



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEASON OF CREATION (YEAR A, WEEK 2): LAND SUNDAY

Liturgy of the Word

September 20, 2020 10 A.M.

---

## SEASON OF CREATION

Christians around the world have begun to recognize the period from September 1 (the Global Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to October 4 (St. Francis of Assisi Day) annually as Creationtide or the Season of Creation. Anglican, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox Christians observe this time as one for prayer and action on behalf of the natural environment. Among the leaders in the movement are the Anglican Communion Environmental Network and the World Council of Churches. Information about The Episcopal Church and Creation Care may be found at [www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care).

According to the Season of Creation website ([www.seasonofcreation.org/](http://www.seasonofcreation.org/)), “The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. This year, amid crises that have shaken our world, we’re awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and each other. During the season this year, we enter a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, that requires radically new ways of living with creation. The Season of Creation unites the world’s 2.2 billion Christians around one shared purpose. With so much injustice all around us, now is the time for Christians everywhere to come together and show the world how to love each other and creation.”

St. Thomas’s is recognizing the Season of Creation on the four Sundays from September 13 through October 4. As noted, our liturgy includes special elements from a variety of sources. Rather than the Revised Common Lectionary, it includes readings suggested by *The Season of Creation: A Preaching Commentary*. For Year A, the readings are “the Spirit series,” and the four Sundays are designated as, in order: Forest Sunday, Land Sunday, Wilderness Sunday, and River Sunday.

---

## VOLUNTARY

How fair and how pleasant art thou  
Marcel Dupré (1886–1971), Op. 18, No. 5, 1919

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP** [*Hildegard of Bingen, from the “2020 Celebration Guide,” a Season of Creation resource*]

We gather in the Name of the one Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures! Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in us all.

1 Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest-home:  
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his har - vest home;  
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest-home;

all is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin;  
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown;  
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
 gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin;

1 God, our Ma - ker, doth pro - vide for our wants to  
 2 first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn  
 3 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the  
 4 there, for ev - er pur - i - fied, in thy pres - ence

be sup - plied; come to God's own tem - ple,  
 shall ap - pear; grant, O har - vest Lord, that  
 tares to cast, but the fruit - ful ears to  
 to a - bid; come, with all thine an - gels,

come, raise the song of har - vest - home.  
 we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
 store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 come, raise the glo - rious har - vest - home.

**OPENING ACCLAMATION** [*"Liturgical Materials Honoring God in Creation and Various Rites and Prayer for Animals," the Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music*]

**Presider:** Blessed be the God of all creation.

**People:** And blessed be God's Holy Name for ever and ever. Amen.

**THE CONFESSION OF SIN** [*Liturgical Materials Honoring God in Creation and Various Rites and Prayer for Animals,* the Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music]

*Presider*

Let us confess our sin against God and God's creation. [*Silence is kept.*]

*Presider 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.**

*Presider*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Presider: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** [*Collect for Stewardship of Creation, the 1979 Book of Common Prayer*]

**THE FIRST LESSON**

GENESIS 3:14-19; 4:8-16

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the

ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out to the field.” And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him.

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” And the LORD said, “What have you done? Listen; your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”

Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.” Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him.

Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 139:7-12

David Hurd

- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,”
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

### THE SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 5:12-17

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who

is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ALLELUIA

Norah Duncan IV

*The Cantor sings the Gospel Alleluia once through, then the People join in singing.*

Cantor: The LORD shall show loving-kindness:  
and our land shall give her increase.

*The People sing the Alleluia again.*

## THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 12:38-40

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE SERMON

### A LITURGICAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [A New Zealand Prayer Book]

*Presider and People*

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.  
You are our God. We worship you.**

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE [*“Liturgical Materials Honoring God in Creation and Various Rites and Prayer for Animals,” the Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music*]

*Intercessor and People*

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

In the beginning, **God was.**

Here and now, **God is.**

In the future, **God will be.**

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us, that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth; and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd of these your sheep, hear the prayers of praise, celebrations, and concern that we now offer in the stillness of our hearts.

*Presider*

Eternal God, come and fill our hearts with your love. Help us speak when many keep silent, help us stand for what is right when many sit in indifference. Increase our faith and charity, until your kingdom comes and heaven and earth rejoice in everlasting glory; through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

**Presider:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is especially appreciated at this time. To give online with a debit or credit card, go to the Home page of the Church website ([www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, you can simply [CLICK HERE](#). Know also that the Church office is able to process checks that have been mailed. Thank you!*

# OFFERTORY HYMN

As those of old (705, *The Hymnal 1982*)

*Unison or harmony*

1 As those of old their first fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and  
\*2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la-bor, love, and  
3 With grat-i-tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to

field to God, the giv-er of all good, the  
give; to make our life an of-fer-ing to  
thee to serve thy cause and share thy love with

source of bount-ous yield; so we to-day our  
God that all may live; the Church of Christ is  
all hu-man-i-ty. O thou who gav-est

first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land, of  
call-ing us to make the dream come true: a  
us thy-self in Je-sus Christ thy Son, help

farm and mar-ket, shop and home, of mind, and heart, and hand.  
world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.  
us to give our-selves each day un-til life's work is done.

Words: Frank von Christerson (b. 1900), alt. Copyright ©1961 by The Hymn Society of America. Music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

*You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and ever. Amen.

## A PRAYER OF COMMUNION

*Presider and People*

Almighty God, you promised through our Lord Jesus Christ that where two or three are gathered together in his name, you will be in the midst of them. We ask you to be in the midst of us now, though we are far apart, and to bind us to one another, and to you, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Just as you, Father, are in the Son, and he in you, so may we also be in you, and Christ in us, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL [*“2020 Celebration Guide,” a Season of Creation resource*]

*Presider*

May God who established the dance of creation,  
Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,  
Who transforms chaos to order,  
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church  
To reflect God’s glory in creation. **Amen.**

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## VOLUNTARY

Toccatà

Eugène Gigout (1844–1925), *10 Pièces*, 1890

*After the Voluntary, you are invited to stay online for virtual Coffee Hour. Please see the Parish Enews for the latest announcements and information.*



*Unless otherwise indicated, all printed music and anthem texts are used by permission.  
Reprinted using ritesong, Church Publishing Incorporated License #90148. All rights reserved.*

## Announcements

*Stay in touch! Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Enews and “like” St. Thomas’s on Facebook.*

**The Season of Creation continues today with “Land Sunday.”** For the Season of Creation (more on that below), we’re using an Affirmation of Faith from A New Zealand Prayer Book and the contemporary-language Lord’s Prayer. **Thanks to our preacher, Kyle Holton!** Kyle has a lengthy resume as teacher, community developer, and farmer, and that his work in all these areas involves ecology and sustainability. Kyle lived in Mozambique for eight years as a consultant for inter-religious curriculum and agro-ecological development. In the States, he has been a teacher and urban farmer for a market garden. At his previous church, Christ Church in Little Rock, he helped brew beer on Sundays and worked as market manager for Arkansas Local Food Network that partnered with the church. Kyle is currently Community Outreach Coordinator for Edgerton Park, where his responsibilities include educational programming for area schoolchildren. He’s also a biker and composter for [Peels & Wheels Composting](#). And he’s a teacher in the Liberated Learners network of New England and works with self-directed learners at the Beacon center. **Next week we welcome guest preacher Sean Duffy.** Sean is the Executive Director of the [Albert Schweitzer Institute](#) and Professor of Political Science at Quinnipiac University. He also serves as President of the Edgerton Park Conservancy Board. His full (and impressive!) bio will be in next week's edition of the Enews.

---

### Serving Today

**Presider:** The Rev. Keri Aubert  
**Preacher:** The Rev. Keri Aubert  
**Musician:** Dr. Noah Horn  
**Lectors:** Don Edwards, Bill English  
**Intercessor:** Jesse Stricklan

### This Week’s Prayer Intentions

**Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:**  
all who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those who work in healthcare and those who have lost their livelihood

**Pray for those who have died.**

**In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**

Christ Church, Stratford; Trinity, Tariffville; St. Peter’s/Trinity, Thomaston; Trinity, Torrington; Children and Children’s ministries; Rhythms of Grace, Grace2Go, and other ministries for children with special needs

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**  
the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for:**  
Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

### Leadership at St. Thomas’s

#### Church Vestry

Kyle Holton (Senior Warden)  
Denise Terry (Junior Warden)  
Ricardo Chavira (Treasurer)  
Linda Meyer (Clerk)  
Greg D’Andrea  
Bill English  
Chris Martinez  
Alexandria Robison  
Catherine Stricklan  
The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

#### Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney  
The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

#### Day School Board of Trustees

Gina Criscuolo (Chair)  
John Forrest (Vice-Chair)  
Heather Tookes Alexopoulos (Treasurer)  
Eileen O’Donnell (Secretary)  
Alexander Babbidge      Christopher Cavallaro  
Don Edwards              William English  
Jeralyn Fantarella        Linda Meyer  
Kenneth Paul              Ontoniel Reyes  
Denise Terry (Parish Junior Warden)  
The Rev. Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)  
Gina Panza (Head of School)

---

**ST. THOMAS’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL**

830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511

Church: (203) 777-7623 ♦ [www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)

Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ [www.stthomasday.org](http://www.stthomasday.org)