



**ST. JAMES'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost:  
The Season of Creation - "Pray"**

**September 3, 2023  
9:30 am**

Welcome to St. James's!

*We're glad that you have joined us today to enjoy the blessings of worship  
and to participate with us in God's mission in the world of justice and love.*

*However you come to this place,  
exhausted or energized by life, comfortable with church or not,  
gay or straight, trans, nonbinary, cisfemale or cismale;  
of color or white, neurodivergent or neurotypical,  
differently-abled or able-bodied, younger or older!*

*Whoever you are,  
know the people of St. James's strive to love and welcome you as God does,  
unconditionally and completely just as you are!*

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**9:30 am** The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	JT Kittredge, Lauren Rigsby
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Patrick Michaels
<i>Preacher &amp; Presider</i>	The Rev. Matthew Stewart
<i>Readers</i>	Linda Luikel, Lauren Rigsby
<i>Ushers</i>	Alan Aukman
<i>Videographer</i>	Steve Clark
<i>Welcomer</i>	Sylvia Weston

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## The Word of God

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,  
 \* 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,  
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,  
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

*\*The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.*

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:  
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,  
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,  
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,  
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—  
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,  
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.  
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!  
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.  
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Tune: Colin Gibson, 1992. ©1992 Hope Publishing Co. OneLicense.net License #A-700155

## Opening Acclamation

*Presider* This is the day the Creator has made.

*People* Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## Collect for Purity

*All then pray*

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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God. For his  
 2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done. In the  
 3. For the har - vests of the Spi - rit, thanks be to God. For the

3  
 gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God. For the plow - ing, sow - ing,  
 help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done. In our world - wide task of  
 good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God. For the won - ders that as -

6  
 reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing, fu - ture  
 car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing, in the  
 tound us, for the truths that still con - found us, most of

9  
 needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
 all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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 Music: Patrick Michaels, ©2008. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700155

**The Collect of the Day**

*Presider* The Creator be with you.  
*People* And also be with you.  
*Presider* Let us pray.

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to use all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The First Reading:** Exodus 3:1-15

Linda Luikel

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then

Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations.

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

### **Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c**

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; \*  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
Sing to him, sing praises to him, \*  
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy Name; \*  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.  
Search for the LORD and his strength; \*  
continually seek his face.  
Remember the marvels he has done, \*  
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,  
O offspring of Abraham his servant, \*  
O children of Jacob his chosen.  
Israel came into Egypt, \*  
and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.  
The LORD made his people exceedingly fruitful; \*  
he made them stronger than their enemies;  
Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, \*  
and dealt unjustly with his servants.  
He sent Moses his servant, \*  
and Aaron whom he had chosen.  
Hallelujah!

## The Second Reading

Linda Luikel

From *Red: Passion and Patience in the Desert* by Terry Tempest Williams

The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time. They are kneeling with hands clasped that we might act with restraint, that we might leave room for the life that is destined to come. To protect what is wild is to protect what is gentle. Perhaps the wilderness we fear is the pause between our own heartbeats, the silent space that says we live only by grace. Wilderness lives by this same grace. Wild mercy is in our hands.

*Reader* Here ends the reading.

*People* Thanks be to God.

# Gospel Acclamation: Hallelujah, Amen

Scriptural

Patrick Michaels

Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men! Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men!

Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men! A - men, A - men!

Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men! Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men!

Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men! A - men, A - men!

WL800055

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## The Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

*Presider*  
*People*

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
Glory to you, O Christ.



Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

*Presider*     The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*       Praise to you, O Christ.

## **Sermon**

The Rev. Matthew Stewart

## **Affirmation of Faith**

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 that destroys.

## **Prayers of the People**

Lauren Rigsby

Let us pray for the Church and for all the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*The community is invited to offer their prayers, aloud or in silence, at this time.*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*The community is invited to offer their prayers, aloud or in silence, at this time.*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*The Presider then says*

Great Spirit God, we give you thanks for another day on this earth. We give you thanks for this day to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator. We acknowledge with one mind our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life. Bind us together in the circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and one another. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

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

*People* We confess our lack of gratitude  
for the beauty and bounty of your creation:  
teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.  
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.

*Presider* God of compassion, have mercy upon us. Heal our relationship with all creation. Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect of the creatures who share the earth with us. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent for what we have done to harm them, and for what we have not done to help them.

Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another and for all creatures, according to your will and in the fullness of your love; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Presider* The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

*People* Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

*Presider* The peace of God be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

## **Announcements & Celebrations**

*The people are now invited to come forward to share announcements, birthday and anniversary blessing requests, or prayer requests. The community's prayer is then gathered as they sing together:*

May God bless you; May God keep you; May God's love be with you;  
May God grant you peace and wisdom; May God ever be with you.

## **The Holy Communion**

### **Offertory Sentence**

*Presider* Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

*At this time our gifts and offerings will be collected.*

1 O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,  
 2 O beau - ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,  
 3 O beau - ty that is move - ment in li - quid line of grace,  
 4 O beau - ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,

di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,  
 O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark - ness as in light,  
 O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,  
 O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,

in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!  
 in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!  
 in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!  
 in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

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 Music: Alfred V. Fedak, 2007. © 2009 Selah Publishing Co.

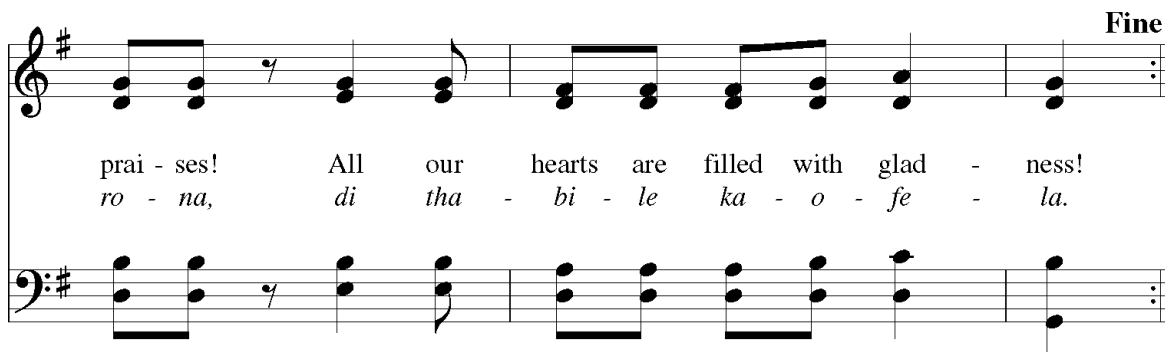
### Presentation Hymn: Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises!

*Sing in English, then Sotho, then English again*

**Refrain** Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es! All our  
 Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -

hearts are filled with glad - ness! Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your  
 bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa

Fine



prai - ses! All our hearts are filled with glad - ness!  
 ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.

**The Great Thanksgiving**  
*Eucharistic Prayer for Creation*

(Rev. Nina Pooley)

- Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*The Presider chants*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of Christ's incarnation you have gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, calling your people to be ministers of reconciliation and to proclaim the Good News to all creation. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.  
 heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

Words: Variation on a traditional liturgical text

Music: Composer of melody unknown; arr. © 1990 Iona Community, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.  
 based on two-part version as taught by Pablo D. Sosa (b.1933)

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### Presider

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive. Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew. Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy,



when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all.

*The Presider then chants*

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing:

## Lord's Prayer

SJS 1

solo:

*Hear our plea dear Father we pray;  
shower upon us your heav'nly grace  
that we may be your people*

all:

glorifying you.

all:

Lord, our Father, in heaven abiding,  
may your name always be hallowed by us.  
Your will is righteous and ever consistent,  
in heaven and also on earth.

Give us this day what we really have need of.  
Please forgive us the sins we've committed.  
Help us forgive all the sins of our neighbor  
as you have forgiven us ours.

Far from temptation we ask you to lead us.  
Save us also from all that is evil.  
Yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory  
at this time and world without end.

*Yours is glory excelling now and forever.*  
• *Yours is glory excelling now and forever.*  
*Yours is glory excelling now and forever,  
forever and ever. Amen.*

*Yours is glory excelling now and forever.*  
*Yours is glory excelling now and forever.*  
*Yours is glory excelling now and forever,  
forever and ever. Amen.*

## The Breaking of the Bread *(Silence is kept)*

### Fraction Anthem: Whoever comes to me

WLP 878

Who - ev - er comes to me shall not hun - ger and

who - ev - er be - lieves in me shall nev - er thirst.

The image shows a musical score for a Fraction Anthem. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Who - ev - er comes to me shall not hun - ger and' followed by 'who - ev - er be - lieves in me shall nev - er thirst.' The piano accompaniment features block chords and simple rhythmic patterns.

Setting: Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Fraction Anthems, Canticles, and Chants*  
© 1997 Carl Haywood

### The Invitation

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### Administration of Communion

*The people are invited to come forward to receive communion when directed by an usher.*

*Those that wish a contactless blessing or  
a gluten-free, allergen-free wafer are welcome to ask for that.*

*All are welcome and encouraged to receive Communion from God's table.*

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,  
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,  
 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.  
 un - til with thee I will one will, to do or to en - dure.  
 till all this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.  
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

Words: Fred Kaan @ 1975 Hope Publishing Music: Linstead, Jamaican folk song; adapt. Doreen Potter  
 OnwLixwnaw.nwt Lice #A-700155

## Post Communion Prayer

*Presider* Let us pray.

*People* 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 friend. Amen.

## Blessing

*Presider*

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 and the Church

To listen to the voice of all creatures

That reflect God's glory in creation.  
 and the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,  
 be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: For the beauty of the earth**

H 416

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
 2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, bro-ther, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 5 For the Church which ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,

1 for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
 2 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 3 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,  
 4 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
 5 of - fer - ing up on ev - ery shore thy pure sac - ri - fice of love,

*Refrain*

Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

6 For each perfect gift of thine  
 to the world so freely given,  
 faith and hope and love divine,  
 peace on earth and joy in heaven,

*Refrain*

Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.  
 Music: *Lucerna Laudoniae*, David Evans (1874-1948)

## Dismissal

*Presider* 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! Alleluia!

*People* Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Postlude

*Saint James's Episcopal Church  
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Emergency Pastoral Line: 857-600-1329*

*Interested in speaking to a priest or asking for prayers?  
Email Rev. Matt at [matt@stjamescambridge.org](mailto:matt@stjamescambridge.org)*

*Want to donate to St. James's? Visit the website  
or follow the QR code here:*



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**St. James's Episcopal Church Welcomes You!**

I am: \_\_\_\_\_ visiting just for today.                      I wish: \_\_\_\_\_ to be on the church mailing list.  
          \_\_\_\_\_ seeking a new church home.                      \_\_\_\_\_ to receive a call or email from St. James's.

Please circle items below you'd like information about:  
Church School/Choir/Bible Study/Food Pantry

I'd like prayer for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill this form out and place it in the offering plate or the church office.