



**St Benedict's Episcopal Church**  
**Los Osos, California**  
~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

THE 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
*Season of Creation: RESTORATION*

September 26, 2021 – 10:30 AM SERVICE

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your faith journey, there's a warm welcome for you here!

**Prelude: "Great is Thy Faithfulness"**

Wm. M. Runyan, arr. Larry Shackley

2005 Hope Publishing Co.

Celebrant: *We* gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer,  
and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!

People: *Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life,  
Creator of the Universe, Source of all life.*

(Hildegard of Bingen)

All: *Holy and Life-Giving Spirit, you know our innermost thoughts even before they break  
through into consciousness; you teach us how to pray. Breathe your breath into our hearts and minds  
this morning. Prepare us for worship, that our thoughts may turn to you and our hearts bow down in  
grateful praise of God - Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

**Hymn of Praise**

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

LEVAS 189

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,  
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

1. There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;  
2. Sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
3. Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

1. Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not,  
 2. Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness,  
 3. Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

1. As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 2. To thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.  
 3. Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed,

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, Music: William M. Runyan © 1923, 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

## Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O God of all creation; with you is the well of life:  
People: *And in your light we shall see light.*

All: *God our Creator, who laid the foundations of the earth and stretched out the heavens as a tent cloth; how glorious is your name in all the world. Give us grace to wonder at your gift, to treasure the earth and to work for its protection and renewal; through Jesus Christ who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit One God now and for ever. Amen.*

## Genesis 9:8-17

Reader *A Reading from book of Genesis*

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

## Psalms 126

Emergent Psalter

[Antiphon will be sung by Cantor, then repeated by all. Verses said in unison.]

Antiphon

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

When God restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.  
Our mouths filled with laughter,  
and our tongues with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations,  
"God has done great things for them."  
God has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

Antiphon

Restore our fortunes, O God  
 like the watercourses of the Negeb.  
 Those who sowed with tears  
 will reap with songs of joy.  
 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
 will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

*Antiphon*

Music © 2009 Isaac Everett, Iona Community, admin. by Church Publishing, Inc.

## Romans 8:18-22

Lector: *A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans*

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now.

Lector: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People*

People: *Thanks be to God*

## Gospel Hymn

G 259



Music: Trad. Caribbean, arr. John L. Bell © 1990 Iona Community, GIA Publications, agent

## Mark 4:30-32

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to Mark.

People: ***Glory to You, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: ***Praise to You, Lord Christ.***

## The Sermon

The Rev. Brian Stein-Webber

*[We pause for a few moments' reflection before affirming our faith.]*

## Affirmation of Our Faith

*Let us stand and join in the Affirmation of our Faith*

All: ***We believe in God the Creator,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Redeemer,  
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with God's love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.  
We believe in One God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. Amen.***

Source: Common Worship, Church of England

## Prayers of the People

Holy One, we give thanks for the provision that you make for us as part of your bountiful Creation, even as we acknowledge our misuse and neglect of it and our continuing need of your guidance and your life-giving grace, saying Creator of Creation, open our eyes to your love.

We pray for all people of faith around the world, asking that we may have the will and the commitment to reduce the effects of climate change on all your creatures. We pray especially for the prophets, the scientists and ecologists and the politicians who make decisions on our behalf. Creator of Creation, ***open our eyes to your love.***

We pray for the nations of the world, that we may learn to cooperate for the greater good. We pray especially for those who are feeling the worst effects of climate change, those who are forced to leave their homes, for the millions of refugees and those trying to help them. Creator of Creation, ***open our eyes to your love.***

We pray for the organizations that are working to raise our awareness of the environment, and who campaign for the greater good of all beings. We pray especially for the work of our local organizations including EcoSlo, the Land Conservancy, the Sierra Club, and St. Benedict's Earthcare. We pray for the courage to act to protect and sustain natural resources. Creator of Creation, ***open our eyes to your love.***

We pray for all beings whose lives are closely linked with ours, giving thanks for our companion animals and the wild ones who share our land and our neighborhoods with us. We pray especially for those species that are endangered by loss of habitat and face extinction. Creator of Creation, ***open our eyes to your love.***

We pray for all those who are in times of difficulty and illness, especially those who are dear to us.

[Here prayers are read from the bidding book.]

Please add your own prayers of intercession and thanksgiving...

Creator of Creation, ***open our eyes to your love.***

We give thanks for those who have shared life and love with us and who have gone on before. May they know the peace and joy of your New Creation. Creator of Creation, ***open our eyes to your love.***

*Holy Creator, help us to see your hand at work in the world around us, and help us to become wise stewards of this small piece of your vast Creation, co-creators with you in bringing into full realization the reign of your love and the life of your kin-dom. All this we ask in the Name of your Christ in whom all things have their beginning and find their completion. Amen*

## **Confession and Absolution**

*As those who know the generosity of God let us confess our sins, especially the ways in which we take creation and God's gifts for granted.*

All: ***Creator God, maker of heaven and earth,  
we acknowledge our failure to live responsibly  
as part of your creation.***

***We have taken what we want  
without considering the consequences;  
we have wasted and discarded,  
without thought for the future.***

***Open our hearts and minds to the signs of our times,  
to the groaning of creation,  
so that we may turn from our greed and lack of vision  
and see a world being made anew in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.***

*May the All-Compassionate God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.*

## The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

*To maintain safe social distancing, please simply greet others verbally or with a bow or nod.*

*Collection plates are not passed, but you may put your contributions in the plate by the usher's station before the service, or at the Peace, or contribute at our website any time.*

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Offertory Music - "I Surrender All"

Winfield S. Weeden, arr. Marianne Kim Moore

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## The Holy Eucharist

IONA

( Please Stand )

**Doxology**    *Praise God from Whom all blessings flow*  
*Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia*  
*Praise God the Source of all our gifts*  
*Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts*  
*Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*

H400

The table of bread and wine is now made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him.

It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself.

It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.

So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more;

you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time;

you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed.

Come.

It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you,

All: ***And also with you.***

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts,

All: ***We lift them up to God.***

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God,

All: ***It is right to give both thanks and praise.***

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with Michael and the host of heaven, with all the saints before and beside us, with Columba and Brigid, Patrick and Margaret, Blessed Mary and Blessed Benedict, with brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

## Sanctus

G 284

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er,  
 God of might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est,  
 ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Mass of Creation, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying,

This is my body, given to you.

In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying,

This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood.

Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming Kingdom of God.

All: ***Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer,  
 which earth has given and human hands have made.  
 May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread,  
 So that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter.  
 We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community  
 through the centuries, and shares with us now.  
 Made one in Christ and one with each other,  
 we offer these gifts and with them ourselves,  
 a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.***

The Celebrant continues:

Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing and making us whole.

And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

All: ***Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours,  
 All-Compassionate God, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN***



## The Lord's Prayer

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

All

*Eternal Spirit,  
Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love Maker,  
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 people 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.*

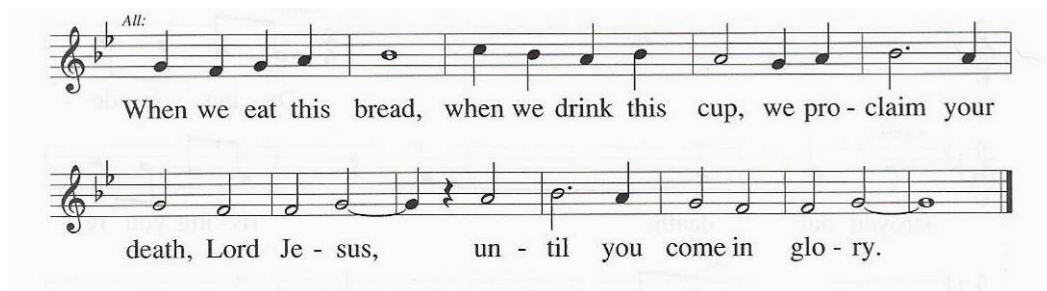
New Zealand Prayer Book

## The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

A period of silence is kept.

G-167C



Music: Mass of Creation, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Holy Communion

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.

This is God's table, and all are welcome here.

*(As your group is called forward, please spread out to widen the circle and increase safe social distancing.*

*The consecrated bread will be distributed to you individually, that you may consume it.  
The cup of consecrated wine will be held before you, that you may receive it with your eyes.)*

**Communion Music:** "Let Us Break Bread Together"

African-American Spiritual

Piano Setting by Joel Raney

# Communion Hymn

## "Blessed Assurance"

LEVAS 184

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a  
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, Vi - sions of  
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

1. fore-taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of  
 2. rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -  
 3. sav - ior am hap - py and blest; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

1. God, Born of His spir - it, washed in His blood.  
 2. bove Ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.  
 3. bove, Filled with His good - ness, lost in His love.

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, Prais - ing my

sav - ior all the day long; This is my sto - ry, this is my

song, Prais - ing my sav - ior all the day long.

Words: Fanny Crosby; Music: Phoebe Knapp - Public Domain

*(We pause for a moment of silence together before joining in our final prayer)*

*Lord of the harvest,  
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in Creation  
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom;  
by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us  
and make us wise and generous stewards of the good things we enjoy;  
through your Son Jesus Christ.  
Amen*

“A Time for Creation” - Church of England

## **The Blessing**

May the everlasting God shield you, east and west and wherever you go,  
And the blessing of God be upon us, *the blessing of the God of life.*  
The blessing of Christ be upon us, *the blessing of the Christ of love.*  
The blessing of the Spirit be upon us, *the blessing of the Spirit of grace.*  
The blessing of the Trinity be upon us, now and for ever more. *Amen.*

## **Announcements**

## Refrain



The heav-ens are tell-ing the glo-ry of God, and  
all cre - a-tion is shout-ing for joy. Come, dance in the  
for - est, come, play in the field, and sing,  
sing to the glo - ry of the Lord.

## Verses



1. Praise for the sun, the bring - er of day, He car - ries the  
2. Praise for the wind that blows through the trees, The seas might - y  
3. Praise for the rain that wa - ters our fields, And bless - es our  
4. Praise for the fire who gives us his light, The warmth of the  
5. Praise for the earth who makes life to grow, The crea - tures you  
6. Praise for our death that makes our life real, The knowl - edge of  
light of the Lord in his rays; The moon and the stars who  
storms, the gen - tl - est breeze; They blow where they will, they  
crops so all the earth yields; From death un - to life her  
sun to bright-en our night; He danc - es with joy, his  
made to let your life show; The flow - ers and trees that  
loss that helps us to feel; The gift of your - self, your  
light up the way Un - to your throne.  
blow where they please To please the Lord.  
mys - t'ry re - vealed Springs forth in joy.  
spir - it so bright, He sings of you.  
help us to know The heart of love.  
pres - ence re - vealed To lead us home.

D.C.

Text &amp; Tune: Marty Haugen © 1980 GIA Publications, Inc.

## The Dismissal.

Officiant: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth into the world,  
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*

**Postlude: "Blessed Assurance"**

Music: Phoebe Palmer Knapp

2006 Hal Leonard Corp.

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**Ministers of the Service**

Celebrant:	The Rev. Brian Stein-Webber
Eucharistic Minister:	Alan Kiste
Lector:	Brian Spolarich
Cantor:	Diana Hammerlund
Piano:	David Alm
Ushers:	Barbara Schippers & Maureen Titus
Altar Guild:	Diana Hammerlund
Flowers:	Brian Spolarich
Prayer Team:	Jill Denton
Teller:	Steve Cake
Online Hosts:	Julie Bailey

Today's Eucharist Liturgy is adapted from The Iona Abbey Worship Book

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