

Creation Season 1: Land Sunday

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020 • 10:00 AM

The Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

*Welcome! This Sunday and the next two call us to join in the hymn of all creation – with the wrens and robins, otters and owls, baboons and butterflies, elm trees and pine trees, rice and snow peas, grass and grasshoppers, lava and lake, mountains and seas – all created things everywhere. We are invited to join the communion of all creation to let heaven and nature sing and to let all creation join as one, to praise God’s holy name. All together the choir of creation acknowledges God as the inexhaustible source of life and goodness.**



“Let the field exult and everything in it.” Psalm 96:12

The people’s responses are in bold.

The Entrance Rite

The people stand as able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN • 591

O God of Earth and Altar

P7 Leaflet

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.

Christ, we come into your presence today to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

**A planet filled with your presence, sheltered in the forests, flourishing in the land,
expectant in the wilderness, flowing in the rivers.**

God, reveal yourself to us and show us your face in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with the Creator's presence.

HYMN OF PRAISE • 412

Earth and all stars (vss. 1-2)

H. Brokering

Earth and all stars, loud rushing planets,
sing to the Lord a new song!
O victory, loud shouting army,
sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain God has done marvelous things.

I, too, will praise him with a new song!

Hail, wind and rain, loud blowing snowstorms,
sing to the Lord a new song!
Flowers and trees, loud rustling dry leaves,
sing to the Lord a new song!

The Word of God

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God, our Creator, we celebrate your presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the soil, the fields and the land. Help us to empathize with your creatures who suffer. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the land, the flowers of the field and all the creatures of the countryside. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE FIRST READING: Exodus 14:19-31

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 114 (*prayed together in unison*)

- 1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,**
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel his dominion.**
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went back.**
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like young sheep.**
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back?**
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? you little hills like young sheep?**
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,**
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

THE SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-17

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able at the introduction of the hymn.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew (12:38-40).

Glory to you, O Christ.

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, ‘Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.’ But he answered them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was for three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Allison Sandlin Liles

A moment for silent reflection follows the homily.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth,
a human being called Jesus Christ,
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,
suffered and died on a cross for all human beings
and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation,
reconciling all things to God,
renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation,
groans in empathy with a suffering creation and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. +

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider 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 around us, and pour your blessing and guidance on our elected officials, and upon the people and organizations working everywhere for the good of the planet.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all its inhabitants, and lend us the wisdom and will to conserve them.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Light and 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.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

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 the places of restoration and healing, and challenge us to sustain the places that feed our lives and spirits.

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.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

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

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Joy of human hearts, heal our human communities, especially those where your word is not heard, or where neglect, violence, greed, and warfare increase the suffering and need of people and other creatures.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people worshiping together today and all who desire and need your presence and help, especially _____. (*The people may add their petitions.*)

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

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

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Presider 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.**

(source: Native American/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Liturgies, prepared for the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, July 2009, Anaheim, California)

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Let us pray also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;
in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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.**

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, together we pray,
All **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.
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 PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

THE BLESSING

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother.
Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. **Amen.** *(Saint Clare)*

THE DISMISSAL

In the name of Christ go in peace, rejoicing in the good gifts of the Creator. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

CLOSING HYMN • 427

When morning gilds the skies

Pg9 Leaflet

The Hymnal 1982 - #591 O God of earth and altar



1 O God of earth and al - tar, bow down and hear our cry,
2 From all that ter - ror teach - es, from lies of tongue and pen,
3 Tie in a liv - ing teth - er the prince and priest and thrall,



our earth - ly ru - lers fal - ter, our peo - ple drift and die;
from all the eas - y speech - es that com - fort cru - el men,
bind all our lives to - geth - er, smite us and save us all;



the walls of gold en - tomb us, the swords of scorn di - vide,
from sale and prof - a - na - tion of hon - or, and the sword,
in ire and ex - ul - ta - tion a - flame with faith, and free,



take not thy thun - der from us, but take a - way our pride.
from sleep and from dam - na - tion, de - liv - er us, good Lord!
lift up a liv - ing na - tion, a sin - gle sword to thee.

Words: Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874-1936) Music: King's Lyons, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
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The Hymnal 1982 - #702 Lord, thou hast searched me and dost know

Unison or harmony

1 Lord, thou hast searched me and dost know wher -
 2 My words from thee I can - not hide; I
 3 Where can I go a - part from thee, or
 4 If I the wings of morn - ing take, and
 5 If deep - est dark - ness cov - er me, the

1 e'er I rest, wher - e'er I go; thou know - est all
 2 feel thy power on ev - ery side; oh, won - drous know -
 3 whith - er from thy pres - ence flee? In heaven? It is
 4 far a - way my dwell - ing make, the hand that lead -
 5 dark - ness hid - eth not from thee; to thee both night

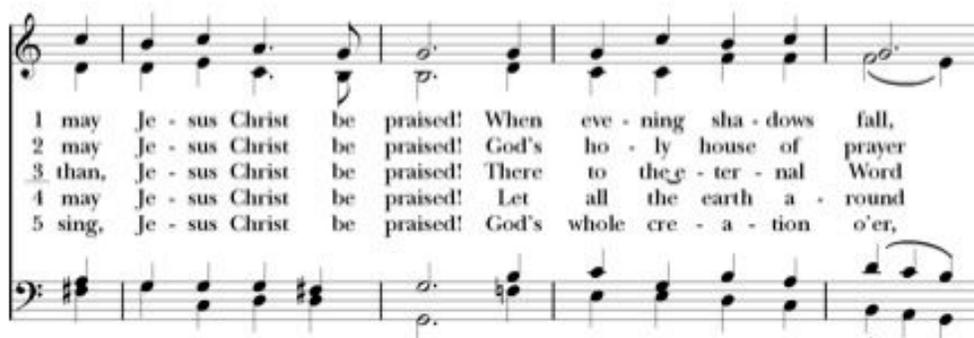
1 that I have planned, and all my ways are in thy hand.
 2 ledge, aw - ful might, un - fath - omed depth, un - mea - sured height!
 3 thy dwell - ing fair; in death's a - bode? Lo, thou art there.
 4 eth me is thine, and my sup - port thy power di - vine.
 5 and day are bright, the dark - ness shin - eth as the light.

Words: *The Psalter Hymnal*, 1927; para. of Psalm 139:1-11 Music: *Tender Thought*, from *Kennedy Harmony*, 1816 Copyright © Yale University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

#427 When morning gilds the skies



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heaven is known
4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, in this your con - cord find:
5 Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, ye that see his face,



1 may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning sha - dows fall,
2 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
3 than, Je - sus Christ be praised! There to the e - ter - nal Word
4 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
5 sing, Je - sus Christ be praised! God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



1 this rings my cur - few call, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
2 hath none that can com - pare with: Je - sus Christ be praised!
3 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
4 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
5 both now and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Words: German, ca. 1800; tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt. Music: *Laudes Domini*, Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)



WAYS TO SAVE THE EARTH EVERY DAY

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1. TURN SCRAPS INTO COMPOST
2. USE REUSEABLE SHOPPING BAGS
3. RECYCLE ELECTRONICS
4. USE A COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULB
5. CONSERVE ENERGY BY TURNING OFF LIGHTS
6. WALK, BIKE, OR CARPOOL
7. PICK UP TRASH
8. UNPLUG ITEMS WHEN THEY'RE NOT IN USE
9. USE A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE
10. RECYCLE
11. TURN OFF WATER WHILE BRUSHING TEETH
12. USE A DRYING RACK INSTEAD OF DRYER
13. TAKE SHORTER SHOWERS
14. GO MEATLESS A FEW TIMES A WEEK
15. BUY SECONDHAND
16. MAKE YOUR OWN CLEANING SUPPLIES
17. SUPPORT GREEN BUSINESSES