

Season of Creation
14TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

September 3, 2023

Morning Prayer

10:30am



Painting - Clifford Still

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
231 Sunset Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
408-736-4155 www.stthomas-svale.org

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 17 / *First Sunday in Season of Creation*

Welcome to ZOOM worship at St. Thomas.

*This Sunday at 10:00am, you are invited to join us
for open conversation before worship begins at 10:30am.*

*Now that most of us know how to use Zoom, the half hour before service usually
dedicated to trouble-shooting will also be an open time to connect with one another. All
are welcome. Just sign in as usual.*

All others, at 10:20-10:25am Sunday, please connect to our worship meeting.

There are two ways to do this:

1. by computer or smartphone (video and audio):

You may access our ZOOM meeting on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82690025101>

2. by telephone (audio only):

Dial +1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 826 9002 5101

When prompted for a participant number, touch the pound key #

*Notes for dial-in users: *6 (star 6) to mute/unmute the audio from your phone
to the meeting. This doesn't stop audio from the meeting to you.*

**9 (star 9) raise your hand to (hopefully) let someone else at the meeting know
you'd like to speak. You may use *9 again to lower your raised hand.*

Note: For the sake of audio clarity, your mic will be muted on entry.

*Please note: Regarding joining us on Zoom, we welcome newcomers and
appreciate your **on-time** attendance. If you arrive more than 15 minutes after the
service begins, our Zoom protocols may not permit your joining the service.*

*Equally important, please be sure that your zoom account ID includes your first
and last name. We look forward to seeing you.*

*We will begin with introductory remarks, announcements,
and then worship with Morning Prayer together as one large body.*

Following worship today please join us for a community gathering on Zoom.

When all are ready, the officiant will begin.

Announcements

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M_iFUN25FBuxOVTr0UKw6mokVcdE9iNII9RFrPIKNAg/edit?usp=sharing

The Blessing of Birthdays & Anniversaries



Opening music

Elaine Hagenberg

Meditations of My Heart
Members of the St. Thomas Choir

The Peace

Season of Creation 2023

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

People: **And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with a namaste of peace.

The bell tolls and the officiant continues.

Opening sentence

Officiant: You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of the Creator.
Ephesians 2:19

The Confession

Season of Creation 2023

Officiant: Let us confess our sins to God.

All: **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.**

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our 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.**

Opening versicle

Enriching Our Worship 1

Officiant: O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People: And your glory all the day long.

Doxology

**All: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

Antiphon

V. The Creator is in our midst.

R. O come let us worship.

Invitatory Psalm: Venite *Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Canticle 12 **A Song of Creation** *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*
Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65

spoken in unison; please stay muted.

**Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

III The Earth and Its Creatures

**Let the earth glorify the Lord,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,
and all that grows upon the earth,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams,
O whales and all that move in the waters.**

**All birds of the air, glorify the Lord,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild,
and all you flocks and herds.**

**O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

The people join in speaking the responses; please stay muted.

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

Israel came into Egypt, *
and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.

The Lord made his people exceedingly fruitful; *
he made them stronger than their enemies;

Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, *
and dealt unjustly with his servants.

He sent Moses his servant, *
and Aaron whom he had chosen.
Hallelujah!

The Lessons

The First Lesson Exodus 3:1-15

Lector: A reading from the Book of Exodus

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Canticle D A Song of the Wilderness

Enriching Our Worship 1

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

The Second Lesson

Lector: A Reading from *Morals on the Book of Job*,
by St. Gregory the Great (540-604)

Who may see to the bottom of the marvelous works of Almighty God, how God made all things of nothing, how the very framework of the world is arranged with a marvelous mightiness of power, and the heaven hung above the atmosphere, and the earth balanced above the abyss, how this whole universe consists of things visible and invisible, how God created humanity, so to say, gathering together in a small compass another world, yet a world of reason; how constituting this world of soul and flesh, God mixed the breath and the clay by an unsearchable disposal of God's Might? A part, then, of these things we know, and a part we even are. Yet we omit to admire them, because those things which are full of marvels for an investigation deeper than we can reach, have become cheap from custom in the eyes of people.

Hence it comes to pass that, if a dead man is raised to life, all people spring up in astonishment. Yet every day one that had no being is born, and no one wonders, though it is plain to all, without doubt, that it is a greater thing for that to be created, which was without being, than for that which had being, to be restored. Because the dry rod of Aaron budded, all were in astonishment; every day a tree is produced from the dry earth, and the virtue residing in dust is turned into wood, and no one wonders. Because five thousand men were filled with five loaves, all were in astonishment that the food should have multiplied in their teeth; every day the grains of seed that are sown are multiplied in a fullness of ears, and no one wonders. All wondered to see water once turned into wine. Every day the earth's moisture being drawn into the root of the vine, is turned by the grape into wine, and no one wonders. Full of wonder then are all the things which we never think to wonder at, because they are by habit become dull to the consideration of them.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: Thanks be to God

The Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you. Lord Christ

Sermon

There will be a period of silence for meditation.

Anthem

John Rutter

[All Things Bright and Beautiful](#)
Members of the St. Thomas Choir

The Prayers

Officiant: The Creator be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

**Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.**

**May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.**

**Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.**

**Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Suffrages

EOW1

V. Help us, O God our Savior;

R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

V. Look upon your congregation;

R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.

V. Declare your glory among the nations;

R. And your wonders among all peoples.

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

R. Never forget the lives of your poor.

V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.

V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collects

Collect for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 17/Season of Creation

Lord of all love and glory, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Creation; increase in all true unity; nourish the world with all goodness; and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Form II / Season of Creation

*In the course of the silence after each bidding,
the People offer their own prayers, silently.*

Leader: I ask your prayers for God's people and all people of faith throughout the world; for our Bishop Lucinda; for all our bishops and all spiritual shepherds; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all Creation.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble, and all creatures mistreated, misused, and oppressed

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him, that all might turn to Creation to find God's revelation.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed, and the extinctions of all species.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask you to name those for whom you pray, aloud or silently.

I ask you to name your thanksgivings, aloud or silently.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored, especially St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and all who honor Christ in their work to heal Creation.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Concluding Sentence

EOW1

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

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 listen to the voice of all creatures
That reflect God's glory in creation.

People: **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve God's Creation.

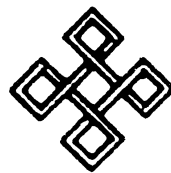
People: **Thanks be to God the Creator.**

Postlude

Felix Mendelssohn

[Andante Tranquillo from Sonata 3](#)

Myrna Emata Diaz, organ



Serving today

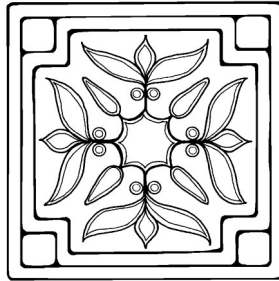
Officiant & Preacher: The Rev. Salying Wong

Intercessor/Responder: Jim Cobb

Readers: Abby O'Connell, Lou Poulain

Zoom host: The Rev. Salying Wong

An updated **Announcement** page is available on line at
[https://docs.google.com/document/
d/1M_iFUN25FBuxOVTr0UKw6mokVcdE9iNII9RFrPIKNAg](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M_iFUN25FBuxOVTr0UKw6mokVcdE9iNII9RFrPIKNAg)
and updates of various parish events and activities may also be
found on our website at www.stthomas-svale.org



Parish Mission Statement

St. Thomas is joyfully on the way!
We are becoming whom Jesus calls us to be:
a spiritually-centered community dedicated to creating connections
with God, each other, and our neighbors,
so that we might walk together with love toward justice, compassion, and hope.

THE VESTRY OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SUNNYVALE

Abby O’Connell, **Senior Warden**
Joe Gutierrez, **Junior Warden**

Gage McKinney, **Clerk**

2023
Pat Dare
Breno DeMedeiros
Abby O’Connell

2024
Nancy Allgeier
Gage McKinney
Rita Welsh

2025
Joe Gutierrez
Dena Ware
Emilee Wilhelm-Leen

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

Stephanie Daugherty

Hugo Lopez-Laguna

Mabel Cheng

Sherene Nagarajah

St. Thomas website: www.stthomas-svale.org

Welcome

St. Thomas' Parish is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love, and service to welcome all people just as God created them. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical, or mental ability. God delights in the diversity of creation, and so do we!

Rector: The Rev. Salying Wong.....pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.us
or 510-478-3554

Deacon: The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah.....bertramemail@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jim Cobb.....Finance@stthomas-svale.org

Parish Administrator: Anne Buelteman.....office@stthomas-svale.org

Family Ministry Director.: Susan Beckham.....family_ministry@stthomas-svale.org

Library and Resource Center Coordinator: Carol Campbellresourcecenter@stthomas-svale.org

Music Director: Patricia Pietrzyk,..... patriciapietrzyk@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Anne Buelteman..... office@stthomas-svale.org

Organist:

Our Daily Bread (ODB) Coordinator: David Barnes.....408-736-4108, odb@stthomas-svale.org

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

If you or a loved one is in urgent need of pastoral care (hospitalization, death in the family, etc.), PLEASE CALL US.

(The hospital does not always automatically notify the parish)

The Rev. Salying Wong, Rector.....510-478-3554

Parish Office.....408-736-4155

If there is no answer, please leave a message.

You may invite prayers online through The Intercessory Prayer Chain
at prayerchain@stthomas-svale.org