



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEASON OF CREATION (YEAR A, WEEK 4): RIVER SUNDAY

Liturgy of the Word

October 4, 2020 10 A.M.

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## 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.

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## VOLUNTARY

Le cygne

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921), *Le carnaval des animaux*, 1886

**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. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod; —  
 2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver spray, —  
 3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down; —  
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease, —

1. With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?  
 2. We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py gold - en day.  
 3. Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.  
 4. Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of peace.

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

**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 God, from whom all good proceeds: You established your covenant with all creation. Guide us and all your people, that we may walk upon the earth in righteousness and peace, and honor you in our kinship with all your creatures; through our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**  
[*The 2018 Book of Occasional Services*]

### **THE FIRST LESSON**

GENESIS 8:20-22; 9:12-17

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the LORD smelled the pleasing odor, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

- 27 There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, \*  
 which you have made for the sport of it.
- 28 All of them look to you \*  
 to give them their food in due season.
- 29 You give it to them; they gather it; \*  
 you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
- 30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; \*  
 you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.
- 31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; \*  
 and so you renew the face of the earth.
- 32 May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; \*  
 may the LORD rejoice in all his works.
- 33 He looks at the earth and it trembles; \*  
 he touches the mountains and they smoke.

**THE SECOND LESSON**

REVELATION 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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.*

D A/C# G2/B D/A G D/F# A D

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Cantor: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

*The People sing the Alleluia again.*

## THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 28:1-10

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

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

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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. [*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 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

All things bright and beautiful (405, *The Hymnal 1982*)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of several systems of music with lyrics underneath. The first system is labeled 'Descant' and the second 'Refrain'. The lyrics are: 'All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small, all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all. all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all. 1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings, 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by, 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun, 4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings. the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky, the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one. how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.' The score ends with a 'Repeat Refrain' section.

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## 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 for 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 [“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.**

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

*We will take a few moments to allow you to retrieve your pets.*

*Presider*

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life: Let your blessing be upon these and all animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and may our care for them follow the example of your bountiful mercy. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive, like God's servant Francis of Assisi, to imitate Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to  
eternal life. Amen.

## DOXOLOGY *(sung by all)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## VOLUNTARY

L'éléphant

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921), *Le carnaval des animaux*, 1886

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



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## Announcements

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

**The Season of Creation concludes today with “River Sunday.” Thanks to our preacher, Jocelyn Tidwell!**

Hailing from the American South, Jocelyn moved to New Haven in 2018 to join the staff of [Gather New Haven](#) as Farm Manager. She leads the production of the vegetables and herbs for a farm-based wellness program and runs their Saturday farm stand with help of the farm crew, Growing Entrepreneurs, and many, many volunteers. Jocelyn earned a Masters in Adult Education and has traveled to work with sustainable agriculture projects from Peru to Italy, broadening her knowledge and serving as a programs consultant. Prior to coming to New Haven, she assisted in managing a land trust farm in mid-coast Maine, growing vegetables to supply local food pantries and schools with a crew of high schoolers, and taught adult literacy at a learning center in Seattle. She comes to the Episcopalian church having been raised in the Pentecostal tradition, valuing high church liturgy seasoned with a healthy sprinkle of low church spontaneity.

This Sunday happens to be the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. At the end of the service, we'll bless animals, so plan to have your pets nearby.

A note of **gratitude for our preachers the last two Sundays, Kyle Holton and Sean Duffy**. Remember, previous sermons are available in the [Sermon Archive](#) on the St. Thomas's website.

Keri is building a new [Creation Care & Ecojustice](#) page for the [St. Thomas's website](#). Send her ideas you have for resources. And don't forget our recently added [Racial Justice & Reconciliation](#) page.

**Helping Our Neighbors.** Please consider donating to the [Disaster Fund](#) of Episcopal Relief & Development and/or to the [Connecticut Food Bank](#).

## Serving Today

**Presider:** The Rev. Keri Aubert

**Preacher:** Jocelyn Tidwell

**Musician:** Dr. Noah Horn

**Lectors:** Jenny Chavira, Jennifer Herdt

**Intercessor:** Claire Scully

## 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, Trumbull; Grace Church, Trumbull; Trinity, Trumbull; For all companions and service animals, all livestock & wild animals, great and small

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**  
the Anglican Church of Tanzania

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

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

## Leadership at St. Thomas's

### Church Vestry

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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)

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The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

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## ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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