



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

THIRD SUNDAY IN CREATION CARE SEASON

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

Saturday - 12 November, 5pm & Sunday - 13 November, 11am, 2022

The Psalmist declares, *"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the Earth, and their words to the end of the world."* (19:1-4).

Creation never ceases to proclaim, but do we hear? We commit to "Listen to the Voice of Creation." By listening to the voice of all creation, humans from all cultures and sectors of life can be joined in our call to care for Earth, our common home.

The burning bush is the symbol for this Season of Creation. Today, Creation cries out as forests crackle in flames, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of unheeded climate changes.

In contrast, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God's presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed in faith to our deliverance from injustice.

Prelude: *"Sheep May Safely Graze"*, by J.S. Bach, piano transcription Elgor Petri

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Allison Cornell

Opening Song: “*From the Dawning of Creation*”

See Insert WLP#748

Presider: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People: The Holy One’s love is new every morning.

Gloria: *Canticle 12: A Song of Creation part II* (spoken)

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,

and all that grows upon the earth, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *

O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *

and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Amen.

Presider: God our Creator be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

The Collect:

**All: 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**

(Please be seated for the reading of the lessons)

First Lesson: A reading from the book of Proverbs 8: 22-31

The Lord created me at the beginning* of his work,*
the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields,*
or the world's first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;*
and I was daily his* delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

The Psalm:

Psalm 148

1 Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

2 Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

3 Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

4 Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were
created.

6 He established them for ever and ever;

- he fixed their bounds, which cannot
be passed.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
8 fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his com-
mand!
- 9 Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
10 Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
- 12 Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
13 Let them praise the name of the
Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are
close to him.
- Praise the Lord!

Second Lesson: A reading from the book Act 17:22-34

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’ At that point Paul left them. But some

of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson:

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew 6:19-24

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

‘The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

‘No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

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Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you Lord Christ.

SERMON

Nicene Creed *(Traditional)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader: Lord, there is no pain in our hearts or in our planet that you do not know, for you have touched the lowest places on earth.

People: **Teach us to grieve with you, O Christ, the loss of all the beauty that is passing away.**

Leader: There is no place in the heavens that cannot be touched by your resurrection presence, for you fill all things.

People: **Give us strength in your victory over death to grow into your way of love, which does not despair but keeps sowing seeds of hope and making signs of wholeness.**

Leader: In you, Lord Christ, all the parts of the body fit together joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is provided. Each part working together, promotes the body's growth, building itself up in love.

People: Teach us to recognize our interconnectedness with all things. Teach us to grow with each other and all living creatures through love.

Leader: Let us be at peace within ourselves.

People: Let us accept that we are profoundly loved and need never be afraid.

Leader: Let us be aware of the source of being that is common to us all and to all living creatures.

People: Let us be filled with the presence of the great compassion towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

Leader: Realizing that we are all nourished from the same source of life, may we so live that others are not deprived of air, food, water, shelter, or the chance to live.

People: Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be a cause of suffering to one another.

Leader: With humility let us pray for the establishment of peace in our hearts and on earth.

People: May God kindle in us the fire of love to awaken us and give back humbly and generously to the world. Amen.

The Confession

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and all Creation.

(Short Silence may be kept.)

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the Cosmos. We have become estranged from the movements of the earth. We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: We have sought only our own security. We have exploited for our own ends. We have distorted our knowledge. We have abused our power.

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: Now the land is becoming barren. And the waters are often poisoned. And the air is heavily polluted.

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: **Now the forests are burning and dying. And the creatures are disappearing. And humans are despairing.**

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: **We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering. We ask for the strength to change. Help us to remember who we are. Amen.**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on us forgive us all our sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

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

People: **And also with you.**

Offertory

Presider: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory music *“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”*

#380

Doxology #380 vs 3 (*Peoples’ offerings are brought to the altar*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving - *Creation Care Liturgy, Scottish Episcopal Church*

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you created all things and all your works echo with music of your praise. All things are of your making, all times and seasons obey your laws. You made us in your image. You give us breath and speech, so that now we give you thanks for setting us as stewards over the whole world in all its wonder.

Therefore we praise you day by day for the marvels of your power, creativity, and natural beauty: along with all the earth — united with heaven to sing a new song of creation:

Sanctus

#S130

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might (x2)
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest (x2)

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest (x2)

The Presider continues

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, God our creator, for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. Christ is your holy Wisdom, existing beyond time, present at the creation.

Through Christ you revealed yourself in the world, and bring your saving work to its completion. Obedient to your will, he died upon the Cross. By your power you raised him from the dead. He broke the bonds of evil and set your people free to be his Body in the world.

On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end.

At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

We now recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us (+) and upon this bread and this wine (+), that, overshadowed by the Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. AMEN.

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

Lord's Prayer: (Traditional)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

(G#827, refrain only)

**Taste and See, Taste and See,
The goodness of the Lord
O Taste and See, taste and see
The goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.**

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. Come to the rail and extend your hand to receive the bread, wait for the chalice to dip/intinct your bread into the wine, then consume it. If you prefer not to have the wine, you may eat the bread when you receive it. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing instead.)

Communion Hymn: *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

G#548

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayer, Travelers, Gratitude Sharing

Post Communion Prayer *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider Let us Pray

All: Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace, plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction/Blessing:

Presider: *God the Creator, who loves us and gave this world to be our home, God the Redeemer, who loves us and by dying and rising again leads the way to freedom, God the Sanctifier, who spreads the divine love in our hearts, God the three in one and one in three, bless you and keep you now and forever.*

Amen.

Closing Song: “*Earth and All Stars*”

#412

Dismissal:

Deacon: People of St. Stephen’s, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon: *Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God’s Spirit.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)

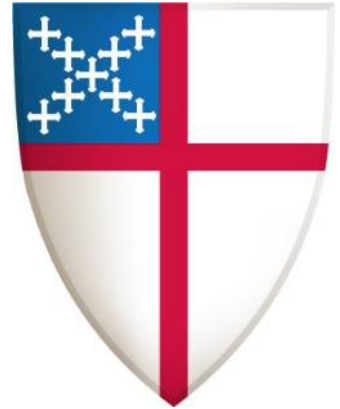
Postlude:: “*Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* “, Tune from Sicilian Mariners

Please, join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall after worship.

Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.



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**ST. STEPHEN'S
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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 Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

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