

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST  
SEASON OF CREATION  
OCTOBER 1, 2023, 11AM**



“Get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!  
Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no  
pleasure in the death of anyone,” says the Lord  
God, “Turn, then and live.” Ezekiel 18:31b-32

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

## The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

### The Season of Creation V

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks

The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

**(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise)**

#### **LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)**

*In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe.*

### **The Ringing of the Bell**

<b>Prelude</b>	<b>Spirit of the living God</b>	<b>St Peter's Choir</b>
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	<b>Morning has broken</b>	<b>H 8</b>

### **The Word of God**

Blessed be the One who creates all things.

**The Holy One's love is new every morning.**

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Song of Praise                      A Scottish Blessing (sung to Holy Manna)**

**Be a light before to lead me; be a guiding star above;**

**Jesus, may I always know thee, may I always know thy love.**

**There's no bird that soars the mountain, there's no deer upon the hill,  
there's no creature of the forest, but shall sing thy praises still.**

**Be a kindly shepherd for me, keep me safe through all my days;**

**Jesus may I always know thee, may I always know thy praise.**

**There's no life that swims the ocean; there's no creature of the sea,  
there's no fish within the river, but proclaims its praise for thee.**

**As the day falls into evening, as the night is lit with stars,**

**at the ending of life's journey may thy heavenly peace be ours.**

**Let all creatures in God's kingdom, let all life upon the shore**

**sing praise to God, the world's creator, sing praises now and evermore.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God of our salvation, we falter before the demands of your word and turn away from your call to life. Pour out your mercy on us as you showed mercy to your people of old, that we may turn from our sinfulness and walk the path of self-emptying love made known in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**A Reading from The Prophet Ezekiel, Chapter 18: verses 1-4, 25-32.**

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 25:1-8** *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

3 Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.

**4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.

**6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians, Chapter 2: verses 1-13.**

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.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn            In my life, Lord, be glorified            LEVAS 216**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or

was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Catherine Hicks**

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

**The Prayers of the People**

We praise your abiding guidance, O God, for you sent us Jesus, our teacher and Messiah, to model for us the way of love for the whole universe. We offer these prayers of love on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors, on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.

God, you have formed your people into communities of prayer and service. Strengthen your church. Give us all humble and obedient hearts and help us to follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, who humbled himself in obedience to you. **Turn our hearts to you so that we may live fully in your love.**

God, you established the nations of the world to order human community. Kindle love for peace among the nations and their leaders, save them from pride of wealth or power, and enable them to serve the common good. We pray for an end to all violence and war, and until your reign of peace comes on this earth, we pray for those serving in

the armed forces of this land, especially those on our prayer list, that they may serve with honor, and return home safely when their work is done. **Turn our hearts to peace.**

God, you have placed in human hearts a hunger to understand the structures and rhythms of all that you have made. Grant wisdom to those who seek to comprehend the hidden workings of the universe and enable them to work for the flourishing of all creation. **Turn our hearts to wisdom.**

God, you fill the world with delights for our ears and our eyes. Give artists and musicians a vision of your transcendent beauty. Grant them skill to create works that manifest the sublime glory of your creation. We give thanks for all musicians and artists in our community. **Turn our hearts to joy and wonder.**

God, you provided the earth as a garden, and you commanded the human community to till the land that it may be fruitful. Bless those called to the work of agriculture. Give those who benefit from farming thankful hearts for this good work. Help farmers to respect our common resources and to resist careless exploitation of nature for temporary gain. We pray that we will never take for granted the blessings of all the resources that we receive from the earth. **Turn our hearts to care for your creation in ways that will please you.**

God, you hear the cry of all who are in distress. Heal those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit, for all on our prayer list, and especially Daryl Potter, fighting cancer, Boyd and Barbara Wisdom, Herbert Wilkerson, Dale Brittle, and Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg. Comfort them in their need. Help those who care for them. Teach us to bear the burdens of our sisters and brothers with humility. **Turn our hearts to compassion.**

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

**BCP 360**

### **The Peace**

Peace with yourself.

Peace with Creation.

Peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Announcements**

**Birthday and Anniversary Blessings**

**BCP 830 #51/431**

**Offertory**

**At the name of Jesus**

**St Peter's Choir**

**Eucharistic Prayer (Celtic) for the Season of Creation**

**Prayer of Preparation for the Eucharist**

As if this were the only time, and this the only place, and we the only people, Jesus Christ will meet us. As if this were the only time and this the only place, and we the only people, let us worship God.

Let us pray.

Heaven is here, and earth, and the space is thin between them. Distance may divide, but Christ's promise unites those of us still bounded by time, and those who are now blessed by eternity. Let heaven be glad.

All: **Let the whole earth cry glory.**

Heaven is here, and earth, and the church above and below is one. Peter and the disciples are here, and Paul, Martha and all the Marys, St Francis and St Claire, Mother Teresa; Jonathan Daniels and Martin Luther King; the saints from far back and those who left us not long ago. Genevieve, Dutchy, Myrtle, John and Roger are here. And only sight prevents us from seeing them, for they are one with us on the other side. Let heaven be glad.

All: **Let the whole earth cry glory.**

Heaven is here, and earth, and God who made them is present. The Lamb, glorious on the throne, sits beside us; the spirit of God, the Dove, makes her resting place among us. God inhales the breath of our prayers and spreads a table for our satisfaction. Let heaven be glad.

All: **Let the whole earth cry glory.**

Blessing and honor and glory and power be to our God for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**



## **Invitation to the Eucharist**

Jesus was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, and Zacchaeus, he was always the guest. At the meal table of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. But here, at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him, those who want to follow him must first be fed by him, those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new. So come, you who are tired and in need of rest, those of you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his table.

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Holy Creator, that you allow us to live surrounded by the evidence of your divinity at St Peter's: Your sun pours in through the tall clear windows, light and shadows playing across these holy walls and holy words like the joys and sorrows that come and go in our lives. We thank you for the ever-shifting beauty of the Rappahannock River, for the shade of the sycamores, for the flowers that bloom in their season, for the smell of newly cut grass, for the crunch of autumn leaves. We thank you for the laughter and the tears that we have shared together.

As Jesus was, we are called to times of service, but also to solitude, to vast stores of unused quiet to be with You, to immensities of rivers, oceans and skies that enlarge our souls and remind us of eternity, and of what passes, but with promise.

And so we come together today to receive your Word and join with Saints and Angels in a chorus of praise and thanks that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

*(Sung to Land of Rest)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

And now, lest we believe that our praise alone fulfills your purpose, we fall silent and remember him who came to live and die as one of us. (Silence) Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside, emptying our hearts, and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn for the rest and the healing, the holding, the accepting, the forgiving which Christ alone can offer.

Merciful God, send now, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share. Among friends, gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, and broke it. "This is my body broken for you."

Later he took a cup of wine and said, "This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it all of you, so that I may be present in your midst."

Jesus, firstborn of Mary,  
All: **Have mercy upon us.**

Jesus, Savior of the world,  
All: **Have mercy upon us.**

Jesus Lord of heaven,  
All: **Grant us peace.**

He whom the universe could not contain is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup. So take this bread and wine. In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

**Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**BCP 364**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**BCP 364**

**The Communion of the People of God**

**Communion Hymn**

**What wondrous love is this**

**H 439**

## Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

**Holy One, you feed us with bread from heaven and the gifts of mother earth. In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace and you call us to friendship with one another. You have given us the gift of reconciliation. May we who have tasted that gift from you, offer ourselves in peace and humility to one another. And may you always walk among us as our friend. Amen.**

## The Blessing

Let us know peace.

For as long as the moon shall rise,

For as long as the rivers shall flow,

For as long as the sun shall shine,

For as long as the grass shall grow,

Let us know peace.

**Closing Hymn**

**All praise to thee**

**H 477**

## Dismissal

Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and all of creation.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia**

## Postlude

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## Resources:

**Today's collect:** Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

**The Prayers of the People** are adapted from Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Vol 2, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.

**The Eucharistic Prayer** has been adapted from A Wee Worship Book, The Community on Iona, Scotland. The preface was inspired by words for a Eucharistic prayer used at St Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church, Salter Path, NC, written by Peter Makuck.

**Post communion Prayer 3** from Lenni Lenape Algonkian Iroquoian Council, Diocese of Huron (Huron LAIC), 2001, as published in "Worship in the Vision of New Agape – A Collection of Resources" (Anglican Church of Canada, 2004), 44. Prayer by Anne Rowthorn from God's Good Earth. 2023 Liturgical Season of Creation: Episcopal Liturgical Guide

**The Blessing** is adapted from a Native American Cheyenne prayer.

## Announcements

**Welcome to St Peter's.** May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship. The communion bread is gluten free. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

**The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work through this church.** Mail - PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. online - <https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

**Happy Anniversary, Helmut, Susan Linne von Berg (Oct. 1).**

**All are welcome at Coffee Hour immediately following this service.**

**Every Sunday, 10:30AM, God's Garden in the Parish House**—A gathering of children ages 5-9 for Sunday School activities and fun, led by Elizabeth Heimbach and Jan Saylor.

**Oct. 1, Worship, On YouTube livestream at 11AM, and available afterward as a video.**

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepiscopalchurchpo677/streams>

**Bible Study, Weds, Oct. 4. 27, 10am-12pm. Parish House, reading the lectionary for 19<sup>th</sup> Pentecost**

[https://lectionarypage.net/YearA\\_RCL/Pentecost/AProp22\\_RCL.html](https://lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Pentecost/AProp22_RCL.html)

**In honor of St Francis, whose Feast Day is October 4, pet blessings will be distributed today during announcements by the young people. The day is also the official end of the Season of Creation.**

**During the Season of Creation online, we have highlighted a specific environmental area. This week's topic is deforestation.** Forests play a vital role in maintaining the balance of the Earth's ecosystems. They provide habitat for more than half of all terrestrial species, help filter pollutants out of the air and water, and prevent soil erosion.

Deforestation is a shorthand term for tree loss. The Earth loses more than 18 million acres of forestland every year—an area larger than Ireland. In addition to the environmental devastation, forest fires directly affect the lives of people. The total area affected by forest fires in the western US has increased by more than a factor of six in the past two decades. This trend has affected air quality. Since 2016, air quality progress has significantly slowed in 30 states. In 11 others, it began to reverse.

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

**823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535**

**Website: [www.news.churchsp.org](http://www.news.churchsp.org) Parish Office: (804) 742-5908**

**The Vestry**

**Cookie Davis, Larry Saylor (2024)**

**Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)**

**Linda Upshaw (2026)**

**Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar**

**Senior Warden, Elizabeth Heimbach**

**Junior Warden, Cookie Davis**

**Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist**

**The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector**

**The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus**

**(540) 809-7489, (540) 898-1586, [stpetersrev@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersrev@gmail.com)**

**Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring**

**Prayer List**

**Barbara and Boyd Wisdom, Andrea and Ken Pogue, Cookie Davis, Laura Carey, Fred and Crystal Pannell, Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Barbara and Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth and Ramon Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Bill Wick, Jim Heimbach**

**Karen Stoddard, Daryl Potter, Joanne and Herbert Wilkerson and Julie Davis (sister, brother-in-law and daughter of Johnny Davis), Dale Brittle, Carol Lawson, Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), Lisa Herbert, John Ryan Kirwin (Jean Devitt's son), Max and Rita Jensen (Duke friends), Barbara Deal, Roberta Rutledge, (friend of the Pogues), Patterson family, Valerie Leitch, Liz Ruthven, Charlene Schnakenberg, (Becky Fisher's mother), Wayne Cohen (cousin of Andrea Pogue), Jimmy and Nancy Davis (Johnny Davis' brother and sister in law), Herb Collins, Mrs. Watson, Hyacinth Wallace, Bethune Andrews, Orville Watson (Linneth Feliciano's mother, sisters and brother), Sylvia and Jonathan Coleman (Cleo's daughter and son), Nika Corwin (friend of Marcia Kole), Nathaniel Schnakenberg, Otis Felts (friend of Johnny Davis), The Glasgows (friends of the Felicianos), Ann Pyle (Carolyn Duke's mother), Harvey Yarus (friend of Tom Kramer), Joanne Wilkerson and Julie Davis (sister and daughter of Johnny Davis), Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear (BJ's grandson), , Gloria Jewell, The Hill family (Lydia O'Neil's family), G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw (Brad's cousin), Joan Pemberton (Brad's aunt), Albert Barnett (Andrea's uncle), Louise Chapman (Barbara Segar's cousin)**

**Serving in the Armed Forces**

PJ Koons

Scott Estes

Cliff Lance

Steven Lee

Greg Merkl

Grace Grimaldi

Alexis Rye

Michael Hobbs

Alex Long V