgment for all who are oppressed.

7 You made your ways known to Moses *

and your works to the children of Israel.

8 You are full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 You will not always accuse us, *
nor will you keep your anger for ever.

10 You have 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 your mercy great upon those who fear you.

12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far have you removed our sins from us.

13 As a parent cares for a child, *
so do you care for those who fear you.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God, *
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever.

-St. Helena Psalter

The Lessons

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Lector: A reading from the Book of Genesis.

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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

A period of silence is kept.

The Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon *St. Francis of Assisi*

Read in a manner chosen by the Presider: direct recitation (unison), antiphonally (side to side) or responsive recitation (leader and people) alternating either by verse or at the asterisk.

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,*
 all praise is Yours, all glory, all honor and all blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong,*
 and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.
Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,*
 especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor,*
 of You Most High, he bears the likeness.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon*
 and the stars, in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,*
 and fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
 by which You cherish all that You have made.
Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water,*
 so useful, humble, precious and pure.
Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire,*
 through whom You light the night
 and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.
Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth*
 who sustains and governs us,
 producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.
Praised be You my Lord
through those who grant pardon for love of You*
 and bear sickness and trial.
Blessed are those who endure in peace,*
 By You Most High, they will be crowned.
Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death,*
 from whom no one living can escape.
Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will.*
 No second death can do them harm.
Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks,*
 and serve Him with great humility.

Second Reading: *Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 23a.*

Lector: A Reading from the *Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 23a.*

While the sage, Honi, was walking along a road, he saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked him, “How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?” “Seventy years,” replied the man. Honi then asked, “Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?” The man answered, “I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise I am planting for my children.”

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem: God Cares For Me

Loonis McGlohon

In Morning Prayer, all remain seated for the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Deacon: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

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.”

Deacon Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

The Rev. Deacon Dave Ganter

Profession of Faith

All stand as able and say in unison

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, who identifies with
the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
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.

The Prayers

Officiant God be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our
hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

-An alternative to the Lord's Prayer
from A New Zealand Prayer Book

Suffrages

Enriching Our Worship 42

The Suffrages are said responsively.

V. Help us, O God our Savior;
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.
V. Look upon your congregation;
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.
V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. And your wonders among all peoples.
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Creation Collect for the Day

All are invited to say this collect together.

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for the Singing Hosts of Heaven

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to use all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Called to be God's Partners in the Care of the Planet

Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for the Beauty of Creation

Loving God, Creator of all, we thank you for the beauty of Creation; show us, we pray, how to respect the fragile balance of life. Guide by your wisdom those who have power to care for or to destroy the environment, that by the decisions we make, life may be cherished and a good and fruitful earth be preserved for future generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for Creation and Redemption

God of peace, let us your people know, that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

The Intercessor leads the prayers. All may sit.

Loving God, even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she places her young near Your altar. You are attentive to all you have made.

Intercessor God, who listens to every living thing,
People Help us listen as you do.

Loving God, help us provide refuge to every animal and plant with whom we live. Help us be attentive to all you have made.

Intercessor God, in whom all creation subsists,
People Help us listen as you do.

Loving God, when Jesus cried out and gave up his Spirit, the earth shook and the rocks split. You are known by the whole of creation that listens to you.

Intercessor God, to whom all creation responds,
People Help us respond to you.

Loving God, help us hear and know you just as the earth and rocks do. Help us to learn from the way in which we see creation recognize your glorious beauty.

Intercessor God, to whom all creation responds,
People Help us respond to you.

Loving God, you are present in your creation and seek to heal her wounds. You can be found walking in the garden. Open our eyes to see you, the gardener.

Intercessor God, who is present with your creation,
People Help us be present too.

Loving God, we often abandon your creation and cause its wounds. Help us to follow in your footsteps and learn to walk in the garden like you.

Intercessor God, who is present with your creation,
People Help us be present too.

Loving God, who hears every voice, knows each cry of injustice, and is attentive to the suffering of the earth: teach us to listen. Bring healing to our lives, that we may

protect the world and not prey on it, that we may listen to the world you have created and not close ourselves off from it. Reveal to us the ways in which we have failed to hear your voice in how we treat the earth.

Intercessor God, who listens to every living thing,
People Help us listen as you do. Amen.

Loving God, we pray for those who are sick or have asked for our prayers, especially Mitch; Bill; Grace; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry who is scheduled for surgery this week; Sarah; Sam who is home recovering from surgery and awaiting biopsy results; Chris; Heidi Fernald, friend of Helen Donahey; Nancy Bloomer; Laurie; Connie; Julia Mellish; Patrick Mellish; Janet, Linda Chiasson's youngest sister, who fell and fractured her hip; and Peggy Bonesteel who is scheduled for knee replacement surgery this week. We pray for all people who are experiencing hardships because of recent hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding in Vermont and New York, the wildfire in Maui, the earthquake in Morocco, the catastrophic flooding in Libya, and other natural disasters.

I invite your prayers of intercession.

During a pause the Intercessor invites prayers of intercession to be offered aloud, first from the in-person group and then from online worshippers. After all prayers have been offered, the Intercessor continues.

Loving God, we thank you for the blessings of this life. We remember and pray for St. Paul's Church, Vergennes and their Senior Warden Kim Hatgen in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, and especially during their time of transition, and for The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer. We give thanks and pray for Pat Anderson who has a birthday this week, and we give thanks and pray for Gregory (Mitch) & Kate Mitchell celebrating an anniversary today.

I invite your prayers of thanksgiving.

During a pause the Intercessor invites prayers of intercession to be offered aloud, first from the in-person group and then from online worshippers. After all prayers have been offered, the Intercessor continues.

Loving God, we pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. We pray for all who have died of the coronavirus and for their loved ones; for the people in Maui who died in the wildfire, the thousands of people in Morocco who died in the earthquake, the many thousands of people in Libya who died in the

catastrophic floods, and for all their loved ones; for those who have died in the conflict in Ukraine and elsewhere in the World; and for those who have died from the violence perpetrated by guns.

I invite your prayers for those who have died.

The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.

The Officiant concludes with the following prayer:

Creating God, your name is written on every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation. Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The people's offerings are gathered and brought to the altar by the ushers to be offered to God. All stand as able

Officiant All things are yours, O God of all creation,

People And so we return our gifts of treasure to you.

Office/Offertory Hymn: Praise to the Lord

Hymnal 390

Descant

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - mighty - y, the King of cre -

2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly

3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with
 a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound— from his
 health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.
 or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Lobe den Herren*, melody from *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971). Descant, Copyright © 1953, Novello and Company Limited. Used by permission.

Please continue to support our parish life and ministries by sending your offering to St. James Episcopal Church, 4 St. James Place, Essex Junction, VT 05452 You may also give online by visiting our website and going to: stjamesvt.org/giving.

Final Prayer

All standing as able, the Officiant and People say responsively

Officiant This is the day that God has made;
People We will rejoice and be glad in it.
Officiant We will not offer to God
People Offerings that cost us nothing.
Officiant Go in peace to love and to serve;
People We will seek peace and pursue it.
Officiant In the name of the Trinity of Love,
All God in community, Holy and One.

All may sit.

Community Announcements

Dismissal

All stand as able for the dismissal, concluding sentence, and procession of the cross.

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve God's Creation.
People Thanks be to God the Creator.

Concluding Sentence

The Officiant says

May the God of hope bring us such joy and peace in believing that we overflow with hope in the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Sending Hymn: From all that dwell below the skies

Hymnal 380

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let
2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and
*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's
truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!
shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).

Postlude: Rejoicing

G.F. Handel

Music used with permission under OneLicense #A-727024.

Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the Parish Hall.

And please join us for a brief Compline service with music online Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.



Officiant: Kathy Rouleau

Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Dave Ganter

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Dave Ganter

Lector:

Intercessor: Frances Huessy

Musicians: Carol Reichard, St. James Choir

In-Person Ushers: Jeanette Racine, Nancy Collins

Minister of Technology: Cathy Clark

Digital Usher: Brian Garland

IN OUR PRAYERS

Diocesan and Anglican Cycles of Prayer: In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Paul's Church, Vergennes and their Senior Warden Kim Hatgen. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Province of the Church of the Indian Ocean.

We pray for those who are sick or have asked for our prayers: especially Mitch; Bill; Grace; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry who is scheduled for surgery this week; Sarah; Sam who is home recovering from surgery and awaiting biopsy results; Chris; Heidi Fernald, friend of Helen Donahey; Nancy Bloomer; Laurie; Connie; Julia Mellish; Patrick Mellish; Janet, Linda Chiasson's youngest sister, who fell and fractured her hip; and Peggy Bonesteel who is scheduled for knee replacement surgery this week. We pray for all people who are experiencing loss and hardships because of recent hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding in Vermont and New York, the wildfire in Maui, the earthquake in Morocco, the catastrophic flooding in Libya, and other natural disasters.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn: especially for all who have died of the coronavirus and for their loved ones; for the people in Maui who died in the wildfire, the thousands of people in Morocco who died in the earthquake, the many thousands of people in Libya who died in the catastrophic floods, and for all their loved ones; for those who have died in the conflict in Ukraine and elsewhere in the World; and for those who have died from the violence perpetrated by guns.

Birthday:

Pat Anderson, September 20

Anniversary:

Gregory (Mitch) & Kate Mitchell, September 17

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bulletin cover and Bible verse from seasonofcreation.org

Opening Sentences, Final Prayer, and Concluding Sentence from the Iona Abbey Worship Book.

The Creation Collect from the Day, Confession, The Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon *Sz. Francis of Assisi (format modified and asterisks added)*, and Dismissal from “The Season of Creation 2023”

Introduction to the Invitatory and Psalter from A Contemporary Celtic Prayer Book by William John Fitzgerald.

A Greeting for Creation from “Creation Season 2023,” which notes: greeting adapted for New England from work by Lynn Pederson (2016) inspired by “Benedicite Aotearoa,” A New Zealand Prayer Book, 457, as published in “Listen to the Voice of Creation,” 28-29

While using “Season of Creation 2023,” we can choose an alternative reading from this liturgy for the Second Lesson not from the Liturgical Calendar. The source will be noted here if the reading is not from the Bible. This week our reading is from the *Babylonian Talmud*, an important Jewish text.

Profession of Faith [slightly modified] 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 Lord’s Prayer from “Season of Creation 2023” adapted for the Season from A New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa (Auckland: The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia 1988), as provided in “Listen to the Voice of Creation,” 35.

The following four Collects and Prayers were sourced from “Season for Creation 2023:” Collect for the Singing Hosts of Heaven—Collect (with a new title) from A New Zealand Prayer Book, 569. Called to be God’s partners in the care of the planet—Prayer from The Book of Occasional Services 2018, 339. Collect for the Beauty of Creation—Collect adapted from Our Modern Services: Anglican Church of Kenya (Nairobi: Uzima Press, 2008), 289, as published in “Holy Earth, Holy People: Restoring God’s Creation,” Holy Eucharist liturgy for the Diocese of Western Massachusetts Convention 2019, 2. Collect for Creation and Redemption—One of three collects from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, 464-5.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings: Intercessory Prayers for Creation [modified] sourced from “Season for Creation 2023” which notes: Intercessions adapted from the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Pre-Anaphora, and Anaphora of Basil, as published in “Listen to the Voice of Creation,” 30-31. Concluding Collect after intercessions sourced from “Season of Creation 2023”– Collect from Päivi Jussila and Gail Ramshaw ed., *Koinonia: Services and Prayers* (The Lutheran World Federation, 2003), 114.

Offertory Sentence from *An Earthful of Glory* by John Phillip Newell (modified).

Proper 19—Year A

Welcome to St. James Church. We continue to read from the section of Matthew’s Gospel, which deals with God’s forgiveness and our role in extending God’s forgiveness to all people. Peter asks Jesus how many times he is to forgive someone who wrongs him. In a parable, Jesus explains that God’s forgiveness of us lays on us the obligations to forgive our brothers and sisters unconditionally.

In Genesis, we have the example of Joseph, who finds it within his person to forgive his brothers, despite the atrocities they perpetrated on him as a boy. He also provides us with an example of the way in which unexpected events can work for good in God’s purpose.

In our final reading from Romans*, Paul calls on Christians to refrain from judging one another. The differences between the ways various ones of us follow Christ are to be accepted. Our responsibility is to love God and each other. We are a community marked by faith and obedience to God’s Word. Our life reflects our relationship with God and our relationships with each other. We are to be a community marked by acceptance of all and by forgiveness. Not a gathering of perfected saints – we are, rather, a gathering of sinners who have known God’s love and forgiveness and who in turn extend that love and forgiveness to all people.

**Note* This refers to the Common Lectionary reading for this Sunday, not the reading we used during The Season of Creation 2023*

From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishop of Vermont: The Right Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown

Rector: The Rev. Kim Hardy

Priest Companion: The Rev. Janet Brown

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon David Ganter

Vestry:

Senior Warden, Brian Garland

Junior Warden, Ron Belair

Linda Chiasson

Frances Huessy

Paula Morgan

Jenny Ogelby

Sandy Redmond

Minister of Music: Carol Reichard

Parish Administrator: Vacant

Interim Office Assistant: Heather Winship

4 St. James Place, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

www.stjamesvt.org

Parish Office Hours: In flux until we hire a new Parish Administrator

Office e-mail: office@stjamesvt.org

Office Phone (please leave a message): 802-878-4014

Senior Warden contact: bjgarland@gmail.com

Rector contact (on sabbatical until December): ammakim@stjamesvt.org



St. James Episcopal Church Calendar

Sunday, September 17

8:30 Lectionary Discussion
9:15 Youth Choir
10:00 Morning Prayer
10:45 Shiv with VT Mandir will tell us
about the Ganesha Chaturthi festival
11:30 Community Connections Meeting

Monday, September 18

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Tuesday, September 19

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
5:00 VT Mandir, Parish Hall

Wednesday, September 20

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Thursday, September 21

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
10:30 Age Well Inservice, Parish Hall
3:00 Senior Choir
5:15 Worship Team meeting
6:00 VT Mandir, Parish Hall
7:00 Compline

Friday, September 22

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
5:00 VT Mandir, Parish Hall

Saturday, September 23

9:00-1:30 VT Mandir, Parish Hall
5:00-7:00 VT Mandir, Parish Hall

Sunday, September 24

8:30 Lectionary Discussion
9:15 Youth Choir
10:00 Holy Eucharist

Monday, September 25

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Tuesday, September 26

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
9:00 Bell Choir

Wednesday, September 27

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
5:30 Vestry Meeting

Thursday, September 28

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
7:00 Compline

Friday, September 29

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Saturday, September 30

9:00-1:30 VT Mandir, Parish Hall