

Season of Creation
16TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 2023

Morning Prayer

10:30am



The Unforgiving Debtor ~ Jorge Cocco

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

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 19 / *Third Sunday in Season of Creation*
September 17, 2023

Morning Prayer

10:30am

Welcome to worship this morning.

We are so happy you are here today, in-person and online.

For those of you coming to church in-person, please follow these guidelines to keep everyone safe during this pandemic:

INDOOR - Masking is now recommended at church services. For those who have vulnerable health issues, our 10:30am services always offer an option to worship from the safety of home. Please stay home if you feel sick.

OUTDOOR - Please be aware of those around you who may be vulnerable and try to maintain a distance.

For those attending remotely, you may connect in either of two ways:

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 (#).

*Please follow the usual procedures for muting and unmuting (*6) and raising a hand (*9). 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.*

*After worship today please join us for coffee hour
in Cowans Hall across the courtyard.*

Prelude

Benjamin Belew, piano

The bell tolls.

Opening Hymn

Hymnal #400

All Creatures of Our God and King

vs. 1, 4, 5, 7

All are invited to sing the hymn. Zoom participants, please stay muted.



1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
4 Dear mo-ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless-ings on our
5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor-ship him in hum - ble -



1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
4 way, O ___ praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
5 part, O ___ sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
7 ness, O ___ praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gent-ly gleams,
4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God and cast on him your care:
7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

Refrain



O ___ praise him, O ___ praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt.

Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623;
adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

88. 44. 88 with Refrain

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.**

Invitatory and Psalter

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, *

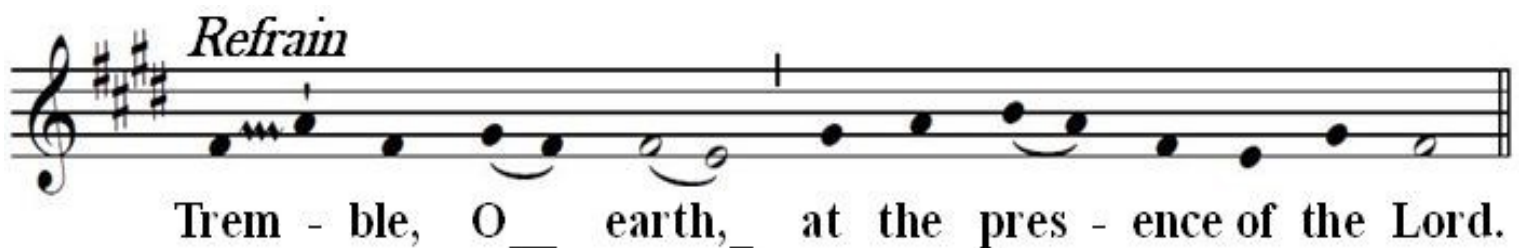
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

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!

Psalm 114

*The people join in singing the responses;
Zoom participants please stay muted*

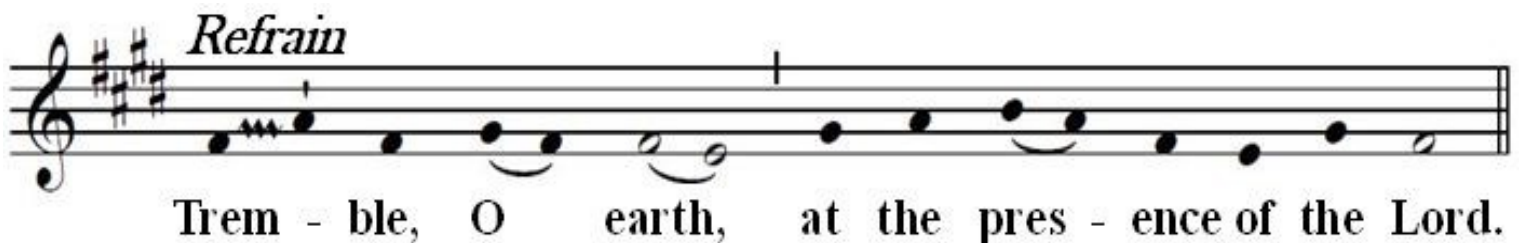
Refrain



Trem - ble, O__ earth, _ at the pres - ence of the Lord.

Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
Judah became God's sanctuary
and Israel his dominion. *Refrain*

Refrain




Trem - ble, O__ earth, _ at the pres - ence of the Lord.

The sea beheld it and fled;
Jordan turned and went back.
The mountains skipped like rams,
and the little hills like young sheep. *Refrain (as above)*
What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?
O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams?
you little hills like young sheep?

Refrain

Refrain



Trem - ble, O__ earth, _ at the pres - ence of the Lord.


The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half).

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Refrain

Refrain



Trem - ble, O__ earth, _ at the pres - ence of the Lord.

The musical notation is identical to the first refrain, consisting of a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps and the same sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4-A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4.

The Lessons

The First Lesson Exodus 14:19-31

Lector: 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.

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

People: Thanks be to God

Canticle 12

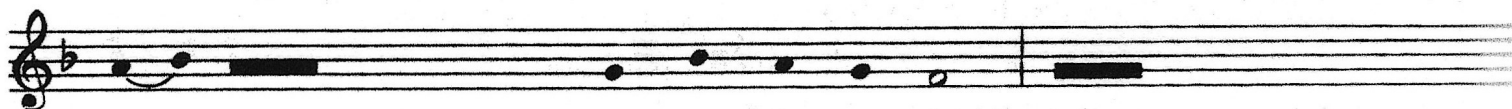
Hymnal #S228

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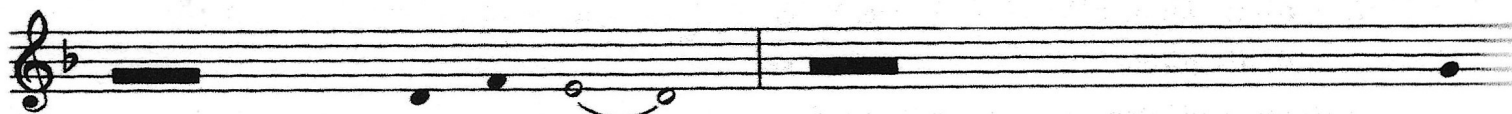
chanted in unison

Zoom participants, please stay muted.

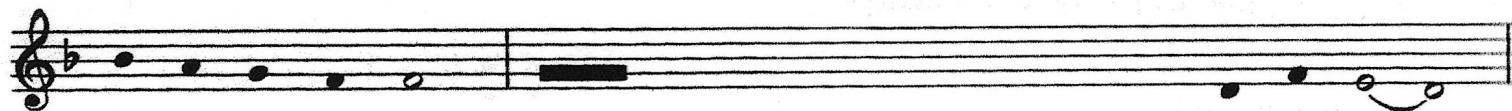
Invocation



1. Glo - rify the Lord, all you works of the Lord praise him and highly

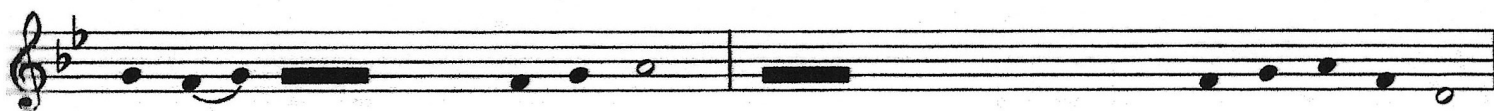


exalt him for ev - er. 2. In the firmament of his pow - er,

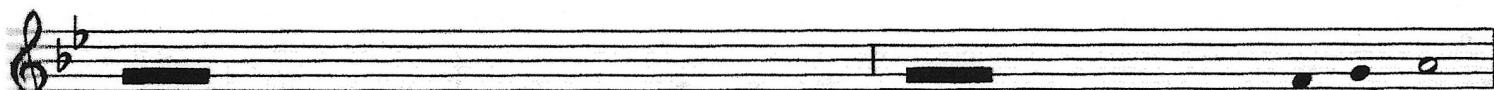


glo - ri - fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ev - er.

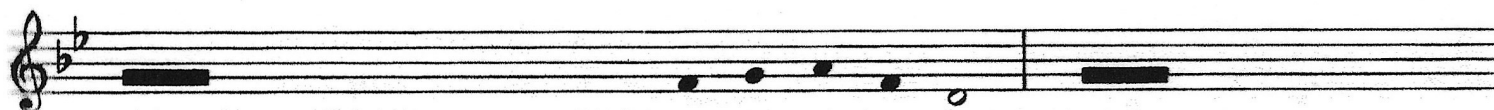
II The Earth and its Creatures



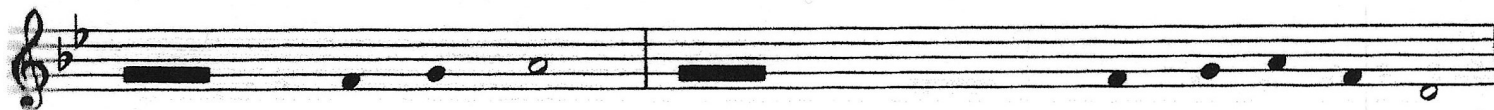
11. Let the earth glori- fy the Lord, praise him and highly ex- alt him for ev-er.



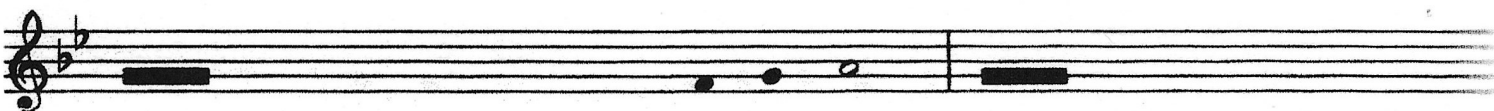
12. Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows up-on the earth.



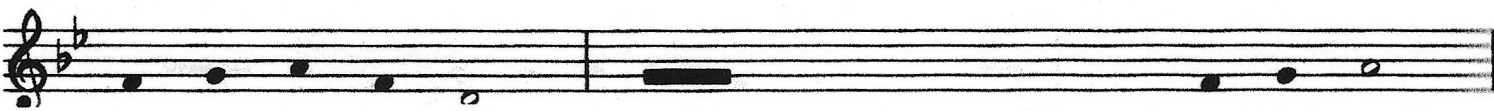
Praise him and highly ex - alt him for ev - er. 13. Glorify the Lord, O springs



of water, seas, and streams, O whales and all that move in the wa - ters.



14. All birds of the air, glori - fy the Lord. Praise him and highly ex -



alt him for ev - er. 15. Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild,

and all you flocks and herds. 16. O men and women everywhere, glory -
 fy the Lord, praise him and highly ex - alt him for ev - er.

Doxology

21. Let_ us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit;
 praise him and highly exalt him for ev - er. 22. In the firmament of his
 pow-er, glo- ri- fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ev-er.

Setting: Plainsong, Tonus Peregrinus, verses 1-2, 21-22; Plainsong, Tone 1, verses 3-10; Plainsong, Tone 4; verses 11-16; Plainsong, Tone 8, verses 17-20; adapt. The Standing Commission on Church Music, 1979, alt.

The Second Reading

Lector: A Reading from *Red: Passion and Patience in the Desert*,
 by Terry Tempest Williams

The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time. They are kneeling with hands clasped that we might act with restraint, that we might leave room for the life that is destined to come. To protect what is wild is to protect what is gentle. Perhaps the wilderness we fear is the pause between our own heartbeats, the silent space that says we live only by grace. Wilderness lives by this same grace. Wild mercy is in our hands.

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

People: Thanks be to God

*God Is Love, and Where True Love Is**All are invited to sing the hymn. Zoom participants, please stay muted.**Refrain:*

God is love, and where true love__ is, God him-self is there.



1 Here in Christ we gath - er, love of Christ our call - ing.
 2 When we Christ-ians gath - er, mem-bers of one Bo - dy,
 3 Grant us Love's ful-fill - ment, joy with all the bless - ed,



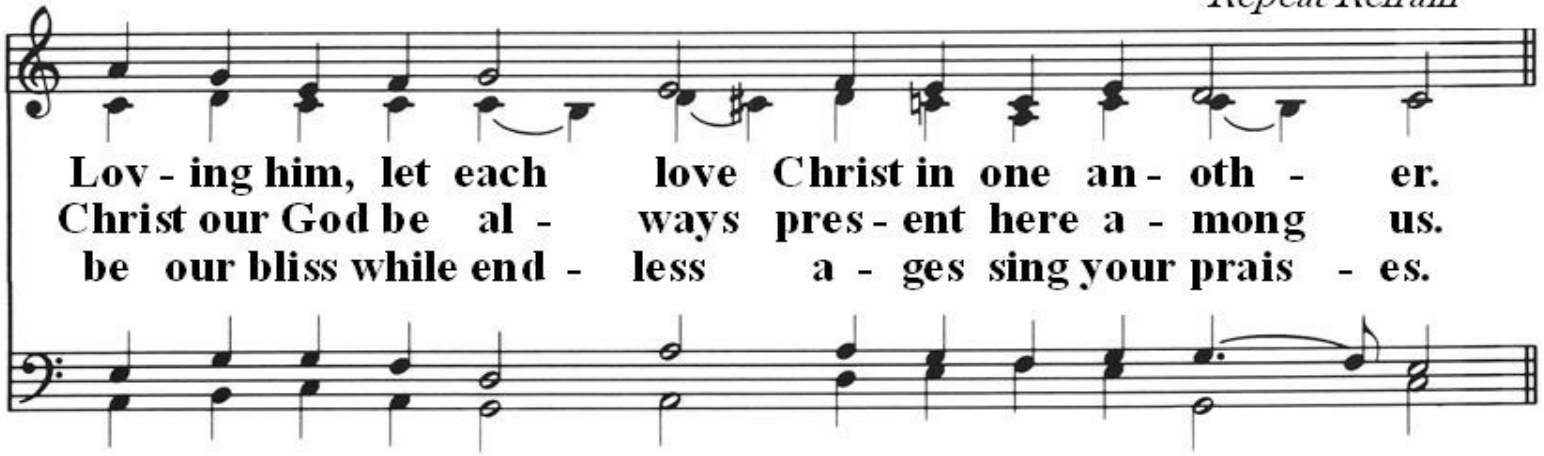
Christ, our love, is with us, glad-ness be his greet - ing,
 let there be in us no dis - cord but one spir - it.
 when we see your face, O Sa - vior, in its glo - ry.



Let us fear and love him, ho - ly God e - ter - nal.
 Ban-ished now be an - ger, strife and ev-ery quar - rel.
 Shine on us, O pur - est Light of all cre - a - tion,

*continued next page*

Repeat Refrain



Lov - ing him, let each love Christ in one an - oth - er.
Christ our God be al - ways pres - ent here a - mong us.
be our bliss while end - less a - ges sing your prais - es.

Words: Latin; tr. James Quinn (b. 1919), alt.
Music: *Ubi caritas* (Murray), A. Gregory Murray (b. 1905)

12. 12. 12. 12 with Refrain

The Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and

threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you. Lord Christ

Sermon

There will be a period of silence for meditation.

Anthem

James Chepponis

Pray With Confidence
Members of the St. Thomas Choir

The Prayers

Officiant: The Creator be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
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 echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your beloved community 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.**

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.

Prayers of the People

Honoring God in Creation Form 2

from Season of Creation 2023

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

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

In the beginning,

People: God was.

Leader: Here and now,

People: God is.

Leader: In the future,

People: God will be.

Leader: 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

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: 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

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: 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

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: Hear our prayer.

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

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,
People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: 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

Leader: God, Giver of life,
People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: 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

Leader: God, Giver of life,
People: Hear our prayer.

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

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,
People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help [especially _____].

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died [especially _____].

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Officiant adds the following collect.

Collect for the Healing of Creation

Gracious God, the air sings with songs of glory, water flashes silver with creation, and the forests bloom with leaves for healing nations. May your light and love fill our hearts and souls and minds, that we may share your abundant grace with the world. **Amen.**

Collect for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 19/Season of Creation

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 sign of peace.

Announcements

may also be referenced on line [here](#).

The Blessing of Birthdays & Anniversaries

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: Go forth now to care for God's world.
Use resources wisely.
Share your knowledge.
Sacrifice where necessary.
Live in harmony with all creation.
Go out into all the world as prophets of a new way of living and preach the good news to all.
And the blessing of the Creator God, the Risen Son, and the Promised Holy Spirit bless us that we might be a blessing to others today and always.

People: Amen.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants please stay muted.

1 Joy-ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re-lect thy rays
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a-bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, bloom-ing mea-dow, flash-ing sea,
 Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our Bro-ther, all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach__ us how to love each o-ther, lift us to the joy di-vine.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933)

Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

87. 87. D

The Dismissal

Tend the earth,
 care for God's good Creation;
 as you have received freely,
 so give freely.
 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Benjamin Belew, piano



Serving today

The St. Thomas Altar Guild

Officiant: Aer van de Water

Preacher: Angela Rausch

Deacon: The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah

Crucifer/Intercessor: Ann Kopischke

Readers: Susan McVey, John McVey

Cantor: Patricia Pietrzyk

The St. Thomas Choir

directed by Patricia Pietrzyk
Benjamin Belew, accompanist

Zoom host: Abby O'Connell

Tech team: Breno DeMedeiros, Sophia DeMedeiros



Today in the Parish

The Altar Flowers today are given by Fran and John Hostettler,
in loving memory of their son, John David Hostettler.

They are also given by Mabel Cheng,
in loving memory of her husband, Mr. Frank Chun-Kao Cheng.

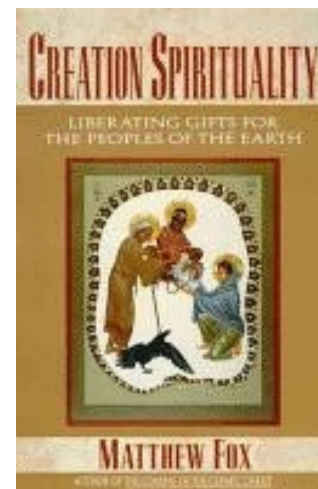
Coffee Hour today will be inside Cowans Hall. Please be mindful
of Covid protocols. Thank you.

Library News:

Book of the Week September 17

[*Creation Spirituality: liberating gifts for the peoples
of the earth*](#) by Matthew Fox

Passionate and provocative, Fox uncovers the ancient
tradition of a creation-centered spirituality that melds
Christian mysticism with the contemporary struggle
for social justice, feminism, and environmentalism.



New Display in the Archives Case

The Library Committee is now featuring the great St. Thomas Choir. Patricia has selected to display several works of famous composers such as Bach and Handel.

Also featured are the histories of the St. Thomas Choir and the Bell Choir. Pictures are included along with a list of our former organists. Submitted by Stephanie Daugherty

NEW on Literature Rack – R side of Narthex

The September/October issue of *The Upper Room* is now also available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Season of Creation September 3-October 8.

The bishops of the Episcopal Church have offered a liturgy for the stewardship of creation. We will be following this liturgy and will focus on celebrating God's creation. You will notice that the epistle will be replaced by a suggested non-scriptural reading.

Worship schedule—Special announcement:

On Sundays at 10:30, we will now worship **every week** with an **in-person and online (hybrid)** format!

Some hybrid services will be managed by the Tech Team and Zoom Team using the church building cameras and mics; some will be simplified and managed by Pastor Salying through her laptop mic and camera.

Worship in a COVID-endemic world has required us to respond to our life-together as organic, living and growing. May God bless our - desire to grow in a wider embrace, to make room for everyone to worship in person or online.

Sunday, September 24 17th Pent. proper 20	8am - in person 10:30am - Hybrid	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, October 1 18th Pent. proper 21	8am - in person 10:30am - Hybrid	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, October 8 19th Pent. proper 22	8am - in person 10:30am - Hybrid	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, October 15 20th Pent. proper 23	8am - in person 10:30am - Hybrid	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II

Christmas Cantata Fundraising Our accompanist, Benjamin Belew, will be presenting a concert for Christmas Eve. It will be his own composition. There will be four soloists and an additional conductor, and we want to raise \$2500 to pay them for four rehearsals and the day of performance. Consider supporting a soloist, half a soloist, or any amount you can give. Write a check to St. Thomas and put on the memo line: Christmas Cantata. Or, contribute online at our website.

Senior Brunch Our seniors group has not been able to get together since we began in 2020 due to Covid restrictions but that ends as all seniors at Saint Thomas are Invited to attend our senior brunch which will be held in Cowans Hall on **September 19, 2023**. We will begin at **9:00** in the morning with good food and great friends. If you can attend please RSVP to Sue Beckham.

Please use my Comcast email: Sue_beckham@comcast.net

The next Vestry Meeting will be **Tuesday September 19 at 7pm**. Please contact Pastor Salying if you wish to attend. All regular business meetings are on Zoom.

OCTOBER is Stewardship Month Watch this space!

Agape Circle First Friday of each month (mostly!) at 6:30pm, Cowans Hall (we will observe "mask" protocols as necessary). Join us **Friday, October 6 at 6:30 pm** in Cowans Hall to share a pot-luck meal and have some fun, theme tba! Please bring a dish to share and serving utensils.

Coming to the Library: Banned Books Week

Does the St. Thomas Library have banned and/or challenged books?

Yes, we do. See our display on the table in the Narthex starting September 24.

[Banned Book Week](#) is October 1-7.

The theme this year is “Let Freedom Read”.



General Announcements

Education Pronoun buttons and map to gender neutral bathroom – St Thomas welcomes all, including transgender and nonbinary siblings in Christ. To make that visible, pronoun buttons are now available in the rear of the church. You can choose one to show your preferred pronoun in English. As well, it shows our hospitality to those who choose to be identified by less usual pronouns. And did you know we have bathrooms for all genders? By the buttons you’ll find a map to guide you.

Thanksgiving and Memorial Donations to Altar Guild

Our altar guild appreciates your support in making our space holy and beautiful. You can make a donation for fresh flowers on a designated date or a general donation for supplies, like communion wine and bread and oil for the candles. You can make this donation online or by check, with “altar guild” on the memo line. If applicable, **please also include** (1) the date for the commemoration and (2) the person or occasion to be commemorated.

Pledges, Offerings & Donations

Your pledges and other donations may always be mailed to the church office and marked to the attention of the Treasurer.

When donating by check, please make the check payable to “St. Thomas Episcopal Church”.

Under our current public health restrictions, we encourage you to mail in your pledges and offerings to the church or use our online donation option.

Online Giving Please look for the “GIVE” option on the main



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A banner image showing the top of a church steeple with a bell, set against a background of trees and a blue sky. The text "Faith. Hope. Love. Unity." is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Faith. Hope. Love.
Unity.

menu bar on the St. Thomas website. It is located on the upper right side of the home page. Once you select “GIVE”, you will be taken to a new page where you may donate through PayPal, using a debit or credit card. OR, if you prefer, you may go directly to the PayPal site through the following link:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=9C43D8TLRQCLU&source=url

If you choose to give online, please be aware that St. Thomas does pay a fee for each transaction.

As always, we want to say “Thank You!”

Peace, Jim Cobb

Welcome to the St. Thomas Library

Library Hours The church library will be open **on Sundays** after the 8 a.m. service, and again after the 10:30 service (on the Sundays when we worship in person). Carol or a member of the Library Committee

will be available to answer questions on Fridays from 10-12; after 12:00 our administrator Anne will be available until 4:00 to open the door for you. Call 408-736-4155 for access, or knock loudly! We request that you remember to wear your mask.

Small Groups and Spiritual Formation Ministries

St Thomas Stepping Stones Jail Ministry

Get proximate to the pain and you will make the deepest connection. Join the St. Thomas Stepping Stone Jail ministry and get proximate to those who are in need of community and love. We began by sending out pen-pal letters and the coming weeks we will try to organize going in person into the jail (only for persons who want/agreed to do this work).

Please contact Deacon Bertram (bertramemail@gmail.com) if you have any questions or wish to volunteer.

The Prayer Chain and Helping Hands and Hearts

Committee. Anyone who needs prayers or needs pastoral care assistance or would like to join in this ministry, please send an email to: prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us.

Family Ministry Contact Sue Beckham through our website for information: www.stthomas-svale.org/contact/

Senior Ministry If you are a Senior at Saint Thomas and are not yet receiving our twice weekly Senior Activities Sheets please contact Sue Beckham through our website for information:
www.stthomas-svale.org/contact/

St. Thomas offers English Language Classes. A class for Chinese speakers meets most Fridays at 10:00am in the Disciples

room. A class for Japanese speakers meets Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the Disciples room.

Please note: The class for Japanese speakers is on hiatus, and will begin again September 20.

Zooming in Men's Spiritual Growth Group

Yes! Now you can be there in your pajamas (at least), and therefore sleep a bit longer. But on the other hand we can no longer advertise coffee + if you arrive a bit early. We are now meeting **weekly** with a standard format, alternating between wondering what the scriptures might be leading us to personally on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays (9-10 AM on your computer), and on the other Saturdays, a check-in and just for sanity's sake (starting at 9 AM). Our Zoom meetings are password protected so you'll need to connect with Chris Schmidt (randischris@gmail.com) if you are new to the group. We invite all men (even those not a part of St. Thomas) to join with us for fellowship and good discussion.

Book Club usually meets once a month from 7 to 8 p.m. in the St. Thomas Library. We are an open book club: All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not. Our next meeting will take place on **Monday September 25**, when we meet to discuss *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki. Before ending her life to escape loneliness and bullying, Tokyo teen Nao decides to document the life of her great grandmother, a centenarian Buddhist nun. Ruth, a novelist living on an island, is pulled into Nao's drama and her unknown fate after finding by a lunchbox washed ashore. Full of Ozeki's signature humor this is a brilliantly inventive, beguiling story of our shared humanity and the search for home.

Please join us—contact Dorothy through our website www.stthomas-svale.org/contact for the Zoom link

Weekly Worship at St. Thomas

Tuesdays, 6pm Centering Prayer, led by Pastor Salying

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/724376004>

Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 meeting ID# 724376004

Wednesdays, 12:15pm Noonday Prayer with Commemoration of a Saint,

led by Pastor Salying: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86313271549>

Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 meeting ID# 86313271549

Thursdays, 6:30pm Intercessory Prayer Group on Zoom

led by Deacon Bertram: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VG1JUT09)

[pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VG1JUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VG1JUT09)

Meeting ID: 896 9918 8717 Passcode: 225424

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,89699188717#,,,*225424# US

(San Jose)

Sundays: 8am Holy Eucharist Rite I in the church

and

10:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II in the church
(Hybrid format: with simultaneous livestream on Zoom)

Zoom link for livestream: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82690025101>

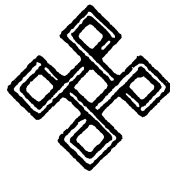
Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 826 9002 5101

Both Sunday services led by Pastor Salying

Please see website for additional week-to-week information:

www.stthomas-svale.org

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

Accompanist (organ/piano): Benjamin Belew

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