

*Season of Creation*  
**17TH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**

September 24, 2023

Rite II, 10:30am



*Day Laborers* - James Janknegt

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
231 Sunset Avenue  
Sunnyvale, Ca. 94086

408-736-4155 [www.stthomas-svale.org](http://www.stthomas-svale.org)

# 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 20 / *Fourth Sunday in Season of Creation*

Holy Eucharist

10:30am, Rite II

September 24, 2023

*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.

When the priest celebrates communion, she will always thoroughly wash her hands. She will be unmasked while celebrating communion. **Thank you** for your continued patience as we try to provide the greatest level of safety for all of us!

*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

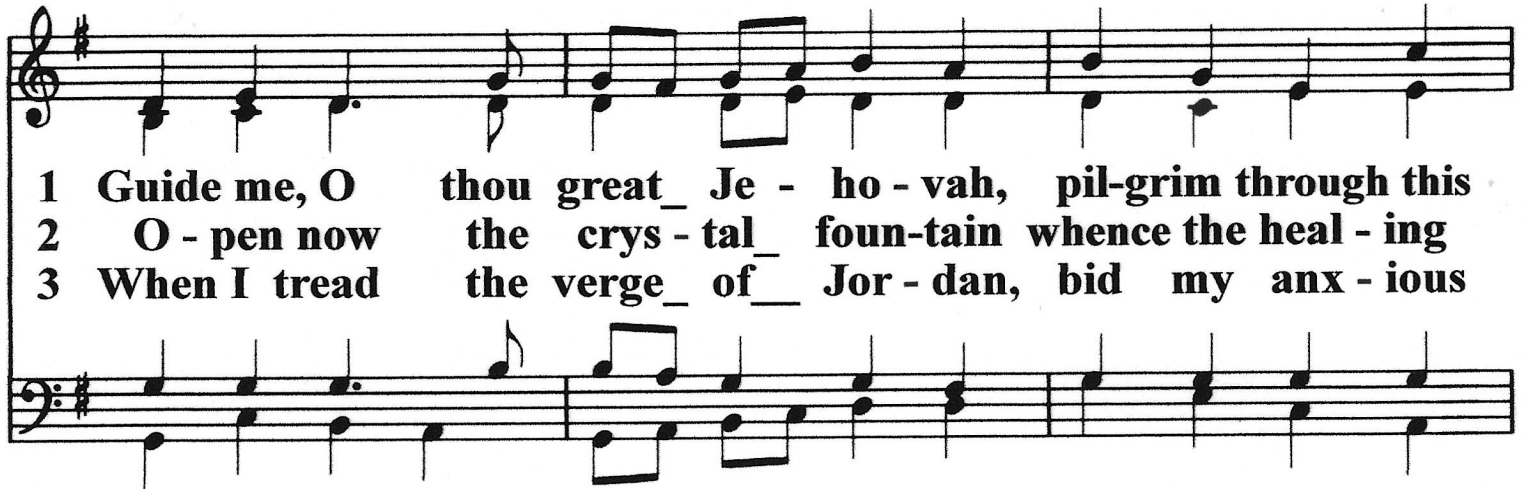
Benjamin Belew, piano

## Opening Hymn

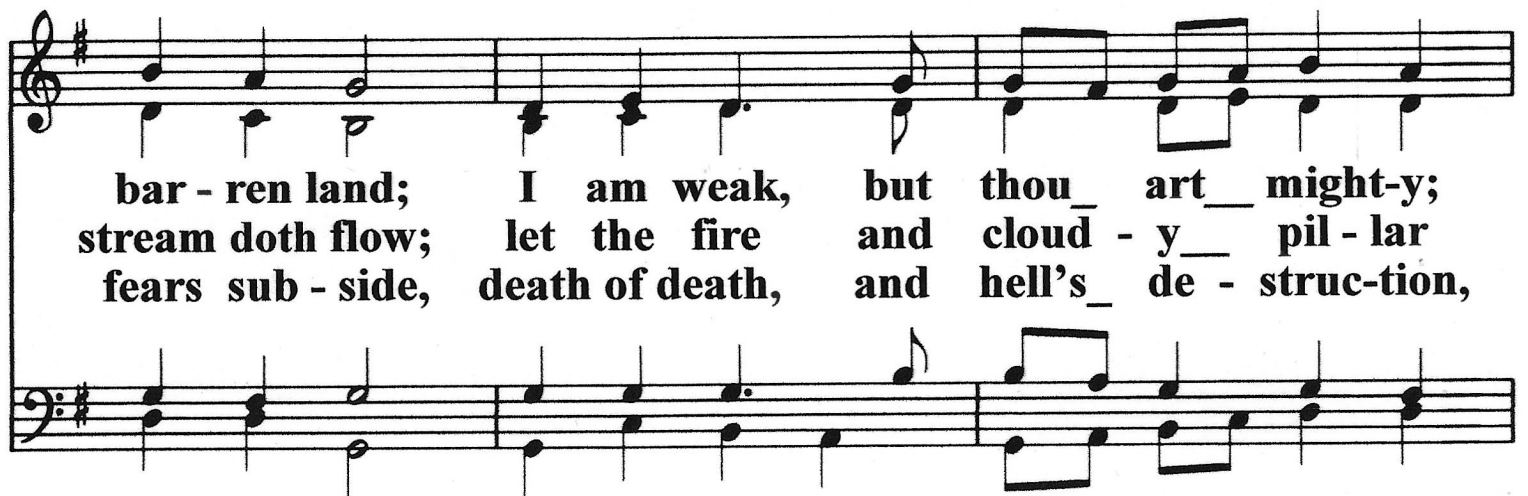
Hymnal #690

### *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

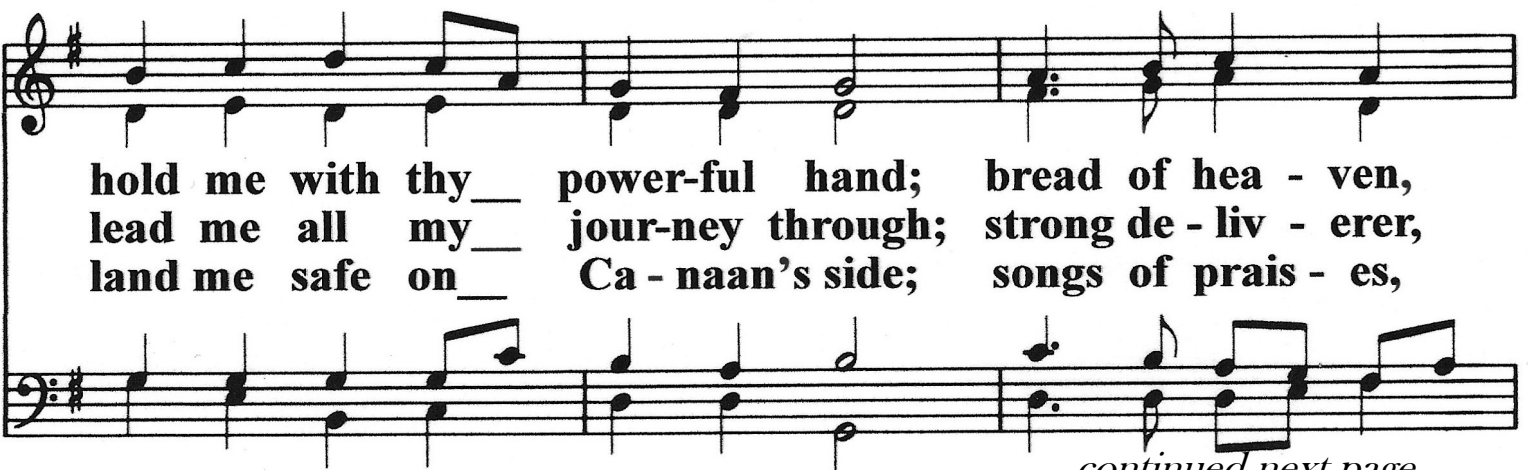
*All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.*



1 Guide me, O thou great\_ Je - ho - vah, pil-grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal\_ foun-tain whence the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge\_ of\_ Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou\_ art\_ might-y;  
stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y\_ pil - lar  
fears sub - side, death of death, and hell's\_ de - struc-tion,



hold me with thy\_ power-ful hand; bread of hea - ven,  
lead me all my\_ jour-ney through; strong de - liv - erer,  
land me safe on\_ Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

*continued next page*

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -  
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and  
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, feed me now\_ and\_ ev - er - more.  
 shield, be thou still\_ my\_ strength and shield.  
 thee, I will ev - er\_ give to thee.

Words: William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt.  
 Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932)

87. 87. 877

## Opening Acclamation

**Celebrant:** This the day the Creator has made.

**People:** Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

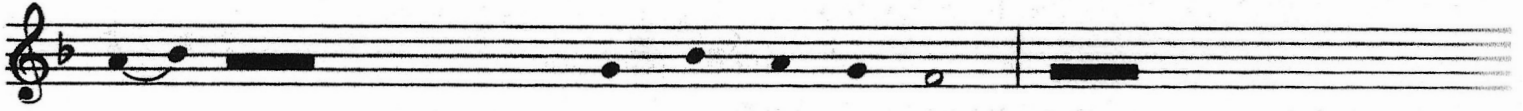
## Collect for Purity

**Celebrant:** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

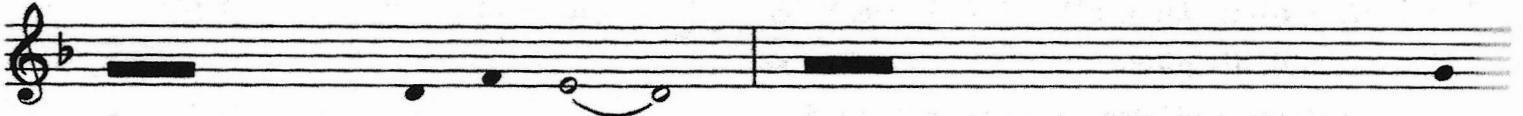


*chanted in unison; Zoom participants, please stay muted.*

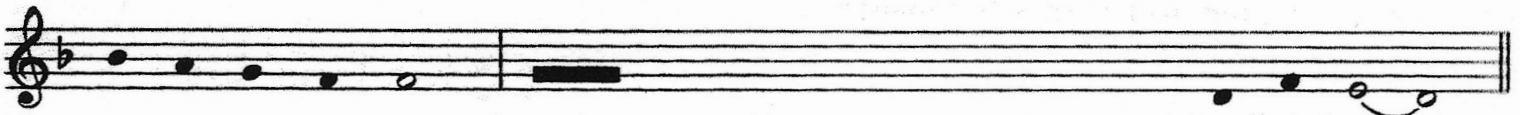
Invocation



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

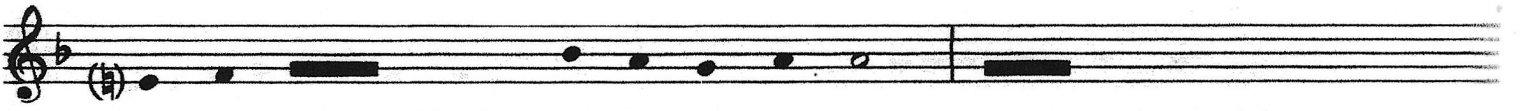


exalt him for ev - er. 2. In the firmament of his pow - er,

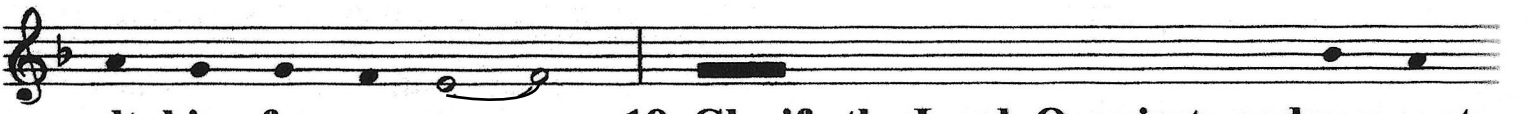


glo - ri - fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ev - er.

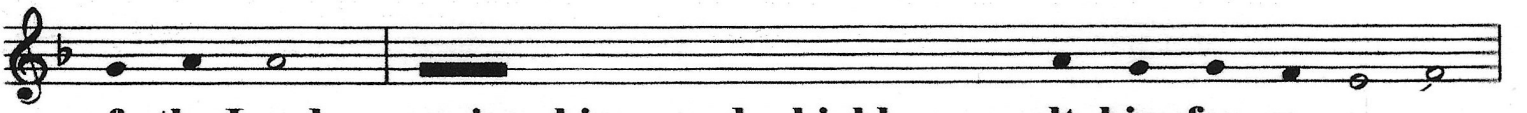
III The People of God



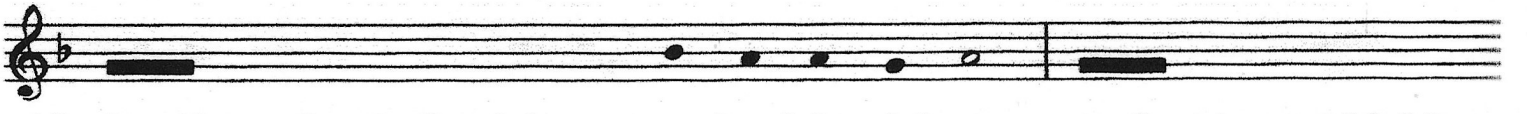
17. Let the people of God glo- ri- fy the Lord, praise him and highly ex -



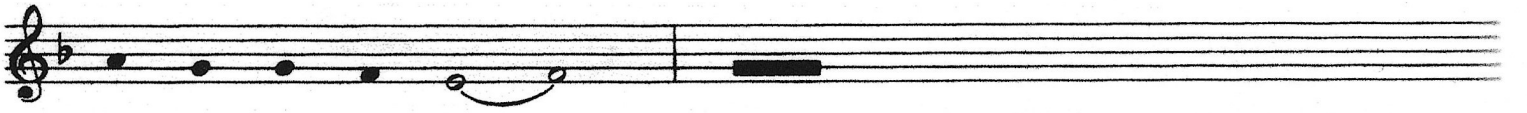
alt him for ev - er. 18. Glorify the Lord, O priests and ser-vants



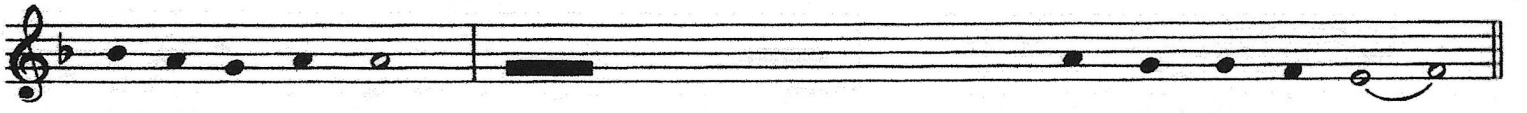
of the Lord, praise him and highly ex - alt him for ev - er.



19. Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the right-eous, praise him and highly ex -



alt him for ev - er. 20. You that are holy and humble of heart,



glo-ri-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.

## Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 20

Celebrant: The Creator be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, your vision of a renewed earth in which heaven comes to rest; and even now, while we too often despair of healing and wholeness, to hold fast to your promise and commit again to hope; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when

we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

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

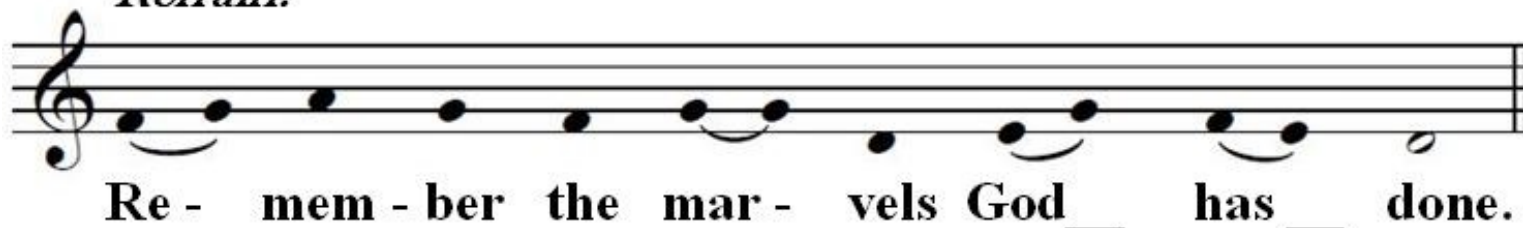
**People: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

*The people may join the choir in singing the refrain.*

*Zoom participants please stay muted.*

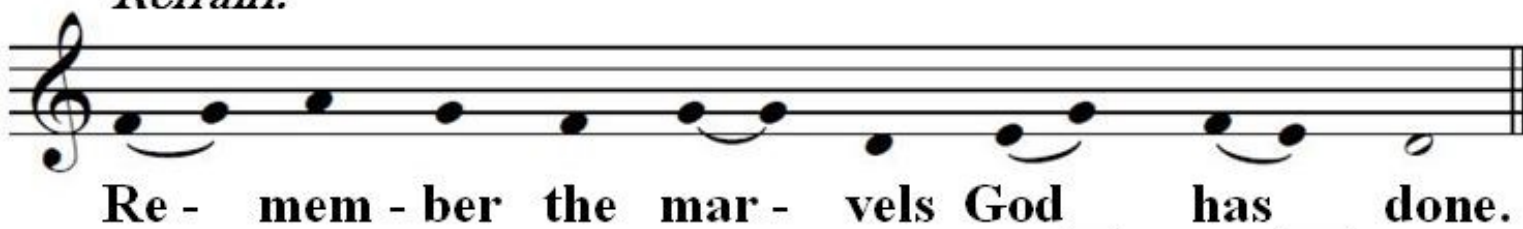
*Refrain:*



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. *Refrain*

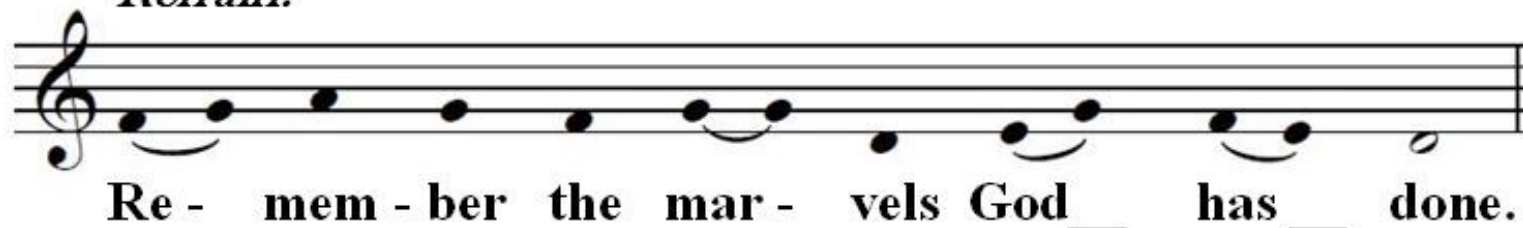
*Refrain:*



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. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*



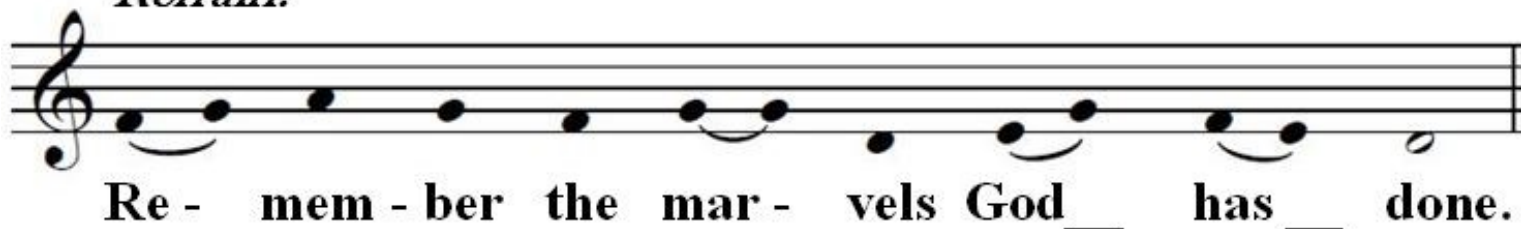
Remember the marvels he has done,  
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,



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

*Refrain*

*Refrain:*

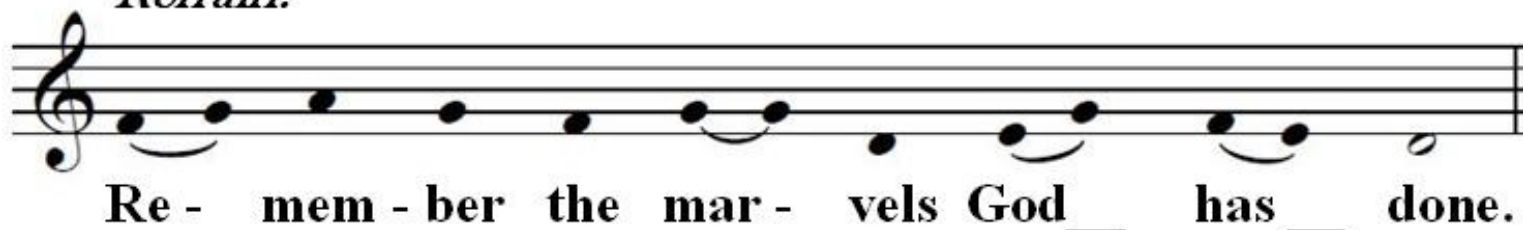


He led out his people with silver and gold;  
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

Egypt was glad of their going,  
because they were afraid of them.

*Refrain*

*Refrain:*



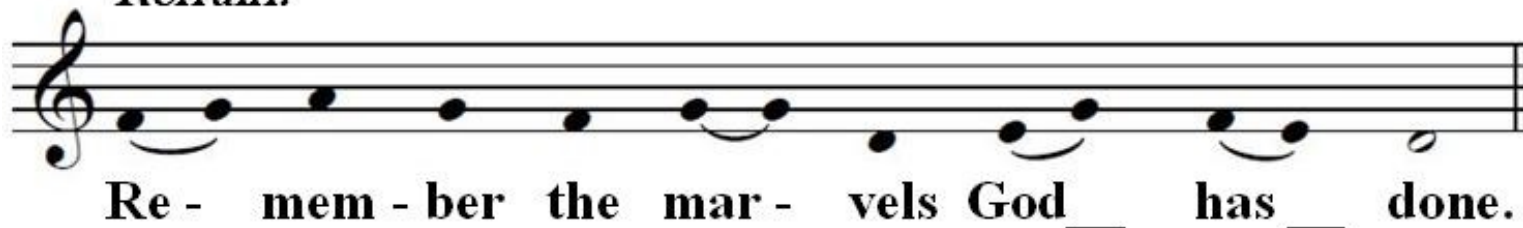
He spread out a cloud for a covering  
and a fire to give light in the night season.

They asked, and quails appeared,  
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.

He opened the rock, and water flowed,  
so the river ran in the dry places.

*Refrain*


*Refrain:*



For God remembered his holy word  
and Abraham his servant.

So he led forth his people with gladness,  
his chosen with shouts of joy.      *Refrain*

*Refrain:*



Re - mem - ber the mar - vels God has done.

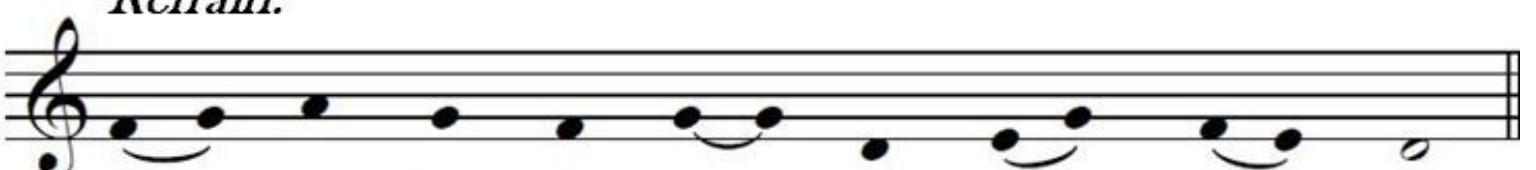
He gave his people the lands of the nations,  
and they took the fruit of others' toil,

That they might keep his statutes  
and observe his laws.

Hallelujah!

*Refrain*

*Refrain:*



Re - mem - ber the mar - vels God has done.

## The Second Lesson

Lector: A Reading from *Prayers of the Social Awakening*,  
by Walter Rauschenbusch

O God, we thank thee for this universe, our great home; for its vastness and its riches, and for the manifoldness of the life which teems upon it and of which we are part. We praise thee for the arching sky and the blessed winds, for the driving clouds and the constellations on high. We praise thee for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills, for the trees and for the grass under our feet. We thank thee for our senses by which we can

see the splendor of the morning, and hear the jubilant songs of love, and smell the breath of the springtime. Grant us, we pray thee, a heart wide open to all this joy and beauty, and save our souls from being so steeped in care or so darkened by passion that we pass heedless and unseeing when even the thorn-bush by the wayside is aflame with the glory of God.

Enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all the living things, our little brothers, to whom thou hast given this earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty, so that the voice of the Earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realize that they live not for us alone, but for themselves and for thee, and that they love the sweetness of life even as we, and serve thee in their place better than we in ours.

When our use of this world is over and we make room for others, may we not leave anything ravished by our greed or spoiled by our ignorance, but may we hand on our common heritage fairer and sweeter through our use of it, undiminished in fertility and joy, that so our bodies may return in peace to the great mother who nourished them and our spirits may round the circle of a perfect life in thee.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn**

Hymnal #541

*See next page*

*Come Labor On*

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



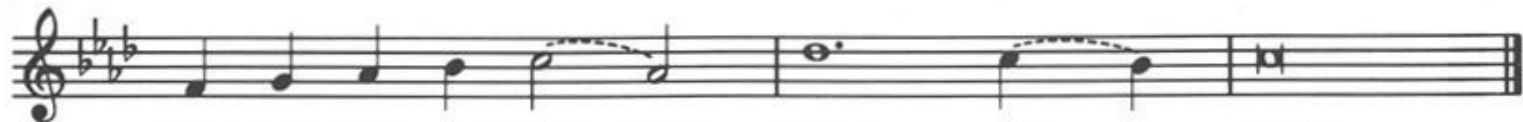
1 Come, la - bor on. Who dares stand i - dle  
2 Come, la - bor on. The en - e - my is  
3 Come, la - bor on. A - way with gloom - y  
4 Come, la - bor on. Claim the high call - ing  
5 Come, la - bor on. No time for rest, till



on the har-vest plain, while all a - round us  
watch-ing night and day, to sow the tares, to  
doubts and faith-less fear! No arm so weak but  
an - gels can - not share— to young and old the  
glows the west-ern sky, till the long sha - dows



waves the gol - den grain? And to each ser - vant  
snatch the seed a - way; while we in sleep our  
may do ser - vice here: by feeb - lest a - gents  
Gos - pel glad - ness bear: re - deem the time; its  
o'er our path - way lie, and a glad sound comes



does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."  
du - ty have for - got, he slum - bered not.  
- may our God ful - fill his right - eous will.  
hours too swift-ly fly. The night draws nigh.  
with the set - ting sun, "Ser - vants, well done."

Words: Jane Laurie Borthwick (1813-1897), alt.  
Music: *Ora Labora*, Thomas Tertius Noble (1867-1953)

4. 10 10. 10 4

## **The Gospel:**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

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

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you Lord Christ**



## The Sermon

*After the sermon there will be a time of silence for reflection.*

## The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **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 Celebrant adds a concluding 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.**

### **The Confession**

**Season of Creation 2023**

Celebrant: 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.**

### **The Absolution**

**Celebrant:**    Almighty 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**

*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.**

*The people and the ministers greet one another.*



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Offertory sentence

Offertory

Robert J. Powell

*Christ the Vine*

Members of the St. Thomas Choir  
Benjamin Belew, piano

Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.

**People: And of your own have we given you.**

Sursum corda

*Eucharistic Prayer for the Season of Creation*

by The Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant:

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.


Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

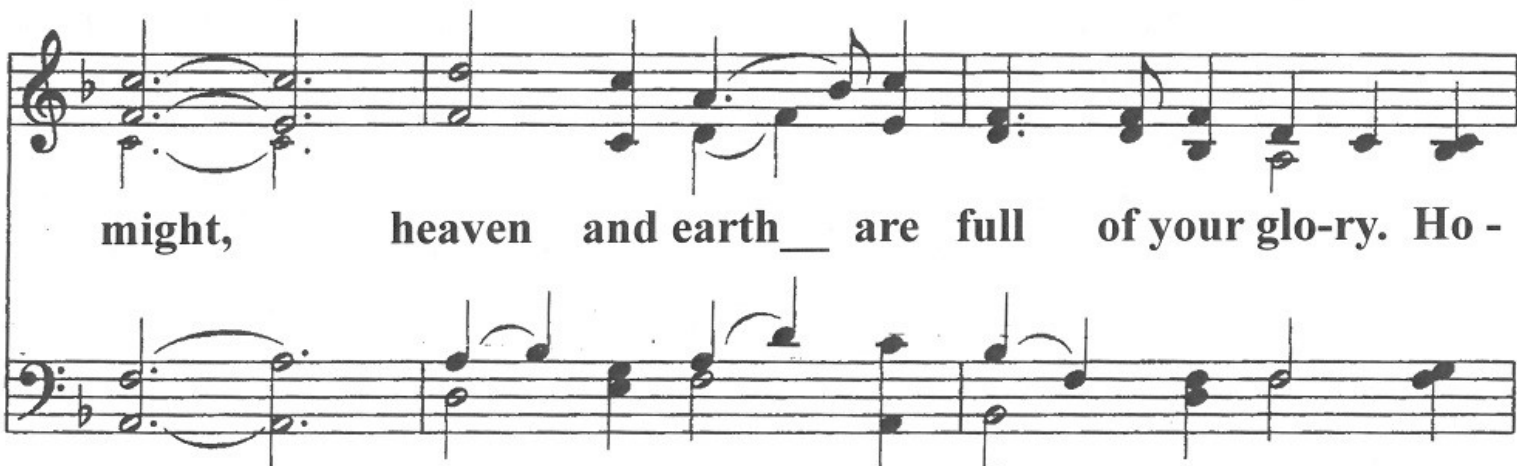
## Sanctus

WLP #858

*All are invited to sing along, Zoom attendees please stay muted.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



might, heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est \*Bless - ed is he who comes

*continued next page*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Setting: American folk melody; arr. Marcia Pruner;  
 harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)  
 © Church Pension Fund

**Celebrant:**

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

**Celebrant:** So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**People:** **Christ has died,**  
**Christ has risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

**Celebrant:**

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries

reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever.

Celebrant and **People:**  
**AMEN**

As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Season of Creation 2023*

**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 Breaking of the Bread

### The Fraction Anthem

Celebrant: This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.

**People: All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.**

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

### The Communion

*Everyone is invited to come forward to receive Communion.*

*Please come to the rail.*

- *You may stand or kneel at the altar rail, as you are able.*
- *The wine will be served in the chalice and in the small cups. The chalice will precede the cups. If you do not reach for the chalice, it will pass and the cups will follow. (Please place the empty cup on one of the trays near the aisles.)*
- *Please, do not dip the bread in the wine.*
- *If you do not wish to receive communion, you may receive a blessing: please cross your arms over your chest as a sign that you wish to be blessed.*
- *Gluten free bread is available upon asking.*

### Communion hymn

Hymnal #341

*See next page*

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

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





1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the  
 2 By this pledge, Lord, that you love us, by your  
 3 As our bless - ed ones a - dore you, seat - ed  
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our



wine which you\_\_ have poured, for the words which you have  
 gift of peace\_\_ re - stored, by your call to heaven a -  
 at our Fa - ther's board may the Church still wait - ing  
 hearts keep watch\_\_ and ward, in the world to which you



spo - ken, now we\_\_ give you thanks, O Lord.  
 bove us, hal - low\_\_ all our lives. O Lord.  
 for you keep Love's\_\_ tie un - bro - ken, Lord.  
 send us let your\_\_ king - dom come, O Lord.

Words: Louis F. Benson (1855-1930), alt.  
 Music: Beng-Li, I-to Loh (b. 1936)

87. 87

*Please stand.*

## Post-Communion Prayer

### Celebrant and People:

**Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,  
 that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us  
 and renew the face of the earth.**

**May we be one with you so that our work is yours  
 and your work is ours.**

**Lead us to transform our lives  
 to reflect your glory in Creation;  
 through Jesus Christ our Savior**

**who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

**Celebrant:** 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 you  
that you might be a blessing to others  
today and always.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

Hymnal # 660

### *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*

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



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee in low - ly  
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,  
3 Teach me thy pa - tience still with thee, in clos - er,  
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

*continued next page*

paths of ser - vice free; tell me thy se - cret;  
 win - ning word\_ of love; teach me the way - ward  
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith  
 fu - ture's broad - ening way, in peace that on - ly

help\_\_ me bear the strain of toil, the fret\_\_ of care.  
 feet\_\_ to stay and guide them in the home - ward way.  
 sweet\_\_ and strong in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.  
 thou\_\_ canst give, with thee, O Mas - ter, let\_\_ me live.

Words: Washington Gladden (1836-1918)  
 Music: *Maryton*, Henry Percy Smith (1825-1898)

LM

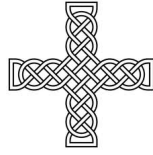
## The Dismissal

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 us at 10:30 am**

### **The St. Thomas Altar Guild**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Salying Wong

**Preacher:** The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah

**Deacon:** The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah

**Eucharistic Minister:** Joe Gutierrez

**Acolytes:** Liam Beckham, Michelia Paulkandasamy

**Greeters:** MaryJane Johnson et al

**Lectors:** Patricia Pietrzyk, Brighid Beckham

**Cantor:** Chris Schmidt

### **The St. Thomas Choir**

directed by Patricia Pietrzyk

Benjamin Belew, accompanist

**Zoom Host:** Aer van de Water

**Stream/Tech team lead:** Steve Williams

## **TODAY IN THE PARISH**

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

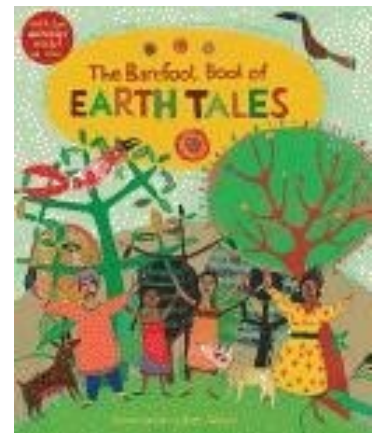
### **Library News:**

**Book of the Week September 24**

**[The Barefoot Book of Earth Tales](#)**

retold by Dawn Casey

Seven folktales from around the world express the belief that the Earth and all living things are sacred, and that it is up to each of us to care for our part of the planet.



**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*

## **ALSO**

### **Banned Book Week is October 1-7**

The theme is “Let Freedom Read”.

See our display in the Narthex today. On the table you will find you will find approximately 16 books that are catalogued in the St. Thomas Library and are considered challenged or banned. On each book you will find the reasons why it is banned.

The books can also be found at the Sunnyvale Public Library and/or the Santa Clara County Library System.



What is the difference between challenge or banning?

A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A ban is the removal of those materials. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others. Due to the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents, students and other concerned citizens, most challenges are unsuccessful, and most materials are retained in the school curriculum or library collection.

### **NEW on Literature Rack** – R side of Narthex

The September/October issue of *The Upper Room* is now also available. The August/September copies of *Forward Movement: Day by Day* are 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.

**Global Big Bird Day, October 14, 10am.** Let us close out our Season of Creation by joining birders all around the world for the fall migration peak and count as many birds as we can. This data, when uploaded onto eBird, contributes to data that helps us protect God's creation. Pastor Salying will register us as a team on the migration website, as St. Thomas Bird Brains. Meet at the Palo Alto Duck Pond, 2775 Embarcadero Rd in the baylands, dress in layers and hat, bring a bag lunch and water. Remember your binoculars! After a couple hours of birding, we will celebrate Eucharist and then eat lunch at the picnic tables. An RSVP would be helpful, but not required: [pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.us](mailto:pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.us).

## Worship schedule—Special announcement:

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

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

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.

**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.

**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.

**Animal Blessings** On **Sunday October 8** we will recognize St. Francis and St. Clare at the culmination of the Season of Creation. On this Sunday we will have animal blessings available at both services. Please bring your pet or photo of a pet to receive a blessing.

**The next Vestry Meeting** will be **Tuesday October 16 at**

**7pm.** Please contact Pastor Salying if you wish to attend. All regular business meetings are on Zoom.

## **Getting ready for Advent - October 28**

### **Parish Workday - Funday**

Thank you! Our campus looked so much better following our July workday. Our efforts were focused on clearing and cleaning the education center. The education center is now empty, clean, and ready for viewing by a prospective tenant. The building only needs to be brushed and swept around the exterior and it will be beautiful.

We also have some year-end campus cleaning to do. As usual we'll have a to-do list that lets everyone participate. And you get a free lunch and free fellowship.

Save the date – October 28, 9AM to about 2PM

## **General Announcements**

**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



HOME

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WORSHIP

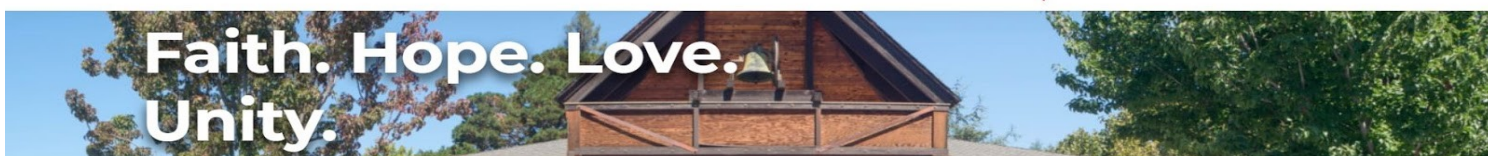
STUDY

SERVE

NEWS & EVENTS

GIVE

CONTACT



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](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

**St. Thomas Library** The church library will be open on Sundays after the 8 a.m. service, and again after the 10:30 service. 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](mailto: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](mailto:prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us).

**Family Ministry** Contact Sue Beckham through our website for information: [www.stthomas-svale.org/contact/](http://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/](http://www.stthomas-svale.org/contact/)

## **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.

**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.

**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](http://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

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

[www.stthomas-svale.org](http://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**

2023  
Pat Dare  
Breno DeMedeiros  
Abby O’Connell

2024  
Nancy Allgeier  
Gage McKinney  
Rita Welsh

2025  
Joe Gutierrez  
Dena Ware  
Emilee Wilhelm-Leen

Gage McKinney, **Clerk**

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

Stephanie Daugherty    Hugo Lopez-Laguna    Mabel Cheng    Sherene Nagarajah

St. Thomas website: [www.stthomas-svale.org](http://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.org](mailto:pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.org)  
or 510-478-3554

**Deacon:** The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah.....[bertramemail@gmail.com](mailto:bertramemail@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Jim Cobb.....[Finance@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:Finance@stthomas-svale.org)

**Parish Administrator:** Anne Buelteman.....[office@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:office@stthomas-svale.org)

**Family Ministry Director.:** Susan Beckham.....[family\\_ministry@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:family_ministry@stthomas-svale.org)

**Library and Resource Center Coordinator:** Carol Campbell .....[resourcecenter@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:resourcecenter@stthomas-svale.org)

**Music Director:** Patricia Pietrzyk,..... [patriciapietrzyk@gmail.com](mailto:patriciapietrzyk@gmail.com)

**Accompanist:** Benjamin Belew.....

**Newsletter Editor:** Anne Buelteman..... [office@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:office@stthomas-svale.org)

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