

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH



September 26, 2021
Morning Prayer
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Season of Creation

Season of Creation 2021 Prayer

Creator of All,

We are grateful that from your communion of love you created our planet to be a home for all. By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil, water and air. Each part of creation praises you in their being, and cares for one another from our place in the web of life.

With the Psalmist, we sing your praise that in your house “even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young.” We remember that you call human beings to keep your garden in ways that honor the dignity of each creature and conserve their place in the abundance of life on Earth.

But we know that our will to power pushes the planet beyond her limits. Our consumption is out of harmony and rhythm with Earth’s capacity to heal herself. Habitats are left barren or lost. Species are lost and systems fail. Where reefs and burrows, mountaintops and ocean deeps once teemed with life and relationships, wet and dry deserts lie empty, as if uncreated. Human families are displaced by insecurity and conflict, migrating in search of peace. Animals flee fires, deforestation and famine, wandering in search of a new place to find a home to lay their young and live.

In this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Welcome! If you are visiting, either in person or on Zoom, we offer you a special welcome and would like to get acquainted. If you are with us on Zoom and would like more information about our parish, please send the Zoom Usher a chat message, or for anyone in person or on Zoom, email office@stjamesvt.org with your name, where you're from, and your email address. Thank you for worshipping with us! We are glad you are here.

On Zoom, please keep your microphone muted for most of the service. If you are reading a lesson or adding a thanksgiving or prayer request aloud during the time of prayers, please unmute yourself. Then please mute yourself again.

In person, masks are worn and social distances observed indoors, and according to your comfort level outdoors. Please be mindful of the level of comfort of others.

Prelude: Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Bradbury

Opening Sentence

Officiant We give you thanks, O God, we give you thanks, calling upon your Name and declaring all your wonderful deeds –*Psalm 75:1*

Confession

The Deacon or Officiant says

Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

We confess that we have misused your earth:
grant us amendment of life.

We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:
strengthen us in self-control.

We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted:
make us urgent now for its protection.

Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
with whom you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Priest alone says the following. If no Priest is present the Officiant say the following

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

The Invitatory and Psalter

EOW 20

Said responsively with the designated responder leading the people's responses

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People And your glory all the day long.

All Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Officiant The Holy One is in our midst:

People O come, let us worship.

Psalm 67:1-5 *Deus misereatur*

EOW 23

Said in unison with the Officiant leading

Antiphon

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

Psalm 124

The Psalm is read in unison.

1 If God had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

2 If God had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;

5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

6 Blessed be God! *
who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the Name of God, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

Glory to God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word, and Holy Spirit, *
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

-St. Helena Breviary

The Lessons

First Reading: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Reader: A reading from Book of Esther.

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the

fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

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

People *Thanks be to God.*

A period of silence is kept.

A Song of Creation

Song of the Three

EOW 25

Said in unison.

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

In the high vault of heaven, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
sing, praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains
and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, *
sing praise and give honor 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, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

In the high vault of heaven, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Second Reading: James 5:13-20**Reader:** A reading from the Letter of James.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**People** *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn: Ev'ry night and ev'ry morning

1. Ev - 'ry night and ev - 'ry morn - ing in the dark - ness and the
 2. Through the great ex - pand - ing vast - ness moves the all - cre - at - ing

light, sun and moon and stars are tell - ing of a
 sound. Heard through - out the ho - ly dark - ness, ev - 'ry -

grace be - yond our sight. Sol - id ground and roar - ing
 where God's breath is found. From the small - est at - om's

o - cean speak of the God in words un - heard; all the
 spin - ning to the great - est gal - ax - y still, there

worlds in end - less mo - tion ech - o God's cre - at - ing Word.
 sounds the Spir - it, sing - ing God's cre - a - tive mel - o - dy.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, 2004; © 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music: NETTLETON; Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Pt. II*, 1813

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

For Morning Prayer, please remain seated for the Gospel lesson

Deacon: A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. “For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

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

People *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

The Rev. Kim Hardy

1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
 2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
 3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-

be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and
 fled; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly
 in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from

sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for
 died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was
 sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the

us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of
 raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God
 break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -

Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life,
 right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

The Prayers

Officiant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.

Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.
Feed us today, and forgive us
as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

source: Martha Blacklock, Mother Thunder Mission

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 Collect of the Day

All are invited to say the collect together

O God, you declare your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of our Savior: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Collect: The kinship and unity of all creation in Christ

God, maker of marvels, you weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship; your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone, and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who topples the dividing walls by the power of your Holy Spirit, and who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.

Source: Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation, Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church

A Collect for Creation

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the gospel in the center of this Sacred Circle through which all of creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your Spirit, for you are God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Source: A Gathering Prayer adapted from Native American/ Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Liturgies, prepared for the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, Anaheim, California, July 2009

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

The Intercessor offers prayers for those on our prayer lists.

We remember and pray for St. Paul's Church in Vergennes and the Rev. Sherry Osborn in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, and The Episcopal Church in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer. We give thanks and pray for Dick Studley and Helen Donahey who are celebrating birthdays this week and for Paul and Carol Gross, and Jeff and Cheryl Hard, who are celebrating wedding anniversaries.

I invite your prayers of thanksgiving.

The Intercessor will leave time for both in-person and online worshippers to offer their prayers aloud.

We pray for those who are sick or have asked for our prayers, especially Frances Huessy, Ely, Nicole and family, Sandy Jones, Julie and family, Karen Geiger, Evangeline, and Howard.

I invite your prayers of intercession.

The Intercessor will leave time for both in-person and online worshippers to offer their prayers aloud.

We pray for those who have died and ask that you receive into your eternal light all who have died of the coronavirus and their loved ones and for those areas of our world and country experiencing resurgences of the virus. Keep us mindful of those who are still suffering and help us to do what we can to help. May we be generous in sharing vaccinations and assistance.

I invite your prayers for those who have died.

The Intercessor will leave time for both in-person and online worshippers to offer their prayers aloud.

The Intercessor offers a prayer for troubled regions of our world:

We continue to pray for the people of Afghanistan and especially for Afghan women and children. We pray for those arriving on our shores, that we will provide a hospitable welcome. We also pray for the people of Haiti and for struggles at the Texas border.

The Intercessor offers a Prayer for Justice:

Creator of the Universe, source of all goodness and love, we ask wisdom, help, and guidance as we work to counter the many instances of injustice and racism in our world. Help us to value differences in culture, religious beliefs, and physical appearance, and celebrate the God-made wonder of every human being. Help us to be vigilant, working against racial and social injustice in our own hearts and in the world around us, that we may live into our baptismal covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. Amen.

The Officiant concludes with the following Collect.

A Collect of Dedication

Beloved God: As we offer ourselves to you this day, guide and stir us with your Holy Spirit, that we may become one body, one spirit in Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

1. Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.
 2. Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.
 3. Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.
 Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.
 Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I
 Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I
 Stand by me Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I

don't want to run this race in vain. _____
 don't want to run this race in vain. _____
 don't want to run this race in vain. _____

Setting: African-American spiritual, arr. Carl Harris, Jr. (b. 1935)

*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 this website link. Please scroll down the list of "Choose One" to
 choose "Essex Junction (St. James)"*

[ONLINE DONATIONS FOR ST. JAMES](#)

Final Prayer

The Officiant and People say together

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.*

source: Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation, Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church

Community Announcements

Dismissal

The Deacon says

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve God's creation.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Concluding Sentence

The Officiant says

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

2 Corinthians 13:14

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The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost—Year B

Welcome to St. James Episcopal Church. In today's Gospel reading, the disciples complain about someone (who was not part of their group) casting out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus' response is that the man should not be stopped, for "whoever is not against us is for us." The importance of the ministry of every person, rather than just the ministry of disciples or clergy or church members, is so great, that to despise other ministries is to risk personal disaster. If pride in our own ministry is getting in the way, cut off that pride.

The first reading today is from the section of the Hebrews known as "The Writings." In Jewish practice, the little book of Esther is read on the feast of Purim. While there is little of religious value in this book (God is never mentioned), it gives us a story of a heroic Jewish woman who uses her wiles to save the Jews living in Persia from genocide. When read in synagogue, everyone rattles noise makers and makes rude sounds each time wicked Haman is mentioned.

We continue to read from the Letter of James for our second lesson. Here James give some pastoral advice to the elders (the Greek word is “presbyters,” the origin of the term “priest” in the Christian church). The leaders are to minister to the sick, anointing them with laying on of hands and prayer. James reminds us that the prayers of faithful people are the source of God’s power.

Our ordained leaders are not the sole ministers of Christ; rather, they model the ministry we are all to perform. In our baptism, we are set apart as ministers of Christ who share in his royal priesthood. It is in that ministry, especially to the poor, oppressed, and dying, that we find God present to us in the lives of those for whom we care. Our ministry is expressed in our liturgical actions, and the Eucharist is the model for our daily living and for the nature of God’s Kingdom.

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.

Officiant and Preacher: The Rev. Kim Hardy

Deacon: The Rev. Dn. Dave Ganter

Lector: Neal Robinson

Psalm Leader & Intercessor: Jenny Ogelby

Musicians: Carol Reichard, Kim Hardy, St. James Choir

Greeter: Susan Brown

In-Person Ushers: Nancy Collins, Ron Belair, Paula Morgan

Minister of Technology: Helen Donahey

Digital Usher: Peggy Bonesteel

Digital Verger: Samantha Donahey

IN OUR PRAYERS

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Paul’s Church in Vergennes and the Rev. Sherry Osborn. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Episcopal Church.

We pray for those who are sick or have asked for our prayers: Frances Huessy, Ely, Nicole and family, Sandy Jones, Julie and family, Karen Geiger, Evangeline, and Howard.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn: We pray for all who have died of the coronavirus and their loved ones and for those areas of our world experiencing resurgences of the virus. Keep us mindful of those who are still suffering and help us to do what we can to help. May we be generous in sharing vaccinations and assistance.

Birthdays: Dick Studley, September 29
Helen Donahey, October 2

Anniversaries: Paul and Carol Gross, September 27
Jeff and Cheryl Hard, September 30

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

[Compline Zoom Link](#)



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Rector: The Rev. Kim Hardy

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon David Ganter

Vestry:

Senior Warden, Neal Robinson

Junior Warden, Ron Belair

Peggy Bonesteel

Linda Chiasson

Ron Cook

Paula Morgan

Minister of Music: Carol Reichard

Parish Administrator: Diane Muckstadt

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Parish Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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Priest contact: ammakim@stjamesvt.org



St. James Episcopal Church Calendar

Sunday, September 26

8:45 Lectionary Study
10:00 Morning Prayer
11:00 Coffee and Conversation

Monday, September 27

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Tuesday, September 28

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Wednesday, September 29

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
7:00 Sacred Ground

Thursday, September 30

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
10:00 Staff Meeting
7:00 Compline

Friday, October 1

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Saturday, October 2

8:00 Parables & Pancakes

Sunday, October 3

8:45 Lectionary Study
10:00 Morning Prayer
11:00 Coffee and Conversation

Monday, October 4

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Tuesday, October 5

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Wednesday, October 6

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
7:00 Sacred Ground

Thursday, October 7

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

Friday, October 8

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James