



**St Benedict's Episcopal Church**  
**Los Osos, California**

*~ Tending Mind and Soul ~*

THE 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
**Season of Creation: ST FRANCIS' DAY, OBSERVED**

October 3, 2021 – 8AM SERVICE

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

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Officiant: *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*

**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.*

## Collect of the Day

Officiant: 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.*

Source: "A Time for Creation: Liturgical Resources for Creation and Environment," The Church of England

## The Readings from Holy Scripture

[A period of silence is kept following each reading.]

### Micah 6:6-8

— *A reading from the book of the Prophet Micah.*

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

— *Hear What the Spirit is Saying to God’s People.*

### Psalms 100

Sing a joyful noise to the Beloved all peoples of the earth!  
Serve Love with a glad heart!  
Join hands in the great Dance of Life!  
Know that the Beloved of your heart is the Divine Presence!  
Love created us, and we belong to the Most High;  
We are born to be loving, expressions of the Creator’s Divine Plan.  
Open the gates of your heart with gratitude and enter Love’s court with praise!  
Give thanks to the Beloved, bless Love’s holy Name.  
For Love is of God, and lives in your heart forever.  
With faith, truth, and joy, now and in all that is to come.  
Alleluia! Amen!

Psalms for Praying. Nan Merrill ©2007 Bloomsbury Publications

### Galatians 6:14-18

— *A Reading from letter to the Galatians*

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule-- peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.  
— *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.*

## Luke 12:22-34

— *A Reading from Luke's Gospel.*

Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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

## ~ ~ ~ Reflections on the Readings ~ ~ ~

### Prayers of the People

Acknowledging that God's love is present in every part of creation - in the things that are beautiful and the things that are difficult for us to see or experience - let us, guided by the Holy Spirit, pray to the Christ and Creator saying: God, open our eyes that we may see your love all around us.

May people of faith across the planet be inspired to work for the flourishing of all creation. May we be blessed with your vision of the loveliness of all beings, and emboldened to speak truth to power on behalf of the voiceless ones. We pray for all who are working to save endangered species. God, open our eyes ***that we may see your love all around us.***

We ask that the leaders of the nations might embrace a spirit of cooperation and generosity, so that war may cease and humanity be enabled to work together and seek the common good. We pray for all those who are assisting refugees and the victims of storm, earthquake and fire, especially Episcopal Relief and Development. God, open our eyes ***that we may see your love all around us.***

Giving thanks for all who work to prevent suffering among birds and animals, we ask your blessing on all local care organizations including Pacific Wildlife Care, the Marine Mammal Center, Woods Humane Society, HART and the Feline Network. God, open our eyes ***that we may see your love all around us.***

We pray for our companion animals and the wild birds and creatures who live in our yards and community, and accompany us in our life. God, open our eyes ***that we may see your love all around us.***

We bring to you all whose lives are closely connected with ours, starting with those in the bidding book... [here you may add your own prayers aloud or silently]

God, open our eyes ***that we may see your love all around us.***

We give thanks for all, like St Francis, whose teaching and example has inspired us in our spiritual growth. We pray for those who have died and for those who grieve.

God, open our eyes ***that we may see your love all around us.***

*Holy One, who made all things and saw that it was very good, grant that we may also look on your creation with eyes of love and appreciation, recognizing your presence in the cycle of life, death and new birth. May your New Creation grow in us. All this we ask in the Name of your Son, the Christ in whom we live and move and have our being. Amen.*

### **Confession of Sin**

Officiant      *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 us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.*

### **The Peace**

Officiant      The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

## The Lord's Prayer

Officiant      *And as our Savior Christ teaches 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 General Thanksgiving

Officiant      *All-compassionate God, Father of all mercies,  
we your humble servants give you thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages.*

All              *Amen.*

[We pause for a moment of silence before joining in our final prayer]

Officiant

Let us pray together:

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master.  
grant that we may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
it is in dying that we are born again  
to everlasting life. Amen.*

(St Francis)

## The Blessing

Officiant

May God who established the dance of creation,  
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,  
Who transforms chaos to order,  
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church  
To reflect God's glory in creation.  
And may the blessing of the Holy Trinity be upon you  
and remain with you always.  
*Amen.*

(CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)

## Announcements

## The Dismissal.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth into the world,  
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
*Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*