

#### **September 26, 2021**

#### **Fourth Sunday of Creation**

**WELCOME** to all visitors and guests this morning. We are happy you are here to worship with us. If you want to know more about the Church of Reconciliation, you may email the church office at <a href="mailto:info@cor-satx.org">info@cor-satx.org</a> to receive our weekly e-mail.

All are welcome at the table of the Lord for Holy Communion. If you would prefer to receive Communion at your seat instead of at the rail, please let an usher know. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Large-print bulletins are available at the church entrances.

#### **Season of Creation 2021**

We will celebrate Season of Creation September 5<sup>th</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. Below is the remaining schedule of preachers and this year's themes.

- September 26 Sam Gilliam (Lamentation)
- October 3 Judith Rhodes (St. Francis Day and Blessing of the Animals)

# St. Francis Day and Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> on the Labyrinth

On Sunday, October 3rd, we will celebrate St. Francis Day with a Blessing of the Animals. You have three options to receive a pet blessing and St. Francis medal from Josh+:

**9:00am:** We will do a Blessing of the Animals during Chapel with Holy Communion on the Labyrinth.

**12:15-:1:30pm:** We will have a short service beginning at 12:15pm, followed by pet blessings until 1:30pm.

**2:30pm-3:30pm:** We will have a short service beginning at 2:30pm, followed by pet blessings until 3:30pm.

#### **Church Office Hours**

Beginning on Tuesday, September 28th, our church office hours will be expanded to 9:00am to 3:00pm, Tuesday through Friday.

#### **Centering Prayer Update!!**

Centering Prayer began meeting in person in the Library earlier this month. The group will continue to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month, September to May, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Please join us, whether you're new to contemplative prayer or you have a long-time practice! There will be a few changes to the format used over the past years. Rather than including a book study, we'll begin with a short reading for brief meditation and discussion. We'll also spend part of our time sharing about our individual practices so that we can learn and grow from each other's experiences. And as always, we'll finish our time with a centering prayer session. Please email Margaret Lewis at margaret.lewis22@gmail.com for any questions.

Today's altar flowers are given in thanksgiving for all of creation.

#### **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**8:00am –** Holy Eucharist (no music)

9:00am - Christian Education & Formation

9:00am - Chapel with Holy Communion, Brown Hall

9:30am-10:15am - Children, Youth & Family Formation

**10:30am –** Holy Eucharist (livestreamed)

The outdoor Labyrinth is available at any time.

# Adult Formation Sundays in the Library, 9am-10am

Join us as we read "Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis." Below is the reading schedule. Please note that the book will be read out of order. You do not need to read the book to join the discussion.

- September 26: Discussion of Section I: Rooting in Interfaith Friendship and Section II: Rising in Local Activism: Questions to Ponder, A Spiritual Practice
- October 3: Discussion of Section IV: Rising From the Margins: Framing Our Own Vision: Where Do We Go From Here?

#### **Quarterly Statements**

The software we have been using for our contributions has been experiencing some upgrade issues and was not printing all entered contributions. We are working with the software company to resolve this. If you have any questions or missing information on your 3rd quarter statement, please contact Susan at <a href="mailto:susan@cor-satx.org">susan@cor-satx.org</a>.

#### **LGBTQ+ Family Camp - November 19-21**

Hosted by a cohort of Episcopal Diocese of West Texas Churches for LGBTQ folks at Camp Capers. This program will feel like Family Camp coupled with a mini-conference. We are bringing educators from Lifelong Learning who will help facilitate conversations and worship that will support individuals and families as they wrestle with their queer identity and faith.

We hope this weekend is a time to celebrate and create space to learn, process, and be in fellowship with individuals, couples, and families who call or are longing to call the Episcopal Church home. Additionally, we will be bringing mental health professionals to lead breakout sessions or meet with attendees to aid in finding resources in their local areas. (Scholarship money is available...please chat with Jennifer Murphy if interested!)

#### **Sunday Worship Service Options**

#### 8:00am Worship Service

This service is a full Holy Eucharist, without music. All are welcome!

#### 9:00am Chapel with Holy Communion followed by Children, Youth and Family Formation

- Everyone is invited to join us at 9:00 a.m., in Brown Hall, for Chapel with Holy Communion! We are changing the location for the summer, due to heat and mosquitos!
- Following our Chapel service, those who would like to participate can join us for Children, Youth & Family Formation in the Children's Building & Rec Room.
- The Elementary children and parents will be hearing a Godly Play story in the Godly Play classroom and the Middle School and High School Youth and parents will be discussing the Gospel Reading, alongside a devotional from the Book of Common Prayer, in the Rec Room.
- We will wrap up by 10:15 a.m. Any questions? Please don't hesitate to chat with Jennifer!

#### 10:30am Livestreamed Worship Service

• This service is livestreamed and features music. All are welcome.

# Order of Service The Liturgy of the Word

#### **OPENING MEDITATION**

**Black-Capped Vireo** 

#### **PROCESSION**

# THE OPENING HYMN (10:30 only) Spirit Blowing Through Creation

Spirit blowing through creation, spirit burning in the sky, let the hope of your salvation fill our eyes; God of splendor, God of glory, You who light the stars above, all the heavens tell the story of your love.

As you move upon the waters,
As you ride upon the wind,
Move us all, your sons and daughters deep within;
As you shaped the hills and mountains,
Formed the land and filled the deep,
Let your hand renew and waken all who sleep.
Spirit renewing the earth,
renewing the hearts of all people;
burn in the weary souls, blow through the silent lips,
come now awake us, Spirit of God.

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant* In the name of our Creator, fountain of life, in the name of Christ, pulse of life, and in the name of the Spirit, breath of life.

# **People** Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence!

Celebrant: 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.

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord of life be with you.

**People** And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of All Creation, as we ponder the immense challenges before us, break open our hearts beyond self-centered concerns, that we might summon the courage, make the commitment, and answer your call to care for all of your sacred Creation. Through Jesus the Christ, who is with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

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

*Lector*: A Reading from Esther.

Read by Christine Hausser at 8:00; Read by Mark Mangus at 10:30

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

# PSALM 124 (spoken in unison at 8:00)

Led at 8:00 by Christine Hausser

Lector: Please join me in the recitation of the psalm.

If the LORD had not been on our side, \* let Israel now say;

If the LORD had not been on our side, \* when enemies rose up against us;

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

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

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

Blessed be the LORD! \*
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

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

Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \* the maker of heaven and earth.

# **PSALM 67** (sung at 10:30)

Refrain: O God, Oh God, let all the nations praise you.

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.

So will your ways be known upon the earth And all nations learn your saving help. *Refrain* 

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice.

With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. *Refrain* 

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

May God still give us blessing till the ends of the earth stand in awe. *Refrain* 

THE EPISTLE

James 5:13-20 Read by Christine Hausser at 8:00; Read by Bill Miller at 10:30

Lector: A reading from James.

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

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*Lector:* This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (10:30 only)

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." *Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### **SERMON**

Sam Carter Gilliam

#### AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From Season of Creation Liturgy, Uniting Church in Australia

Celebrant: Let us affirm our faith together.

All: We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary,

a sacred planet filled with God's presence,

a home for us to share with all creatures,

and that every creature is a manifestation of God's love.

We believe that God became incarnate in Jesus of

Nazareth,

who lived as one of us, healed, reconciled, and called us friends.

He suffered and died on a cross, the ultimate act of love.

We believe that the Risen Christ fills the whole of

Creation.

We believe the Spirit breathes life into all that is.

We believe that with the Risen Christ we are rooted and grounded in Eternal Love.

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#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

# Read by Christine Hausser at 8:00; Read by Phyllis Kline at 10:30

Intercessor: Loving God, you are forever creating, unfolding, and revealing your Spirit throughout Creation. Help us to see with new eyes and to feel with open hearts that every being and every thing you have created is deeply sacred. Help us to care for all of your sacred creation as you have called us to do. Ignite and fuel resolve in the leaders of all nations, near and far, that they may share a common vision for the welfare of our planet, the very foundation of the lives they proclaim to protect. Open our eyes to see the part we can play to heal our earthly home.

# Loving God, open our eyes to see.

Passionate Christ, help us to hear the cries of Creation. Break open our hearts and shake us up! Inspire us to care for your sacred Creation in our own front yards and backyards, in our neighborhoods and communities, and in the choices we make every day.

# Passionate Christ, compel our hearts to care.

Compassionate Spirit, those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit long to feel your love as they reach for health and wholeness; especially those we name either silently or aloud\_\_\_\_; and for Kimberly, Ron, Benny, Randy, Stella, Carolyn, Flora, Judy, Tiffany, Richard, Alfred, Ken, Gilbert, and Luke; and for these species whose very lives are threatened, such as the Golden-cheeked Warbler, the Redcockaded Woodpecker, and the Comal Springs Riffle Beetle. Empower us to protect the fragile web of life and to act justly

for the sake of those who are threatened, human and non-human, doing what we can to support them.

Compassionate Spirit, guide our efforts to meaningful action.

Eternal God, you welcome your children who have passed into the fullness of spirit, and we acknowledge the extinction of the San Marcos Gambusia Fish, the Amistad Gambusia Fish, and Pearson's Hawthorn wildflower. May those who mourn be assured that they are not alone in their grief; our love and the kinship of all Creation reach out in comfort.

God of All, you speak to us through the voices of prophets and the cries of Creation, help us to hear, to see, to care, and to act with steadfast commitment so that we might become the faithful stewards you have called us to be.

The priest reads the Concluding Collect.

O merciful Creator, your faithful love continues to uphold and renew this fragile Earth. As we care for your good gifts, make us keenly mindful of your Creation and all those that dwell within, remembering always that our actions have consequences. Sustain us with the courage to fulfill our mission of holy stewardship; through Jesus the Christ, who is with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen.

## A PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY COVID-19

Oh God of love and peace, help us to survive each day, in the midst of things we cannot understand, To those of us who are afraid, give us courage To those of us who are exhausted, give us strength

To those of us in despair, give us hope. Comfort us in our struggle, O Loving God, Walk with us through this time of crisis, Grant us and our loved ones' safety, security and stability, and help us to learn the lessons you are giving us at this time, so that we may all work together to rebuild our lives, and make the world a better place.

In the name of our loving Creator we pray, Amen.

- Sr. Monica Clare, Community of St. John the Baptist, Mendham

# THE CONFESSION OF SIN **Enriching Our Worship**

Minister: Let us confess our sins to God. Minister and People

> God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus the Christ that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

### THE ABSOLUTION

In the name of God, through Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Embrace this forgiveness, and live your life, trusting that you are deeply loved, and that the Holy Spirit empowers you to live fully, richly, and abundantly. Amen.

# Happy birthday to:

Terri Steed 9/26 Laureen Cate 9/30 Cecile Parrish 9/30

Sylvia Maddox 10/2

If you would like your birthday, anniversary, or other milestone mentioned here,

please email <u>info@cor-satx.org</u>.

#### THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

# THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 only) Christ Hath A Garden Arr. Gerald Near

Christ hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground,

Chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world's wide wilderness.

Like trees of spice his servants stand, these planted by his mighty hand;

By Eden's gracious streams, that flow to feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heaven and bear their sweetest perfume through the air:

Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom till the beloved master come:

That he may come and linger yet among the trees that he hath set;

That he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.

# DOXOLOGY (10:30 only) Old 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

# **RECEIVING THE OFFERTORY (8:00 only)**

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

All: And of thine own have we given thee.

#### THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

# **Eucharistic Prayer C**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you. Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

**People** We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are

worthy of glory and praise.

People Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**People** By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**People** By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People (sung at 10:30) \$130

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.

## The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**People** We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God, of Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. *People* Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.** 

Celebrant Let us pray a meditation on the Lord's Prayer.

#### A MEDITATION ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

from the New Zealand Prayer Book

**ALL:** 

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

The people respond: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

#### THE INVITATION

Celebrant: Come, for all things are now ready. Come to the table with all your kin and share with all in need the gift of healing for those in pain, the gift of forgiveness for those in sin, the gift of assurance for those in doubt, and the gift of hope for those in tears.

**People** May we who share these gifts, share Christ with one another and with all of Creation.

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

All are welcome at the table of the Lord for Holy Communion.

# **COMMUNION MUSIC (10:30 only)**

Song at the Center Mark Mangus, soloist

#### THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

The Navajo Blessing Way Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: In beauty may I walk. All day long may I walk.

Through the returning seasons may I walk.

On the trail marked with pollen may I walk.

With grasshoppers about my feet may I walk.

With dew about my feet may I walk.

With Beauty may I walk.

With Beauty before me may I walk.

With Beauty behind me may I walk.

With Beauty above me may I walk.

With Beauty beneath my feet may I walk.

With Beauty all around me may I walk.

In old age wandering on a trail of Beauty,

lively may I walk. All is completed in Beauty.

All is completed in Beauty. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

#### THE PROCESSION

# THE CLOSING HYMN (10:30 only) Earth and All Stars

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#### THE DISMISSAL

The Priest dismisses the people saying:
Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Creation!

The People respond:

We go in peace, as stewards in Christ, tending the Earth!

#### Rec Nursery: "Come One, Come All"

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them." (Matthew 19:14)

Ages: 6 weeks old through 3 years old

#### **Elementary Ministry: "Fun In Our Faith"**

"He will fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouting!" (Job 8:21)

Ages: 4 years old through 4th Grade

**Godly Play:** The Elementary children and parents will be hearing a Godly Play story in the Godly Play classroom from 9:30-10:15 every Sunday morning.

#### Ministering and Serving This Sunday September 26, 2021

**Liturgy of the Word:** The Rev. Judith Rhodes **Liturgy of the Table:** The Rev. Josh Woods

8:00

Verger: Bill Miller

**Usher: Robert and Annis Marshall** 

**Lector:** Christine Hausser

**Prayers of the People:** Christine Hausser **Altar Guild:** Team IV (Roxie Montesano Team)

10:30

Verger: Bill Miller

Lectors: Mark Mangus, Bill Miller Prayers of the People: Phyllis Kline

Altar Guild: Team IV (Roxie Montesano Team)
Ushers: Bill Schiller (lead) and Mark Gwin
Greater: Smakey Kiel (lead) and Jana Steed