

**Church of the Messiah
Woods Hole, Massachusetts**

A Liturgy of Morning Prayer and Blessing of Animals

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 10, 2021**



Opening Hymn 400

“All creatures of our God and King”(vs. 1-4) *Lasst uns erfreuen*

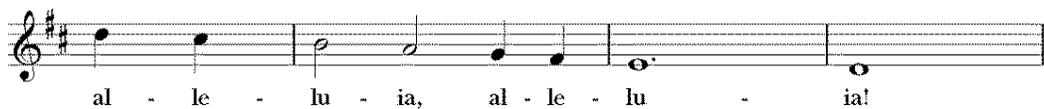
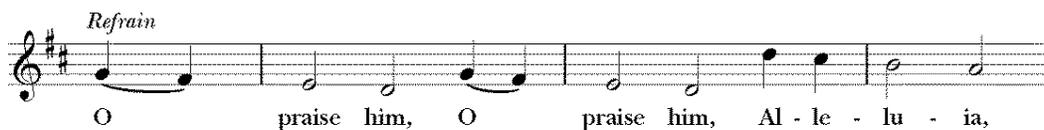
- 1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
 *2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
 *3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
 *6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



- 1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
 2 loft, O... praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
 4 way, O... praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
 5 part, O... sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
 6 breath, O... praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
 7 ness, O... praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



- 1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:



Opening Sentences

We gather in the name of the 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; wonderful Light of all mysteries known and unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

Selections from “The Canticle of the Sun”

attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord, All praise is Yours, all glory, all honor and all blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong, and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.

Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor,
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
And fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water,
So useful, humble, precious and pure.

Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You my Lord through our Sister,
Mother Earth
who sustains and governs us,
producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs....

Psalm 104:10-25

10 You send the springs into the valleys; *
they flow between the mountains.

11 All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, *
and the wild asses quench their thirst.

12 Beside them the birds of the air make their nests *
and sing among the branches.

13 You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; *
the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.

14 You make grass grow for flocks and herds *
and plants to serve all people;

15 That they may bring forth food from the earth, *
and wine to gladden our hearts,

16 Oil to make a cheerful countenance, *
and bread to strengthen the heart.

17 The trees of the Holy One are full of sap, *
the cedars of Lebanon which God planted,

18 In which the birds build their nests, *
and in whose tops the storks make their dwellings.

19 The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats,*
and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.

20 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons,*
and the sun knows the time of its setting.

21 You make darkness that it may be night,*
in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.

22 The lions roar after their prey *
and seek their food from God.

23 The sun rises, and they slip away *
and lay themselves down in their dens.

24 We go forth to our work*
and to our labor until the evening.

25 O Lord, how manifold are your works;*
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

First Reading

Genesis 1:20-25

God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

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

Second Reading “You Never Know Where a Conversation Will Go”

Mary Oliver

Said Ricky to me one, day, “Why is it you
don’t have a tail?”

Well, I just don’t. Maybe once upon a time
I had one, but not anymore.

“What happened? Did you have an accident?”

No, no. Things change. Sometimes. Over
time.

“You mean, maybe sometime I won’t get a walk,
I won’t get dinner? I won’t get hugs? That’s
scary, plain scary.”

No, no, it takes a really long time. In
fact, some things change, over time, and
some don’t.

...

“Well, how do I know what’s what?”

Day by day, Ricky. You find out.
Has anything changed that troubles you?”

“Actually, nothing. I like everything a lot,
every day.”

Well, see? Just keep on liking things.
And praying.

“I don’t know anything about that.”

Yes you do. Every time you wake up and
love your life and the world, you’re
praying, my dear boy. I’m sure of it.

Mary Oliver, *Dog Songs: Thirty-five Dog Songs and One Essay*.
New York: Penguin Press. 2013. p. 103.

Third Reading

Matthew 6:25-26a, 27-29

Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

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

Profession of faith

Leader We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

All In God we are breathing, in God we are living, in God we share the life of all creation.

Leader We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and humanity.

All In Christ God is breathing, in Christ God is living, through Christ we are reconciled.

Leader We belong to the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

All In the Spirit love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living, the breath of God always moves us.

Leader We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

All In God we are all made, in Christ we are all saved, in the Spirit we are all united.

- *written Per Harling, adapted by DMW*

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (*said by all – with microphones muted*)

Collect for the Day

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Morning

God,
you are our beginning and you will be our end;
we are made in your image and likeness.
We praise and thank you for this day.
This is the day on which you created light
and saw that it was good.
This is the day in whose early morning light
we discovered the tomb was empty,
and encountered Christ, the world's true light.
This is the day you have made;
we shall rejoice and be glad in it. *Amen.*

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book (1988) p. 106*

Prayer for the Absent

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We pray that you graciously behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) p. 830

For children and parents as the school year begins

God, another school year is underway – and with it excitement, nervousness and anticipation of what is being learned and discovered and how.

We pray for children returning to in-person learning and how they must be aware that closeness to friends, classmates and teachers must be expressed in new ways - always with a consciousness of being at a safe distance.

We pray for teachers teaching in person as they bear the weight of responsibility to pay close attention to their students even as their exercise creativity in their teaching.

We ask for your love and companionship for each of these people.

And we ask for your love and protection to who are living at risk or denied an education or the resources to read and study as they wish here in this commonwealth, country or global community.

Be with each of them and each of us as we continue to learn to live fully and faithfully in an uncertain time. May all be surrounded by your love and companionship as we rest in your peace now and always. *Amen.*

- *written by The Rev. Deborah Warner*

For those who are sick

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. *Amen.*

- *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) p. 461
www.americanmagazine.org 10/20/2017

Prayers for the Season of Creation

Leader We pray in thanksgiving for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called till and keep this garden.

People *enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.*

Leader All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one, Creative Spirit,

People *enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.*

Leader God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the Earth. Creative Spirit,

People *enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.*

Leader Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. Creative Spirit,

People *enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.*

Leader In the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic, hear our cries for compassion, and heal our world and all creatures. Inspire our hearts with a holy imagination, to rise, freed from the demands to produce and consume to imagine a just, sustainable way of living, where all have enough, and all may be restored.

People *enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.*

Leader During this Season of Creation, grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the ground.

People *enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.*

Leader We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Creative Spirit

People *enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Amen.*

- *Adapted for "A Prayer for the Earth" by Pope Francis, Laudato Si.*

Silent Prayer

Concluding Collect

God of peace,
let us your people know,
that at the heart of turbulence
there is an inner calm that comes
from faith in you.
Keep us from being content with things as they are,
that from this central peace
there may come a creative compassion,
a thirst for justice,
and a willingness to give of ourselves
in the spirit of Christ.
Amen.

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 464

Concluding Sentences

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia

Sermon

The Rev. Deborah Warner

Offertory Sentences

Offertory Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

*arr. by David Ashley White
(b. 1944)*

Blessing of Animals

Closing Prayer of Offering

Almighty God;
you give seed for us to sow,
and bread for us to eat;
make us thankful for what we have received;
make us rich to do those generous things
which supply your people's needs;
so all the world may give you thanks and glory.

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 141

Closing Reading

“The First Time Percy Came Back”

Mary Oliver

The first time Percy came back
he was not sailing on a cloud.
He was loping along the sand as though
he had come a great way,
“Percy,” I cried out, and reach to him –
 those white curls –
but he was unreachable. As music
is present yet you can’t touch it.
“Yes, it’s all different,” he said.
“You’re going to be very surprised.”
But I wasn’t thinking of that. I only
wanted to hold him. “Listen,” he said,
“I miss that too.
And now you’ll be telling stories
 of my coming back
and they won’t be false, and they won’t be true,
but they’ll be real.”
And, then, as he used to, he said, “Let’s go!”
And we walked down the beach together.

- Mary Oliver, *Ibid.* p. 77.

Benediction

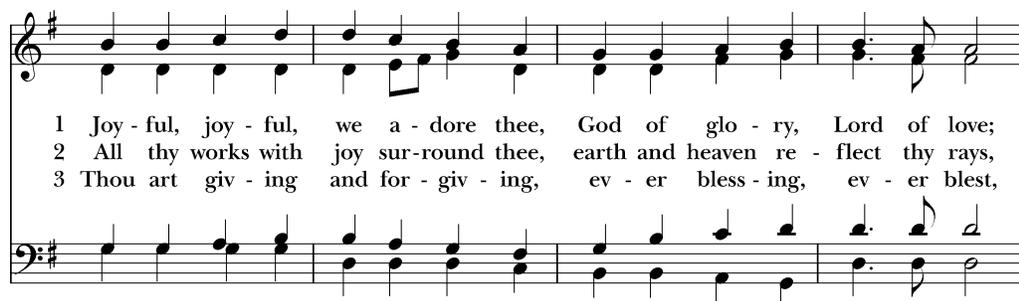
May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives
To reflect God’s glory in creation.

- *Adapted from the CTBI Eco-Congregation
Programme by DMW*

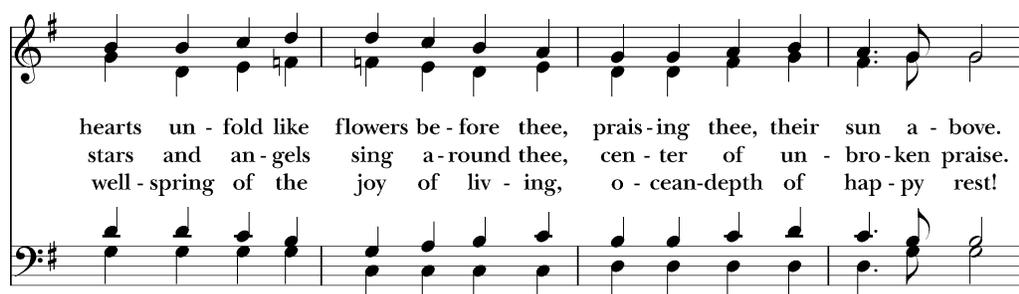
Greeting

Hymn 376

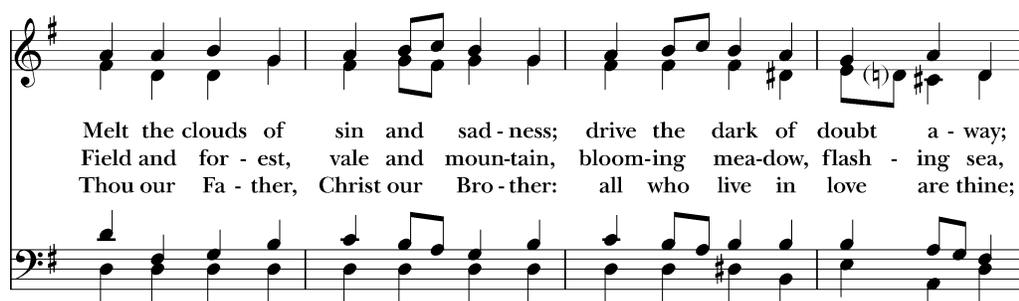
"Joyful, joyful, we adore thee"

Hymn to Joy


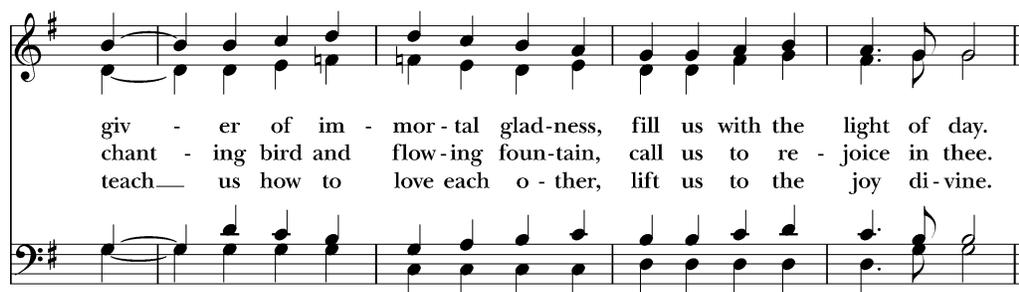
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach - us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Postlude

"Cats at Play' from Cat Suite"

by Denis Bédard

(b. 1950)

Dismissal

Note on today's service: Unless otherwise cited, the following parts of our service are taken from Jubilee for the Earth: 2020 Celebration Guide for Season of Creation published by the World Council of Churches in 2020. These parts are: Opening Sentences, Profession of Faith, Prayers for the Season of Creation and the Benediction.

*The flowers on the altar are given
in loving memory of 'Cooper',
by John Funkhouser and Warfield Truesdale*

Liturgical Leaders

Officiant and Preacher

The Rev. Deborah Warner

Organist

Brittany Lord

Musicians and Readers

Randy Hensley, Phil Alatalo
Helen Gordon

Ushers

Frank Gormley

Technology

Dicky Allison, Helen Gordon

Altar Guild

Laura Kelly, Nancy Rea

Church of the Messiah

2021 Vestry

The Rev. Deborah M. Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Jean Taft	<i>Warden</i>
Nancy Rea	<i>Warden</i>
Winifred Dick	<i>Clerk</i>
John Holden	<i>Treasurer</i>

Don Aukamp	2022	Paul Graney	2022
Charles Mann	2023	Peg Nicholson	2023
Susan Morse	2024	Rachel Rhude	2024

Deanery Representatives

Dicky Allison	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Helen Gordon	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Denise Jay	Deanery Representative

Staff

The Rev. Deborah Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Brittany Lord	<i>Music Director, Organist</i>
Nancy McDonald	<i>Parish Administrator</i>
Jennifer Kelly	<i>Bookkeeper & Financial Recorder</i>
Bruce Bagley	<i>Church Sexton</i>
Doug Amon	<i>Cemetery Sexton</i>
Jessica Morrison	<i>Webmaster</i>

The Rev. Deborah M. Warner

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