



SEASON OF CREATION:

LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF THE LAND
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023 AT 10:30 A.M.
The Church of the Redeemer:
162 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4
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WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!

We are in the heart of downtown Toronto, and we gather to celebrate on the traditional lands of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Our beautiful building connects us to the rich heritage of our city while also drawing us deeper into the roots of our Anglican tradition. Just as the streetscape around us has evolved over the years, our members have changed to reflect the growing, vibrant and progressive Christian community found at the Redeemer today. We come from a variety of faith traditions (and sometimes no faith tradition at all), and we like it that way. We are students, workers, retired, homeless, not limited by sexual orientation, gender identity or personal history. We are at the very beginning of our life with Jesus, and we are deeply steeped in a life complicated by faith. We open our doors to worship God and to learn about Jesus, and how all of this might just transform our lives.

If you would like to stay up to date with our news and events, please feel free to subscribe to our eNewsletter by going to <u>theredeemer.ca/newsletters</u>.

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Welcome to the Church of the Redeemer bulletin margin notes, where you will find a brief commentary and explanation of the liturgy as it unfolds, making it more meaningful for all. Presider: Steven Mackison

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

Opening Hymn: #499 (Gather) "Sing Out, Earth and Skies"

Please rise as you are able and sing Come 1.Come, O God of the earth: Right-eous One; all us, O 2.Come, O God of wind and flame: Fill the earth with right - eous - ness; 3.Come, O God of flash - ing light: Twin-kling star and burn - ing down up - on 4.Come, O God of snow and rain: Show - er the earth; 5.Come, O Jus-tice, Come, O Peace: Come and shape our hearts Come, and bring our love to birth: In the glo-ry all to sing your name: May our lives your love con-fess. God of day and God of night: In your light we all are one. Come, O God of joy and pain: God of sor-row, God of mirth. Come and make op-pres-sion cease: Bring us all Refrain

Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you! Raise your joy-ful cries!



Dance to the life a-round you!

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950. Tune: Sing Out; Marty Haugen, b.1950 © 1985, GIA Publications, Inc.

▼ The Gathering of the Community

Priest: Blessed be the One who creates all things.People: The Holy One's love is new every morning.

Priest: This is the day the Creator has made.
People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Collect of the Day

Priest: Creator God,

you made the goodness of the land, and the rhythm of the seasons.

As we thank you for the abundance it yields,

help us to cherish and respect this planet and its peoples; through Jesus Christ our Lord

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

▼ The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: The First Story of Creation (Parts 1-3)

Please be seated

Within beginning Eloheme molded waters above and ground below. And the earth was helter-skelter; darkness over the face of Abyss. And the Breath of Eloheme she nestled tremulous over wavelets.

Eloheme called out, "Light—be!" and brilliance bloomed into being. Eloheme beheld the light created, and knew that light as goodness. Eloheme traced the divide across, between the light and the darkness. Eloheme called to light: "Be Day!" and to darkness called: "Be Night!"

Of this evening and of this morning there now was for the first: Day.

And Eloheme spoke; a Firmness firmed and came between waters and waters.

Eloheme arched the Firmness and separated the waters;

The Waters below the Firmness from the Waters that were Above.

And it was so;

so Eloheme called it: "Heavens!"

Of this evening and of this morning there now was: Second Day.

Pronounced "CALL-ect". The collect of the day is the prayer we say together that unites us in worship and praise. It focuses on the theme of the day and "collects" the meaning behind the readings and offers them in prayer.

The First Story of Creation is courtesy of "Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes"

Genesis, the first book of the Bible, describes how the Creator called a beautiful diverse world into being: water, earth, plants, rocks and all the creatures of the waters, earth and skies, to live in harmony with each other. At the end of each day Creator shouted "Tov! Tov! Wonderful! Wonderful!" an expression of delight in creation.

And Eloheme spoke: "Assemble! Gather you, Waters under Heavens, together as one. And Dry Land! Appear." and it was so. Eloheme called Dry Land: "Earth!" and the Under Waters: "Seas!" So Eloheme saw Goodness.

Eloheme spoke: "Earth: Green with Grassy-growth and bear Forest children and fruiting fruit; Fruiting of fruit over the Earth, each in their own image."

And went forth Greeny-grass on the Earth, bearing fruitfully offspring of itself; And went forth Forest on the Earth bearing fruitfully offspring of itself. So Eloheme saw Goodness.

Of this evening and of this morning there now was: Third Day.

A moment of silence is observed

Psalm 107.1-3, 35-38 (*Plainsong*)



WE GIVE you thanks, O God, for <u>you</u> are good, * and your mercy en<u>dures</u> for <u>ev</u>er.

Let all those whom you redeemed proclaim. * that you rescued them from the hand of the foe.

You gathered them out of the <u>lands</u>; *from the east and from the west, from the <u>north</u> and <u>from</u> the south.

You changed the wilderness into pools of <u>wa</u>ter * and dry land <u>in</u>to <u>wa</u>ter springs.

You settled the <u>hungry</u> there, * and they founded a <u>city</u> to <u>dwell</u> in.

They sowed fields, and planted <u>vineyards</u>, * and brought in a <u>fruitful har</u>vest.

You blessed them, so that they increased greatly; * you did not let their herds decrease.

Plainsong is a chant, sung in unison, usually without musical accompaniment. It is also known as Gregorian chant, and was sung in the church as far back as the 6th century.

Many of the Psalms, like this one, describe the steadfast love of the Creator in the face of different kinds of trouble, including rebellion against God. These verses celebrate the strong link between the faithfulness of the Creator and the renewal of creation that is at the heart of the biblical story.

Second Reading

Son of the earth, steep yourself in the sea of matter, bathe in its fiery waters, for it is the source of your life and your youthfulness.

You thought you could do without it because the power of thought has been kindled in you? You hoped that the more thoroughly you rejected the tangible, the closer you would be to spirit: that you would be more divine if you lived in the world of pure thought, or at least more angelic if you fled the corporeal? Well, you were like to have perished of hunger.

You must have oil for your limbs, blood for your veins, water for your soul, the world of reality for your intellect: do you not see that the very law of your own nature makes these a necessity for you?

Never, if you work to live and to grow, never will you be able to say to matter, "I have seen enough of you; I have surveyed your mysteries and have taken from them enough food for my thought to last me for ever." I tell you: even though, like the Sage of sages, you carried in your memory the image of all beings that people the earth or swim in the seas, still all that knowledge would be as nothing for your soul, for all abstract knowledge is only a faded reality: this is because to understand the world knowledge is not enough, you must see it, touch it, live in its presence and drink the vital heat of existence in the very heart of reality."

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Hymn of the Universe (pp.60-61). *A moment of silence is observed*

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) was a French Jesuit, naturalist and geologist, who became famous for his scientific and his mystical writings and his overlap between the two. He famously said: "There is a communion with God, and a communion with the earth, and a communion with God through the earth." (Writings in Time of War, New York, 1968, p. 14).

The Sequence hymn (from the Latin "sequentiae" meaning "following") is a hymn that is sung following the second reading and before the reading of the Gospel.



We turn and face the Gospel as it is processed to the midst of the gathered community.

We do this as a sign of respect and to symbolize that its message is at the centre of our lives and its truth is always before our eyes.

The Gospel

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our

The Gospel of John is the fourth biography of Jesus in the New Testament. Unique to John are the "I am' sayings of Jesus, one of which is in today's reading. They link Jesus' identity to God's Hebrew name, Yahweh, which means "I am who I am."

ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." 'Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.' Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ. John 6.26-35

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily: Sylvia Keesmaat

Profession of Faith

Please rise as you are able

All: We believe in God, who creates all things,

who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,

the malnourished one, the climate refugee,

who loves and cares for this world

and who suffers with it.

And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to reconcile and renew this world

and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,

who moves with God

and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God. And we believe in the hope that one day

God will put an end to death and all destructive forces. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Leader: God our Creator, you called forth the Earth and all living beings and

they are good. Open our heart's ear to hear the voices of your creation. To hear their longings and groanings, their joys and pain. May the sa-

credness of the Earth echo in our souls.

In stillness and silence, we offer our prayers.

Leader: God our Creator,

All: Help us to listen.

Leader: In this Autumn season, the land, the soil, the plants and its creatures

begin to prepare for a time of rest. May we hear their cry for healing

and may we be bearers of comfort and restoration.

In stillness and silence, we offer our prayers.

Leader: God our Creator,
All: Help us to listen.

Homily is from the Greek word "homilio" which means "conversation". The purpose of the homily (also known as the sermon) is to gather the themes of the readings together and articulate what they meant for those about whom they were written and what they mean for us, today.

Profession of Faith is from Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute (a seminary in South India), adapted by Keld B. Hansen, 2009.

In the prayers of the people we offer to God our cares and concerns, our joys and hopes, praying for the church, the world, the sick, the suffering, and those whom we love but see no more.

Leader: The rippling water and its creatures who call it home sing to us of

their beauty, refreshment, and purity. May the soundings of the seas, the gurgling of creeks, the flow of ground water, and the drops of rain help us to remember their sacred nature and may we be bearers

of comfort and restoration.

In stillness and silence, we offer our prayers.

Leader: God our Creator,
All: Help us to listen.

Leader: The sky, home of feathered creatures, is painted with brilliant hues

of blue and white drawing us into the cosmic life of the universe. May we breathe deeply restoring respect for the air that sustains us

and may we be bearers of comfort and restoration.

In stillness and silence, we offer our prayers.

Leader: God our Creator,
All: Help us to listen.

Leader: For too long we have been deaf to the cries of the Earth and have not

learned to walk gently upon it. For the times we have failed to listen to the voices of creation and the times we have not responded in

love, forgive us.

In stillness and silence, we offer our prayers.

Leader: God our Creator,
All: Have mercy.

Leader: We have ignored the cries of the human family who bear the great-

est burden of environmental destruction and climate change. For the

times we have failed to listen to the voices of the poor, the

marginalized, and refugees, forgive us.

In stillness and silence, we offer our prayers.

Leader: God our Creator,
All: Have mercy.

Leader: God of All Life, through the voices of creation we hear your voice

drawing us into your unfolding love. Open us to wonder and awaken us to the dream of the Earth. Teach us to befriend the Earth and our co-creatures. And inspire us to respond in love as we become

bearers of comfort and restoration.

All: Amen.

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

When Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection, his first words to them were "Peace be with you." We share the peace with our neighbour as a sign that we are reconciled with one another and with God. You can share the peace through a nod, a handshake, or by raising your hand in the peace symbol.

The Offering

Please support the ministries of Church of the Redeemer



Or place your gift in the offering plate as it is passed

Your support allows us to be witnesses to God's love on our corner of Bloor and Avenue Road—now, and in the future.

Thank you for joining us today.

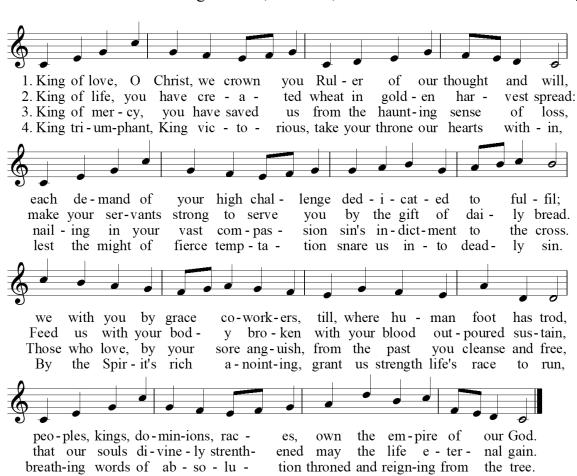
The offering is our opportunity to worship God by giving back out of the abundance from which we have received. It is not obligatory, but the opportunity is there for all who wish to express their love to God through the giving of monetary gifts.

Offertory Hymn: #451 (Common Praise)

till the power of sin be van -

"King of Love, O Christ, We Crown You"

All Sing



The "Offertory Hymn" is sung when we offer our gifts to God as an expression of thanks for all that we have been given. Our financial gifts, as well as bread and wine are brought before the altar as a symbol that in offering what sustains us, we might be a blessing to others.

the prize of God

tion throned and reign-ing from

the tree.

be won.

The Eucharist (Greek for "Thanksgiving") is a Christian ritual in which bread is eaten and wine is drunk as a way of showing devotion to Jesus Christ. Also known as "Communion" it is central to our faith and is practiced in most Christian churches in different forms. In the Eucharist we recall who Jesus Christ was, and the sacrifice he made for

us on the cross.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Priest: Source of all life,

You fashioned all that is

and nourish creation with the abundannt of your grace.

Receive the symbols of our labour and love

which we offer you this day, in the name of Jesus the Christ.

All: Amen.

▼ The Holy Eucharist



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,

source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,

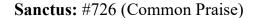
you would not forget us.

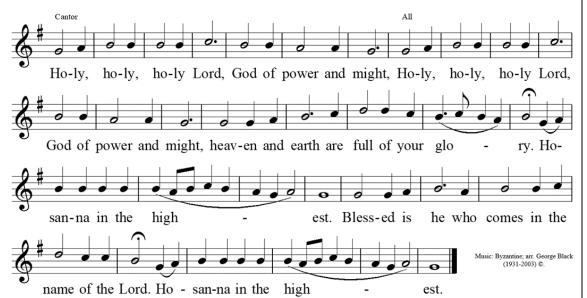
Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,

lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:





The Sanctus (from the Latin word "holy") is an ancient hymn that is sung during the Eucharistic Prayer. It is adapted from Isaiah's vision of the greatness of God, and from Matthew, where the people called out "Hosanna!" when Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Priest: Glory and honour and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favour upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

This is Eucharistic Prayer #2 from The Episcopal Church: Enriching our Worship.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

"Take, eat:

This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

"Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

The climax of this story is the celebration of the Eucharist itself with Jesus and his disciples, which is followed by Christ's suffering and betrayal. We pray using Jesus' own words and follow his command to eat and drink in memory of him.

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

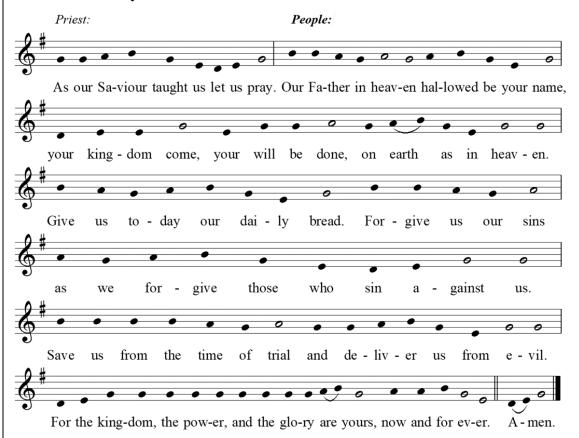
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honour, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



The Lord's Prayer, found in both Matthew and Luke, is a prayer that captures the essence of our relationship with God and with one another. Given to us by Jesus himself, it is the most well-known prayer in the world, and at any given time is being prayed in countless languages and dialects around the globe.

The Breaking of the Bread

Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat, Priest:

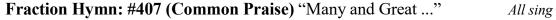
whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

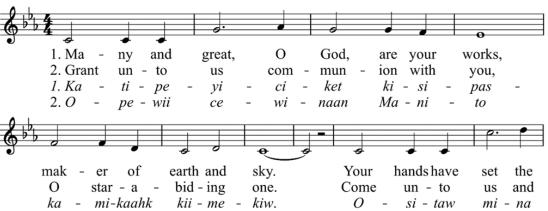
People: So may your Church be gathered

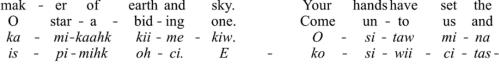
from the ends of the Earth into your kingdom.

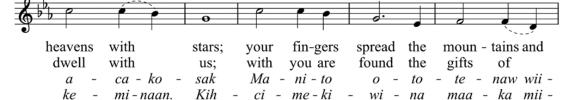
The gifts of God for the People of God. *Priest:*

All: Thanks be to God.













Text: Dakota hymn. English text: Joseph R. Renville (1779-1846); para. Philip F. Frazier (1892-1964), alt. Oji-cree text: Stan McKay (1941-) ©.
Para. © South Dakota Conference, United Church of Christ. Music: Melody Dakota hymn; adapt. Joseph R. Renville (1779-1846); perc. arr. Brian Barlow (1952-) ©.

The Giving and Receiving of Communion

Priest: Dear friends,

> I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be, to receive Christ, in communion with the saints, and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now.

The Fraction Hymn (from the Latin "fractio" meaning "to break") is music sung during the Eucharist when the priest breaks the consecrated bread.

For those of us participating at home, it is a strange experience to be invited to Communion

– not through the physical bread and wine we can touch and taste –
but a Spiritual Communion with the God who comes to meet us wherever we are.

There are no special words or prayers for this. All the Church has ever thought necessary is genuine true desire, lively faith, and genuine love. Come honestly before God the way you know how. You may wish to pray quietly this prayer to help you:

One: Come Lord Jesus and make in my heart your dwelling place and home.

I seek to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength, and so, through your presence in bread and wine I receive you afresh and praise you for you are my God. As you fill me, so may my love for you and for all your people, rise and overflow, that with joy and thanksgiving, I may serve you in the world you love. Amen.

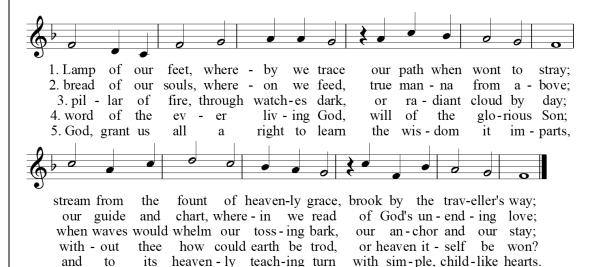
The Communion



All in the church are invited to come forward to receive communion. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please indicate this to the priest.

If you would like to receive a blessing rather than communion, please cross your arms as shown in the picture and the clergy will be pleased to offer you a blessing.

Communion Hymn: #477 (Common Praise) "Lamp of our Feet" All sing



Text: Bernard Barton (1784-1849). Music: Gräfenburg (Nun Danket All). Melody Johann Crüger (1598-1662).

Motet: Earth Song (Frank Ticheli)

Sing, Be, Live, See...

Motet comes from the Latin "motectum" meaning movement and refers to the movement of the various voices in this form of vocal composition.

This dark stormy hour,
The wind, it stirs.
The scorched earth cries out in vain:
O war and power, you blind and blur.
The torn heart cries out in pain.

But music and singing have been my refuge, And music and singing shall be my light. A light of song, shining strong; Alleluia!

Through darkness and pain and strife, I'll sing, Be, I'll Live, See...
Peace.

Prayer after Communion

Please rise as you are able

Priest: God of our hope,

in this eucharist we find the source of all your blessings.

Nourished in these holy mysteries

may we, with our lives,

give you continual thanks and praise.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Doxology

Priest: Glory to God,

All: whose power working in us

can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

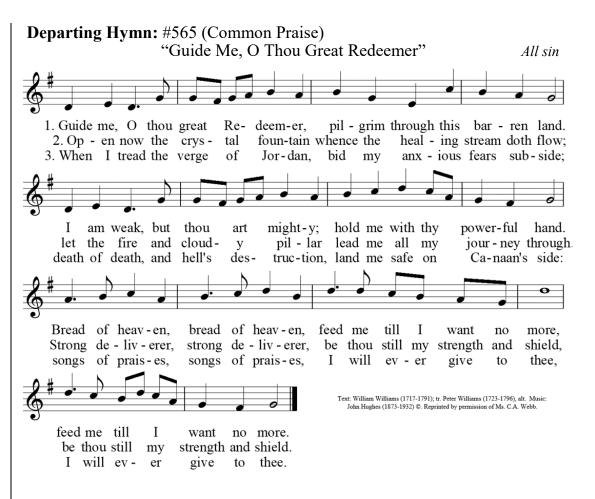
Glory to God from generation to generation,

in the Church and in Christ Jesus

for ever and ever. Amen.

Announcements Please be seated

This closing prayer is called the "Doxology", which comes from the Greek word "doxalogia" meaning "words of glory." We say this prayer to proclaim that worshipping God together has made a difference in our lives.



In the dismissal we affirm that we are now strengthened and nurtured to be sent out into the many circumstances of our lives to be agents of God's grace.

The Dismissal

Deacon: Tend the earth, care for God's good Creation;

as you have received freely, so give freely.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.. Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

The cover image "Season of Creation" is by our own Dawn Lee.

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The Collect is from the Church of England, Collects for Special Occasions.

The Prayers of the People were written by Paige Souter,

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Worship With Us

SEASON OF CREATION – LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF CREATION

Sunday, October 8 - Voices of the Land

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

Sunday, October 15 - Voices of the Air

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

Sunday, October 22 - Voices of the Sea

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

7 PM – Season of Creation Taizé

Sunday, October 29 - Harvesting the Season of Creation

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

7 PM – Season of Creation Rock Eucharist Featuring the music of Johnny Cash