



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEASON OF CREATION (YEAR B, WEEK 2): HUMANITY SUNDAY

Liturgy of the Word

September 19, 2021 10 A.M.

Whether you are new or returning, **WELCOME!**

Please remain masked and observe social distancing throughout the service. The building remains closed, and the restroom is available for emergency use only.

ALL are invited to receive Holy Communion. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. As a pandemic safety precaution, the People will be offered bread but not wine. Remember, the sacrament is complete and efficacious even when received in one kind only. Instructions for receiving Holy Communion are included below at the appropriate point below.

You are invited to stay after the service for socially-distanced fellowship.

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. The Season of Creation website is at www.seasonofcreation.org. Information about The Episcopal Church and Creation Care may be found at www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care.

The 2021 Season of Creation theme is “A home for all? Renewing the *oikos* of God.” The Season of Creation website offers this: “*Oikos* is the Greek word for ‘home,’ or ‘household.’ By rooting our theme in the concept of *oikos*, we celebrate the integral web of relationships that sustain the well-being of the Earth.”

St. Thomas’s is recognizing the Season of Creation on the four Sundays from September 12 through October 3. Liturgy includes special elements from a variety of sources. The readings are those suggested by *The Season of Creation: A Preaching Commentary*. For Year B, the readings are “the Word series,” and the four Sundays are, in order: Earth Sunday, Humanity Sunday, Sky Sunday, and Mountain Sunday.

VOLUNTARY

Poco allegretto
César Franck (1822–1890), *L’organiste*, FWV 41

At the invitation of the Presider, all stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP [Hildegard of Bingen, in “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 Lift ev-ery voice and sing till earth and hea-ven ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the

har-mo-nies of lib-er-ty. Let our re-joic-ing rise
 days when hope un-born had died; yet, with a stead-y beat,

high as the lis-tening skies; let it re-sound loud as the
 have not our wea-ry feet come to the place for which our

roll-ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
 par-ents sighed? We have come o-ver a way that with tears has been

taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the pres-ent has
 wa-tered; we have come, tread-ing our path through the blood of the

brought us; fac-ing the ris-ing sun of our new
 slaugh-tered, out from the gloom-y past, till now we

day be - gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

Words: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) Music: *Lift Every Voice*, J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954) Words, Music: Copyright ©1921 by Edward B. Marks Music Company. Copyright renewed. International Copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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.

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*]

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 1:26-28

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 8

Presider and People

- 1 **O LORD our Governor, ***
how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 **Out of the mouths of infants and children ***
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 **You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, ***
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 **When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, ***
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 **What is man that you should be mindful of him? ***
the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 **You have made him but little lower than the angels; ***
you adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 **You give him mastery over the works of your hands; ***
you put all things under his feet:
- 8 **All sheep and oxen, ***
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 **The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, ***
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 **O LORD our Governor, ***
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

THE SECOND LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-8

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

HYMN

Where cross the crowded ways of life (609, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, where sound the
 4 O Mas-ter, from the moun-tain side, make haste to
 5 till all the world shall learn thy love, and fol-low
 1 cries of race and clan, a-bove the noise of
 4 heal these hearts of pain; a-mong these rest-less
 5 where thy feet have trod; till glo-rious from thy
 1 self-ish strife, we hear thy voice, O Son of Man.
 4 throngs a-bide, O tread the ci-ty's streets a-gain;
 5 heaven a-bove, shall come the ci-ty of our God.

Words: Frank Mason North (1850-1935), alt. Music: Gardiner, from *Sacred Melodies*, 1815; arr. William Gardiner (1770-1853)

THE GOSPEL

MARK 10:41-45

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

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

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All are seated.

THE SERMON

After the sermon, all remain seated for a period of silence. At the bidding of the Presider, all stand.

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

[The Rev. Kay Sylvester, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tustin, CA]

Presider and People

**Holy One, root of all life, Spirit of Creation,
the Love that spreads the stars across the sky:
Yours is the ground on which we stand.
Yours are the hands that fashioned us.
Your Spirit is the wind that lifts us,
You are the thirst-quenching river of life.**

**In Jesus, we see a life lived in you and for you.
We affirm our desire to follow him,
to step gently in the world,
to love what you love,
to shine light in dark places
and bring your future
of justice and peace into being.**

**Through the gift of your Spirit,
empower us to love the world with your love;
to look deeply at our waste and abuse of Creation;
to repent of our divisions, harsh thoughts, and selfish actions;
to cherish each creature, every mountain, all the waters,
the shining deserts, the woods green and deep,
and to see ourselves as part of the
immense, connected web of life
that reflects your grace and love.**

**We honor you and praise you, Creator God,
today and evermore. Alleluia! Amen.**

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. [*Silence is kept.*]

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 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.**

THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

*Please remain in place while greeting your neighbors with a sign of peace. Then be seated for brief announcements and the **Offertory Anthem**, during which the altar is prepared.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas’s Church is sincerely appreciated. We will not be passing a collection plate today; one is located near the usher for use as you depart. To give online with a debit or credit card, go to the Home page of the Church website (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, you may simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Presider: Let us return to God with grateful hearts the gifts that God has given to us.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

And God said: Let the earth bring forth
the living creature after his kind;
cattle and creeping thing,
and beasts of the earth after their kind.
Straight opening her fertile womb,
the earth obeyed the word,
and teemed creatures numberless,
in perfect forms and fully grown.
Cheerful roaring stands the tawny lion.
In sudden leaps the flexible tiger appears.
The nimble stag bears up his branching head.

Straight opening her fertile womb

With flying mane and fiery look,
impatient neighs the sprightly steed.
The cattle in herds already seeks his food
on fields and meadows green.
And over the ground, as plants,
are spread the fleecy, meek and bleating flock.
Unnumbered as the sands
in whirl arose the host of insects.
In long dimensions
creeps with sinuous trace the worm.

Words: Genesis 1:24; Anonymous, 1795 Music: Joseph Haydn (1732–1809), *The Creation*, 1798

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: SPECIAL FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION

[The Rev. Kay Sylvester, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tustin, CA]

Presider: God dwells in you.

People: And also in you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift our hearts to God.

Presider: Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider

Creating God, in the beginning, you spoke the world into being. You said, "let there be light," and there was light enough to illuminate every darkness. You formed galaxies of stars and the microscopic world of the atom; You ordered the universe and brought majesty and purpose from chaos. Amid the shining stars you placed the sweet green earth. At your command, the earth brought forth the multitude of living things, and you breathed your spirit into all of us.

We praise you together with every creature, small and great, to sing in joyful harmony:

Presider and People

Holy, holy, holy:

God of mercy, giver of life:

Glory to you, maker of all that is living;

Let the birds of the air sing your glory.

Let the creatures of the deep sing your glory.

Let the dwellers of the earth sing your glory.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gracious God, when we had forgotten who we are, you sent Jesus to live among us. He spoke to us of the lilies of the field, of your care for the sparrow, of planting and harvest, of the simple life of love and service. He proclaimed your love that turns the world upside down, and brought healing to the damaged world through his life, his death, and his rising again.

On the night before he died, he sat at table with his friends. He took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This bread is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he lifted the cup and said, "This is my blood, given for you. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." We remember him now and his promise of new life:

**Dying, you destroyed our death;
Rising, you restore our life.
Let your kingdom come among us.**

God of love, let your Spirit rest upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ, so that we may be nourished by your grace and fed to do love's work.

Presider: We pray because of Jesus,

People: Who shows us the way;

Presider: We pray in the strength of the Holy Spirit,

People: Who binds us to one another and to you;

Presider: We pray to you, Creator of everything that is,

People: Here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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 for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

You may be seated. All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. Special pandemic precautions are in place for Holy Communion. The People come forward roughly from closest to farthest, while maintaining social distancing. You will be offered bread only. Approach the priest with your hands extended, and the priest will place a wafer in them. Do not consume the wafer immediately. Instead, return to your seat and then raise your mask to consume the wafer.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

In native worth and honor clad

And God created man in his own image,
in the image of God created he him.
Male and female created he him.
He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life,
and man became a living soul.
In native worth and honor clad,
with beauty, courage, strength adorned,
to heaven erect and tall he stands a man,
the Lord and King of nature all.

The large and arched front sublime
of wisdom deep declares the seat,
and in his eyes with brightness
shines the soul, the breath and image of his God.
With fondness leans upon his breast
the partner for him formed,
a woman fair and graceful spouse.
Her softly smiling virgin looks,
of flowery spring the mirror,
bespeak him love and joy and bliss.

Words: Genesis 1:27; Anonymous, 1795 Music: Joseph Haydn (1732–1809), *The Creation*, 1798

After all have received communion, the People remain seated for a period of silence. Then all stand.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
 shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
 let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. Copyright © by permission of Harry Emerson Fosdick. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
 Music: *Cum Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932)

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER [*Enriching Our Worship 2*]

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

Faithful God,

in the wonder of your wisdom and love

you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels,

and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life.

We thank you for feeding us with this bread.

May it strengthen us that by the power of the Holy Spirit

we may embody your desire

and be renewed for your service

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING [*“2021 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.

And may God’s blessing be upon you, now and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: Go in the peace of Christ, to love and serve all of God’s creation.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Now heaven in fullest glory shone

Now heaven in fullest glory shone;
earth smiles in all her rich attire.

The room of air with fowl is filled,
the water swelled by shoals of fish;
by heavy beasts the ground is trod.

But all the work was not complete:
there wanted yet that wondrous being,
that grateful should God’s power admire,
with heart and voice his goodness praise.

Words: Anonymous, 1795 Music: Joseph Haydn (1732–1809), *The Creation*, 1798

After the Anthem, you are invited to stay for socially-distanced fellowship.

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Announcements

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

Thanks to the Vestry for providing the planning and labor necessary to make our outdoor worship possible!

Bible Study Resumes on Thursday, September 30, at 7:30 p.m. Genesis, Week 1: Introduction (on Zoom).

The Bible Study regulars have decided to resume Thursday with the Book of Genesis. The group will use the eight-part program from Yale Bible Study. Each week, simply read the assigned chapters and watch the related video at your convenience, and then gather via Zoom at the appointed time. The conversation is always interesting and often far-ranging.

Please Consider Helping! Please consider offering Afghan refugee assistance through IRIS and Hurricane Ida and Haiti earthquake assistance through Episcopal Relief & Development.

Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn

Lectors: Greg D’Andrea

Intercessor: Emma Wright

This Week’s Prayer Intentions

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:

Cynthia (Sally Edwards' sister-in-law), Sally (Edwards)

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

Pray for those who have died.

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

The 237th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Church of the Province of Uganda

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for:

Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

Leadership at St. Thomas’s

Church Vestry

Greg D’Andrea (Senior Warden)

Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)

Bill English (Treasurer)

Denise Terry (Clerk)

Valerie Garlick

Claire Scully

Sara Zampierin

The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

Seminarian Interns

Ike Harijanto

Emma Wright

Day School Board of Trustees

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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

Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ www.stthomasday.org