THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
St. Paul & St. James

Holy Eucharist

October 4, 2026 | 10:30 a.m.
Blessing of the Animals
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Season of Creation, Final Sunday

JAZZ AND JUSTICE, GROUNDED IN JESUS

Welcome to St. PJ's! Wherever you find yourself on life's journey, whatever questions dwell in your heart, and whatever your race, age, sexuality, gender identity, income, nationality, or beliefs, you are loved, affirmed, and welcomed here as we worship God and honor God's image in one another.

Our average Holy Communion service is typically around 75 minutes long. Today's order of service is primarily taken from a special resource called "Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration," authorized by our bishops. Text in bold is read by everyone together.

At St. PJ's, our music is in the jazz tradition, a special gift that draws on diverse traditions, touches every God-created emotion, highlights the liturgy in new ways, and expresses deep spirituality.

Single-user restrooms are in the hall to your right (with changing table and diaper pail) and the narthex/entryway at the back. A blue lost-and-found bin is in the church office.

This service is live-streamed online. By attending, you acknowledge that you may appear in the video.

FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN

Jesus loves the crying, laughing, and wandering little feet, and we do too! Please sit anywhere you like; the special Pray and Play area in the back is just one fun option. Most Sundays, we also offer the optional Children's Garden Sunday School in the parish-hall classroom, down the office hallway on your right. Children depart the sanctuary at the beginning of the service, and return at the Peace before Communion.

STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Nathan Empsall
Pastoral Care Associate: Kelly Park
Children's Sunday School: Sarah Hill
Interim Director of Music: Dylan Rowland
Administrative Director: Monifa Atkinson

Sexton: Sammy Rodriguez
Vestry: Bill Evans (co-warden), Juhani Jaske (co-warden), David Hill (treasurer), Maggie King (clerk), Maurice Harris, Pam Sayre, Vanetta Lloyd, Lynne Severance, David Boyer

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We honor and give thanks for the Quinnipiac, Paugussett, and Wappinger nations who resided on this land before it was taken from them, and we confess Christianity's role in forced colonization. We ask God to help us to learn from our past mistakes, to remember that the Earth does not belong to us, and to live humbly in right relationship with all God's creation as instruments of love, justice, and peace.

ST. PJ'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship | 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary
Thursday Midday Prayers | 12:30 p.m. | Chapel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Season of Creation concludes today: The past month has been an annual time for Christians across the globe to renew our relationship with our Creator and with all God's creation. The season concludes today with the Feast of St. Francis, when we celebrate our annual Blessing of the Animals!

"Celebrate!" A regional Episcopal gathering this Saturday: This Saturday, October 10, at 4 p.m., please join Episcopalians from across south-central Connecticut for fellowship, food, praise, and even a kids' bounce house. This all-ages event is a chance to make joyful connections with the wider region of our diocese and see the broader Body of Christ beyond our parish walls. We will gather outside St. John's in North Haven (3 Trumbull Place) for a casual Eucharist, food truck tacos for purchase, lawn games, and community.

Bring a tasty treat for the Autumn Dessert Potluck!

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Nathan Empsall

Liturgical Assistant: David Tate

Gospel Bearer: Emily Boyer

Lectors: Kate Galambos and Bev Lett

Altar Guild: Suzy McDowell

Bread Baker: Joyce Sanseverino

With thanks to our usher, musicians, and all others who made today happen!

Sunday School on break next week: There will be no Children's Sunday School next Sunday, 10/11. Sunday School will resume the following week, 10/18.

Adult education will kick off October 18: Following the 10:30 Sunday service on 10/18, we will begin our year-long exploration of "The Path: A Journey Through the Bible," getting back to basics to ground our faith and action in God's word. The first Sunday's title is "Living Discipleship: Getting Started with Exploring the Bible."

It is not necessary to read anything more than the announced Bible verses, but reading a chapter of "The Path" each will enhance your experience. You may purchase the book at the following link, and the church will also make a limited number of copies available: https://bit.ly/PathPJs

The children's Sunday School is also walking the Path via its family curriculum, so all of St. PJ's can explore the Bible in a year together!

In Memoriam: On All Saints Sunday, 11/1, we will pray for those in our extended church family who passed over the past year. Please submit names to pastoralcare@stpaulstjames.org by Tuesday, 10/27.

Give to St. PJ's Online

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF St. Paul & St. James

57 Olive Street, New Haven, CT 06511
203.562.2143 | office@stpaulstjames.org | stpaulstjames.org

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ST. PJ'S PRAYER LIST

Doug Parker
Calvin Griffin
Rev. Walter MacNutt
Kevin Gerbe
Leota Tucker
Edwina Johnson
Cynthia King
Paul D'Agostino
Tiras Jaske
Uli Mackert and family
Charlie & Bridget Farrell
Alyce
Pam
Stephen Lett
Vanetta Lloyd
Marietta D'Albero
Marietta Coppola
Alexandra Sanseverino
Dr. Milton Coke
Pam Yesner
Rev. Carl Scovel
Karl Mini
Margaret Perry
Kyle Park
Fr. Tom
George Moore
A.J. Crosby
Joan Farrell
Sharyn Kessler
Adrienne Brady
Dawn Magliulo
Carolyn Wigley
Wendy McLeod
Cotton Burlingame
Deacon Felix Rivera
Hossna
Peter Loden
Roni Holcomb & family
Mary Ellen Price
Judy Hopkins
Trish Farrell
Jay Lechausse
Stephen Livingstone Price
Ronald Willams
Vivian
Saul
Larry Harris
Pam, Curt, & Henry
Marilyn Bergen
Sylvie E.

✠ **Birthdays:** David Tate (10/10)

✠ **Deceased:** Ryan Welch, Ahmed Basic

✠ **Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) Cycle of Prayer:** Trinity, Torrington; Christ Church, Trumbull; Trinity, Trumbull; ECCT's Creation Care Ministry Network; ECCT's Community Garden Ministry Network; eco-justice work in Episcopal Province 1; and all creatures great & small

✠ **Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer:** Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil (the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil)

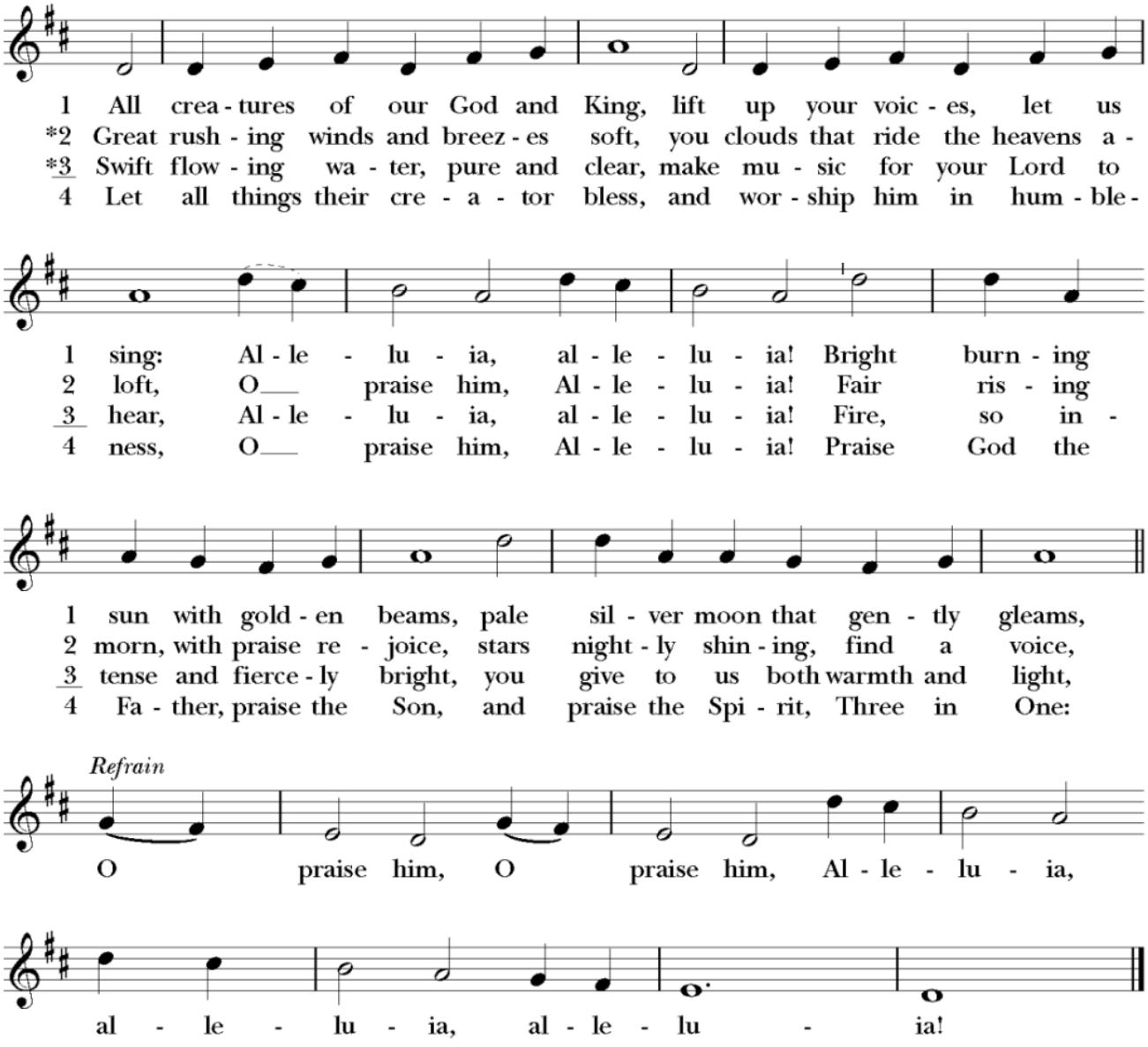
To add or update a name on our prayer list, please contact Pastoral Care Associate Kelly Park: pastoralcare@stpaulstjames.org

SEASON OF CREATION

ORDER OF SERVICE, PART 1: THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

OPENING HYMN *All Creatures of our God and King* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

Words: St. Francis of Assisi, (d. 1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. *Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen, adapt. Ralph Vaughn Williams*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

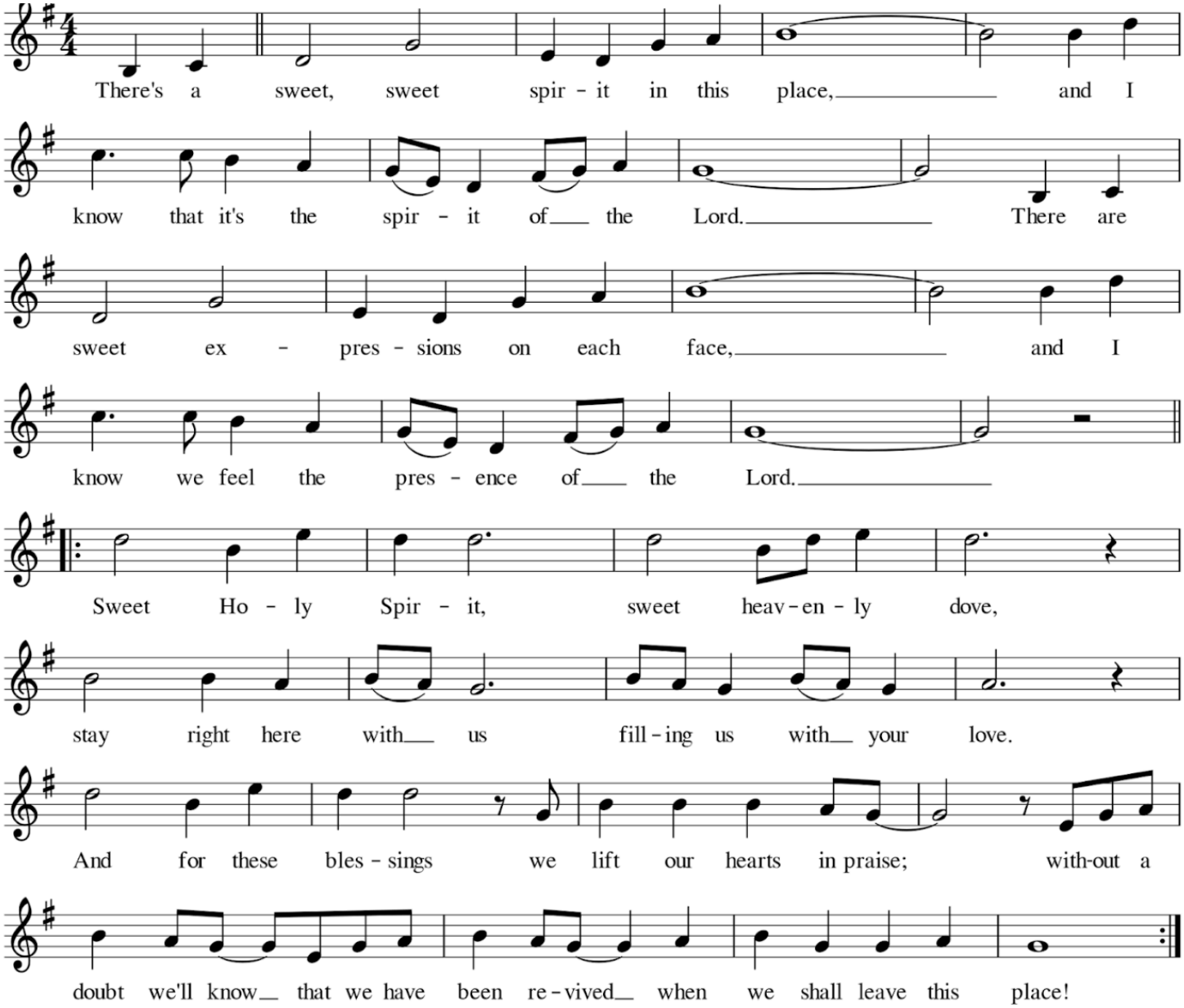
Celebrant: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Creating God, your name is written on every rain drop, every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. We praise, worship, and thank you for the magnificence of your creation. Make us attentive to the blessings and wounds of the earth, and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Sweet, Sweet Spirit *Please rise in body or spirit*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: God, Creator of all, be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray: All-loving and everliving God, you are always more ready to give than we are to receive: Pour upon us your abundance of contentment with simple, faithful living; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON *Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20* *Please be seated.*

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

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

THE RESPONSE *Psalm 19*

**The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.**

**One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

**Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,**

**Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.**

**In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.**

**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

**The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.**

**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

**The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

**By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.**

**Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.**

**Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.**

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND LESSON *Phillipians 3: 4b-14*

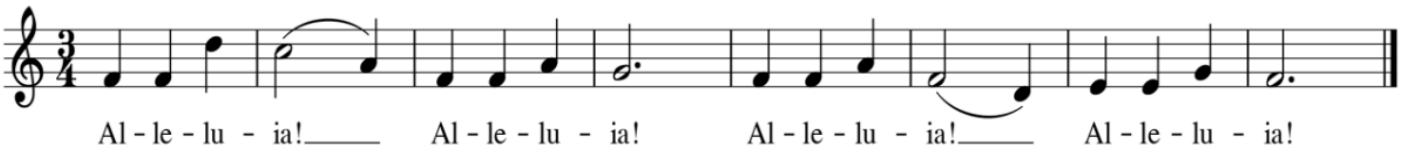
If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

GOSPEL HYMN *Zimbabwe Alleluia* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

GOSPEL *Matthew 21:33-46*

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

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Celebrant: The Gospel of our Savior.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON *The Rev. Nathan Empsall* *Please be seated*

JAZZ RESPONSE

NICENE CREED *Please rise in body or in spirit*

Celebrant: Let us join together as one church with fellow Christians across time and space, centuries and continents, to pray the historic Nicene Creed. Together:

All: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,**
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Celebrant: We, God's people, pray for our nation and its leaders, and for the church and its members. We pray for all who suffer or are in need in this community and around the world; especially those who come to this building for food and clothing from Sunrise Cafe and Loaves & Fishes, for those on the St. PJ's prayer list and in our hearts, and for those who have died and those who mourn.

[silence]

This week, as we conclude the Season of Creation, we pray also and especially for the healing and wellbeing of all God's creation, including its many non-human animals. God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them we rely on God's blessing to sustain and preserve us.

We gather now in communion and friendship with St. Francis of Assisi, who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings. Remembering Francis's love for all God's creatures, bring forward the animals entrusted to your care that we may bless them.

> *At this time you are invited to come forward with your animal (or animal memento), maintaining space as appropriate. When your animal has been blessed, please return to your seat. The priest says this blessing over each animal:*
>
> > N., may God who created and preserves you bless, defend, heal, and keep you, this day and always – and may you continue to be a blessing to your pe. Amen.
>
> *When all the animals have been blessed, all join in the following prayer:*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

***People*:** God of all creation: **We give you thanks and praise. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in all creation. May your bountiful blessing be upon us all, God our Redeemer, now and for ever. Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

[Silence]

***All:* 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.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

PEACE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrant: Peace with yourself. Peace with Creation. Peace with one another. The peace of Christ be always with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

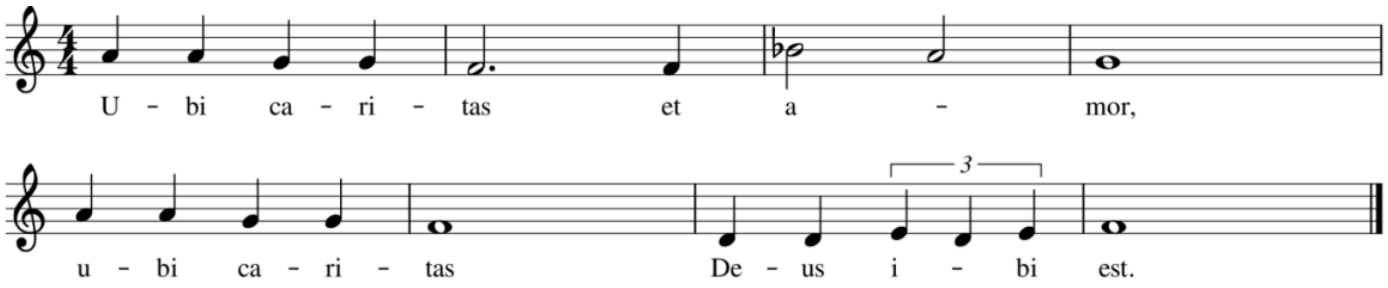
Celebrant: You are invited to exchange a sign of God's peace with your neighbor, and also to speak a word of peace to the land in which we gather, and the creatures who share this common home.

Please greet one another with a sign of God's peace (fist bump, side hug, peace sign) and be seated for announcements.

ORDER OF SERVICE, PART 2: HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

PRESENTATION HYMN *Ubi Caritas* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

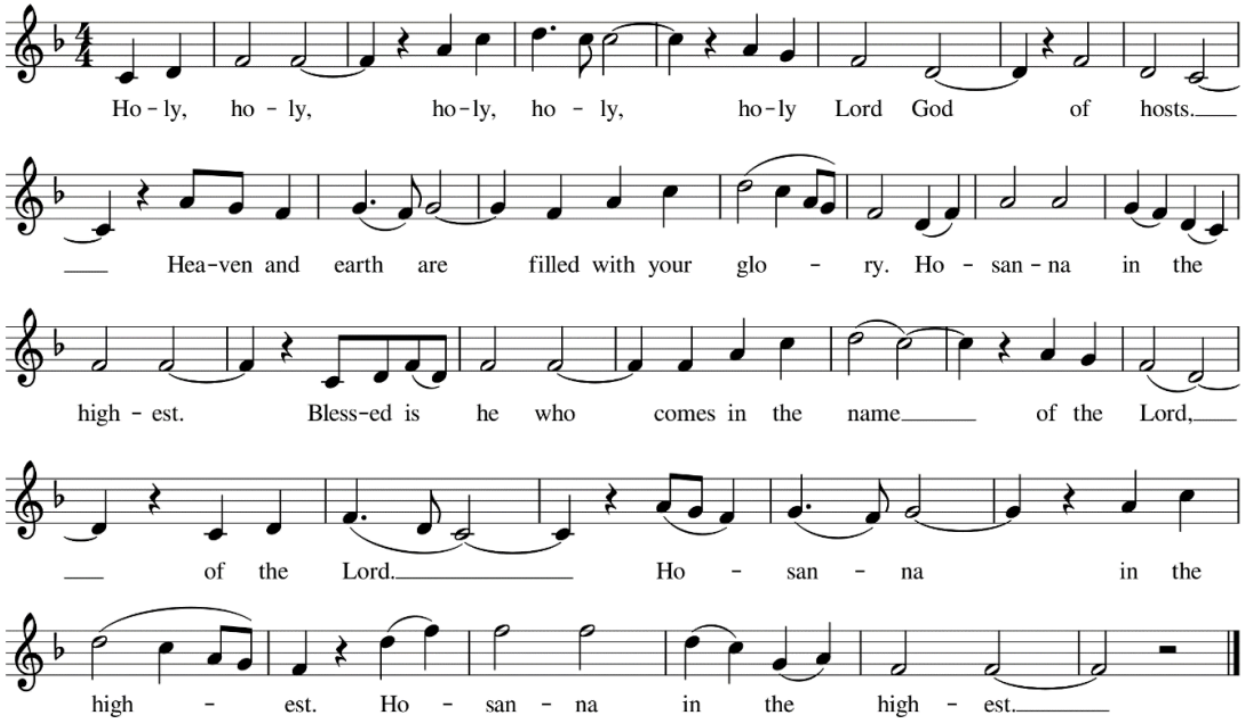


Text: Variation on a traditional liturgical text. Music: Melody unknown; arr. based on Taize version taught by Pablo D. Sosa (b. 1933)

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *Enriching Our Worship, Prayer 3*

Celebrant: God, Creator of all, be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Creator.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to our loving God.
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

[The celebrant continues until:] We join the heavenly beings and all creation as we say with joy:



[The celebrant continues until:] Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

[The celebrant continues until:] Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN.**

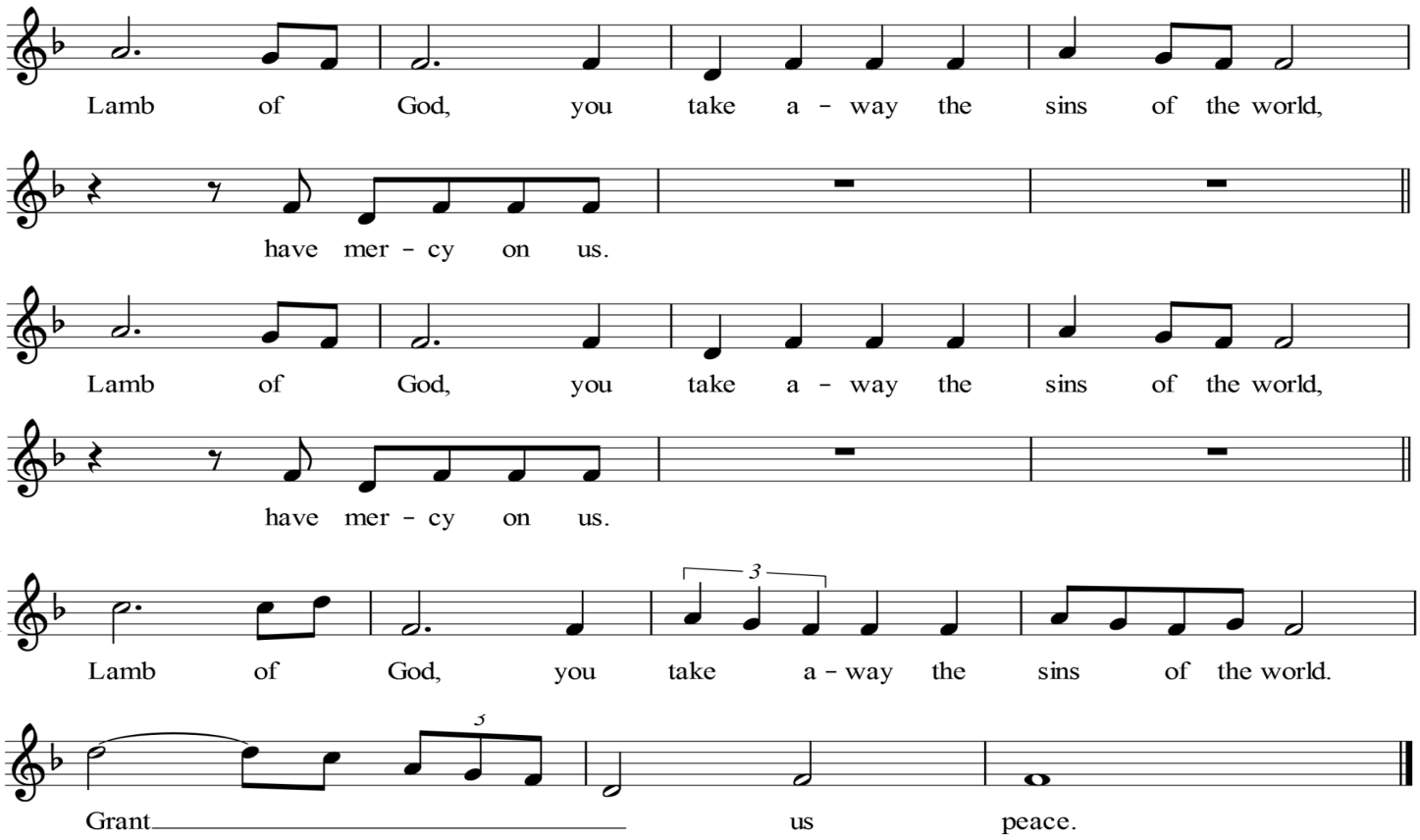
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, in the many languages of our hearts,

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre;
venga tu reino;
hágase tu voluntad
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también *nosotros*
perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en la tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la gloria, ahora y por siempre.
Amén.

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,
que ton nom soit sanctifié;
que ton règne vienne;
que ta volonté soit faite
sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui
notre pain de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,
comme nous pardonnons aussi
à ceux qui nous ont offensés.
Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation,
mais délivre-nous du mal.
Car c'est à toi
qu'appartiennent le règne,
la puissance et la gloire,
pour les siècles des siècles.
Amen.

THE FRACTION

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

You may be seated when not in line

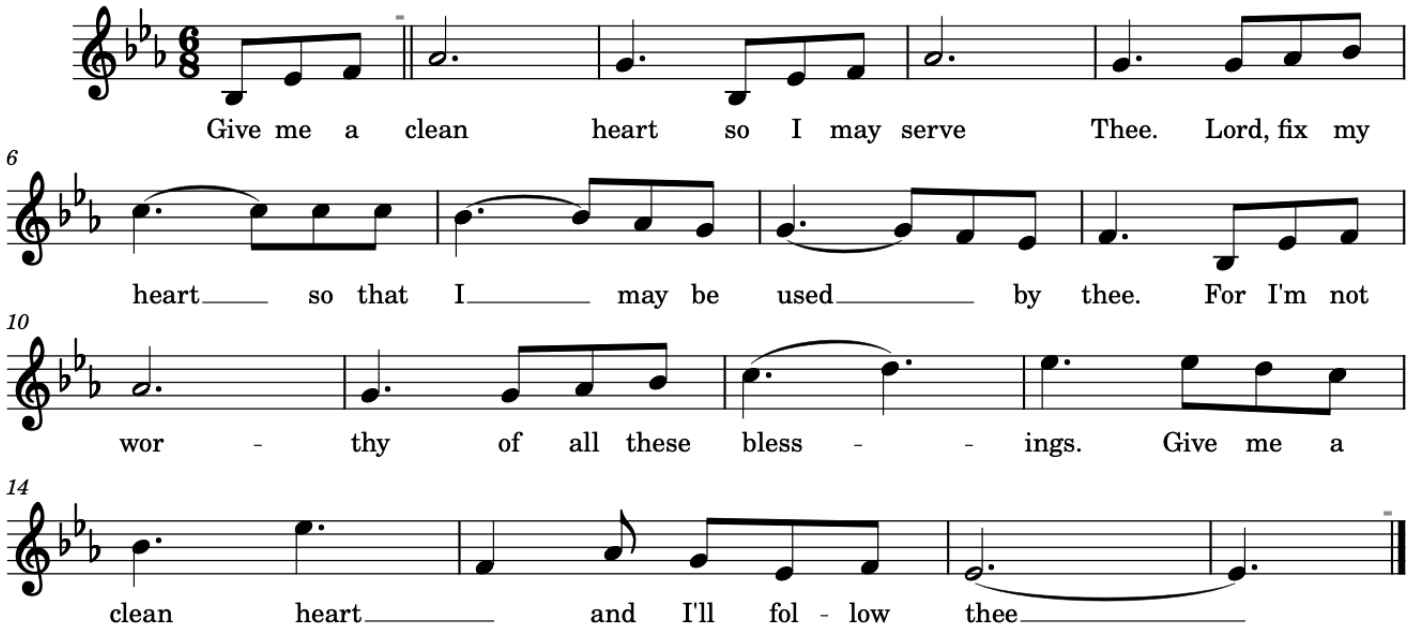
All are welcome at God's table. Any baptized Christian may receive Holy Communion, and others may receive a blessing (or talk to the priest after church about becoming baptized!). To participate, come up the center aisle to the line in front of the priest on your right. Approach with your hands out and they will place the bread in your palm and say, "The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven."

If you choose to receive either the wine (first server) or non-alcoholic grape juice (second server) next, gently guide the chalice to your lips for a small sip while the server holds it and says the words, "The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation." To value public health, we drink from the common cup and do not offer intinction (e.g. no dipping the bread in the cup).

Communion is a Sacrament – a visible sign of God's loving grace within us – and you can participate fully in that sign by taking just the bread without the wine. We also offer consecrated, gluten-free alternatives to the bread; simply ask the priest. If you do not wish to receive Communion, you can either remain seated or receive a blessing. For a blessing, cross your arms on your chest, and the priest will touch your forehead in the sign of a cross.

COMMUNION HYMN

Give me a Clean Heart



POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Please rise in body or in spirit

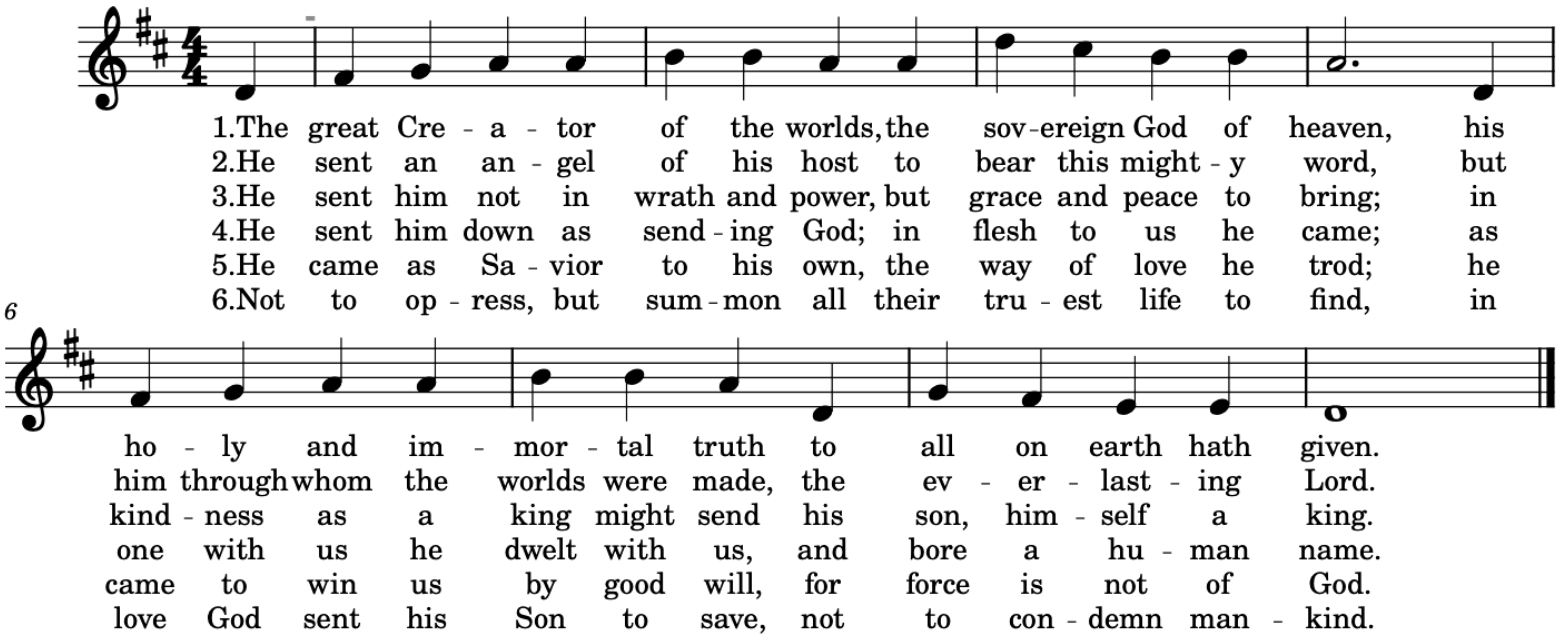
Celebrant: God, Creator of all, be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. May we be one with you so that our work is yours and your work is ours. Lead us to transform our lives to reflect your glory in Creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Celebrant: Let us join with the Earth and each other—to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air, to protect the animals, to treasure the trees, to gaze at the stars, to cherish the human community, to heal the Earth, to remember the children. Let us go forth to put our words into action, awash in the blessings of the One God, Creator, Risen Christ, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GOING-FORTH HYMN *The Great Creator of the Worlds* *Please rise in body or in spirit*



Source: Epistle to Diognetus, ca. 150; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev. *Tune: Tallis' Ordinal*

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Our worship is over, our service begins. Let us bless our God and all Creation.
People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

After loving God with worship, please come love your neighbors at Coffee and Community Hour.
Please wear a nametag to make this a warm and inviting place for all!

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CELEBRATE!
An All-Ages Gathering of Episcopal Churches in the South Central Region
2026
Casual Outdoor Eucharist
Food Truck & Autumn Dessert Potluck
Lawn Games & Community
Saturday, October 10
4pm – sunset
St. John's North Haven
3 Trumbull Place
North Haven, CT