

The Season of Creation

Proper 18C – Morning Worship

September 6, 2026



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

We are delighted to have you here and warmly invite you to fully engage in God's mission and ministry at St. Martin's Church. Everyone is welcome—no exceptions, no reservations. We are an inclusive Christian community committed to making a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Prelude

A brief period of silence follows

Hymn 400 *All Creatures of our God and King*

The Hymnal 1982

Opening Acclamation

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Psalms 96:11-12

Opening Prayer (Traditional Jewish)

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands.

The heavens declare your glory, the ark of the sky displays your handiwork.

In your love, you have given us the power to behold the beauty of your world, robed in all its splendor.

The sun and the stars, the valley and hills, the rivers and lakes all disclose your presence.

The roaring breakers of the seas tell of your awesome might, the beasts of the field and the birds of the air speak of your wondrous will.

In your goodness, you have made us able to hear the music of the world.

You are in our midst.

A divine voice sings through all Creation. Amen.

Confession

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God and all Creation.

Silence is kept.

**Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures
We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its
inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.
Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and
intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Absolution

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

Invitatory and Psalter

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

Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Invitatory Psalm *Psalm 19*

The loving-kindness of the Lord fills the whole Creation:
Come let us adore our Creator.

**The heavens declare your glory, O God, *
and the firmament shows your 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 you have 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 loving-kindness of the Lord fills the whole Creation:
Come let us adore our Creator.**

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



Alleluia! Sing to God a new **song**; *
sing praise in the congregation of the **faithful**.

Let the people of Israel rejoice in their **Maker**; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their **Monarch**.

Let them praise God's Name in the **dance**; *
let them sing praise with timbrel and **harp**.

For God takes pleasure in the **people** *
and adorns the poor with **victory**.

Let the faithful rejoice in **triumph**; *
let them be joyful on their **beds**.

Let the praises of God be in their **throat** *
and a two-edged sword in their **hand**,

To wreak vengeance on the **nations** *
and punishment on the **peoples**;

To bind their rulers in **chains** *
and their nobles with links of **iron**;

To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all God's faithful people. Alleluia!

Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of **Creation** *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **Amen**.

The First Reading Exodus 12:1-14

NRSV

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the

number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

A moment of silence follows.

<i>Reader</i>	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

A moment of silence follows.

Canticle D A Song of the Wilderness

Isaiah 35:1-7,10

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, *
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;**

**It shall blossom abundantly, *
and rejoice with joy and singing.**

**They shall see the glory of the Lord, *
the majesty of our God.**

**Strengthen the weary hands, *
and make firm the feeble knees.**

**Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! *
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."**

**Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, *
and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.**

**Then shall the lame leap like a deer, *
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.**

**For waters shall break forth in the wilderness *
and streams in the desert;**

**The burning sand shall become a pool *
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.**

**The ransomed of God shall return with singing, *
with everlasting joy upon their heads.**

**Joy and gladness shall be theirs, *
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

**Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Second Reading *suggested reading for Season of Creation*

A Reading from “Our Relationship with Creation”, Br. Keith Nelson, SSJE

When we violate, abuse, exploit, or even simply ignore non-human creatures, we are rejecting a core dimension of our humanity and of God’s calling for us. We are crucifying the earth. We are interrupting, speaking over, or bickering with God’s gentle language of love, in which each creature is like a syllable of the living Word. Each creature is an instance of Divine Gift, God’s gift to Godself, the love language of the Trinity. We believe God became a Creature in Jesus Christ and redeemed Creation from the inside out so that we creatures can participate directly in this infinite pattern of God’s giving-and-receiving.¹

A moment of silence follows

Canticle of Vermont²

Benedicite Omnia Opera Vermontiana

**O give thanks to our Creator who is good; *
whose love endures forever.**

**You sun and moon, you great lights in the northern sky: *
Sunrise and sunset, night and day: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.**

**Green hills and valleys, ridge vistas and forest bogs: *
Icy storms and quiet snows, gentle rains and furtive sleet: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.**

**Tall stand of maples, slow rivers and chortling brooks: *
Long threaded interstates, broad meadows and woodlands: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.**

Fleet deer and wild turkey, chipmunk and moose: *

¹ Keith Nelson, “Our Relationship with Creation,” *Society of Saint John the Evangelist*, March 8, 2016, <http://ssje.org/ssje/2016/03/08/our-relationship-with-creation-br-keith-nelson/>. Br. Keith Nelson was raised Baptist, studied at Kenyon College and Harvard Divinity School, and practiced Buddhist meditation before life professing as an Episcopal monastic with the Society of St. John the Evangelist in 2019.

² The Rev. Tim Eberhardt, Rector Emeritus, St. John’s, Randolph, VT. Adapted.

**Stone walls and covered bridges, proud village steeples: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.**

**Lilac and birch, wild clover and scented hay: *
Lumber and granite, cheeses and cream: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.**

**Jerseys and oxen, catamount and bear: *
Crows and all robins, falcons and geese: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.**

**Farmers and quarry workers, teachers and skiers: *
Women and men who work and who play: *
All you saints and sinners of our Green Mountain State: *
give to our God your thanks and praise.**

**Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Sequence Hymn 602 *Jesu, Jesu*

The Hymnal 1982

The Gospel *Matthew 18:15-20*

NRSV

A reading from the gospel of Matthew.

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

A moment of silence follows.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence follows.

Homily/Reflection

A period of silence follows

The Nicene Creed *please stand as you are able*

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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 Father³.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.**

The Prayers *The people stand or kneel*

Officiant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

³ The 71st General Convention (1994) reaffirms its intention to remove the Filioque clause from the Nicene Creed.

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Creation Collect for the Day

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the powerful who oppress and dominate Creation, so you never forsake your creatures who live in harmony with nature's order; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Prayers of the People - Honoring God in Creation Form 2⁴

During the silence after each bidding, the people may offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

In the beginning,
God was.
Here and now,
God is.
In the future,
God will be.

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

⁴⁴ Season of Creation 2023.

<https://newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation/SeasonOfCreationEpiscopalLiturgicalGuide2023.pdf>

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures,
and we pray for their well-being.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing,
and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your
creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us
always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence
inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your
presence and help.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have
died.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you have called us to serve you.

Grant that we may walk in your presence:

**your love in our hearts,
your truth in our minds,
your strength in our wills;
until, at the end of our journey,
we know the joy of our homecoming
and the welcome of your embrace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Peace⁵

The God of heaven has made a home on earth.
Christ dwells among us and is one with us.
The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn 336 *Come with us, O blessed Jesus*

The Hymnal 1982

The offering is collected

Prayer of Gratitude for the Beauty of Creation⁶

God, our Creator of heaven and earth, how blessed we are to be surrounded by the beauty of your creation. We lift our prayer of gratitude as we see the stars of heaven, and the beauty of the sunset. We are amazed by the seas and waterways and all that are in them. We are enchanted by the flowers and trees which are clothed by you. We are awed by all the animals you created. For the beauty of the earth, the mountains and valleys, the sun and the moon – we give you thanks. Amen.

All things came into being through the Word, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
Amen. *John 1:3-4*

Let us bless our Creator. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Closing Hymn 376 *Joyful, joyful we adore thee*

The Hymnal 1982

All things came into being through the Word, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
Amen. *John 1:3-4*

Announcements

Postlude

The Worship is over. Now the Service begins.

Coffee Hour and fellowship follow in the Gathering Room

⁵ Peace from "A Service of Welcome," The Iona Community, *Iona Abbey Worship Book* (Glasgow, UK: Wildgoose Publications, 2001), 60.

⁶ <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/creation-prayers> Adapted. -*Author Unknown*