

Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> 2023  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Anglican Parish of Lantz



**A Mighty River**  
Amos 5: 24

**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

*Week Three: Act*

### **Our Mission**

*To be a diverse ministering community  
making Christ's presence known in the world around us.*

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

9:30 St. George's Church: 1089 Highway 277, Dutch Settlement  
11:00 Christ Church: 14 Church St., Lantz

### **Parish Clergy**

Rev'd Dr. Jane Magrath  
Rev'd Patty McKenna

## Our Worship Today

*We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq who have been living on these lands since time immemorial. Recognizing this is a small but meaningful step in reconciliation and the continued efforts of building a strong Nation-to-Nation relationship, as we are all Treaty People.*

### **Call to Worship:** *(standing)*

Creator God: We come before you as a small piece of your vast creation.  
We come in awe at the beauty and wonder of our planet, and we feel its pain.

Let the embers of our burning bushland rekindle the flame of Pentecost  
**Shine your light in us that we may strive for a greener future.**

Let the dryness of the land in seasons of drought  
remind us to thirst for your leadership  
**Holy Spirit, lead us towards the well of hope for a sustainable planet.**

Let the waters of our flooded plains and rivers  
Drench our hearts with your mercy  
**Living Water fill us with mercy for your suffering creation.**

Let the roaring of raging winds and cyclones  
help us hear the cry of Mother Earth  
Give us the peace of Christ to calm our storm, and to strengthen our calling.

Let the rise in sea levels  
raise our concern and love towards our neighbour  
**Risen Christ, bless us with your love for the world.**

Creator God, we are your people, called and purposed to be good stewards of  
our planet.  
**Bless this day, and bless us -- as we come to worship together.**

God be with you  
**And also with you**  
Let us pray

### **Collect for Purity:**

Almighty God  
**to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden.  
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.**

## **Opening Hymn: Morning Has Broken**

Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the one light, Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day

## **The Collect for the Season of Creation:**

Holy God, living in all life, heartbeat of the Universe;  
give us the grace to wonder at your gifts, to cherish the earth,  
and to work this day for justice -- that all your creatures  
might be restored, renewed and loved  
through Jesus Christ, the Wisdom of Creation,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God -- now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **Prayer for Illumination:**

Creator God, we come to you having heard creation groaning in despair. Speak  
to us through your holy word that with insight and compassion we may care  
for all creation and change the fate of our planet. **Amen.**

## **Proclamation of the Word:**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** A Reading from the Book of Exodus (14:19-31)

*(After the reading)*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Psalm (114):**

When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange  
language, Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.  
**The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.  
The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.**

Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

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

who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

**Amen**

## **The Gospel:**

God be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Matthew (18:21-35)

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*(After the reading)*

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Creation Creed:**

**We believe in God,**

**who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,  
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.**

**We believe in God as the source of all life,  
who baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,  
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,  
who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to reconcile and  
renew this world and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,  
who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.  
We believe in everlasting life in God.**

**And we believe in the hope that one day  
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces. Amen**

### **Prayers of the People:**

*We pray for the church, the world, our community, and those known to us,  
remembering especially those in particular need. We respond to each petition  
saying, 'Merciful God, help us keep our planet and people in peace.'*

## **Confession & Absolution:**

Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation:

### **Confession:**

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,  
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,  
holding future generations hostage to our greed.

We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of your  
creation: teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.

We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted:  
make us urgent now for its protection.

We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites: strengthen us  
in self-control.

God of compassion, have mercy upon us. Heal our relationship with all  
creation. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another and for  
all creatures, according to your will and in the fullness of your love; through  
Jesus the Christ. Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon:**

May the loving God of creation forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Jesus the  
Christ. Amen

### **Celebrations:**

*We celebrate special occasions in the lives our parish family*

**O God, our times are in your hand: look with favour, we pray, on your  
servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom  
and grace; and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their  
life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Exchanging of the Peace:**

The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

**Christ dwells among us and is one with us.**

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Please exchange a sign of peace with one another.

**Offertory Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth**

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

**Refrain:**

Lord of all, to you we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light, [Refrain ]

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]

For your Church that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love. [Refrain]

For yourself, best gift divine,  
to the world so freely given,  
agent of God's grand design:  
peace on earth and joy in heaven. [Refrain]

**Prayer over the Gifts:**

*The gifts of bread and wine, together with the offering of our means, are presented with prayer:*

**God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our thanksgiving and as a sign of our concern for those in need, including all our fellow creatures on planet Earth. Amen**

## ***Eucharistic Prayer for the Season of Creation***

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

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

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 myriad 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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, work of human hands, gift of our earth; and he gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, to speak to us of the breaking of his body upon the cross. He gave it to his friends and said: “Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

He took the wine, work of our human hands, gift of our earth; and he gave thanks to God. He poured out the wine to speak to us of the pouring out of his blood. 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.”

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

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. In being broken, poured out and buried, life sprang forth again. In the breaking, there is an opening up; in the pouring out, there are the roots of sharing; in death and burial, there is the seed of the new life to come.

Send your life-giving Spirit -- who first moved upon the waters of the deep -- upon us, and upon this bread and upon this wine, that we may be transformed and become agents to transform our world.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Creator of all, and we bless your holy name forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, 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.**

Creator God, you fed us from the beginning.  
**Happy are all, called to the Supper of Creation.**

The gifts of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*All are welcome to share in the bread and/or the wine. Please note that drops of the wine are placed on the bread – so you will want to hold onto your bread if you would like to share in the wine. People are invited to sit while awaiting Communion*



## **Music at Communion: Everything is Holy Now**

### **Announcements:**

As Jesus calls us as disciples, God sends us out to serve others in the world. Let us share with one another the events of our parish and community this week.

### **Closing Prayers:** *Standing, let us return our thanks to God.*

Faithful God: in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. We thank you for feeding us with this bread. May it strengthen us that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus the Christ our Savior. **Amen**

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.**

### **Blessing:**

God of the galaxies, God of the starburst and sunlit morning,  
God of the forest and shining seas,  
God of the blooming desert and rolling grasslands –  
shine on us today and bless us with your presence.

### **Closing Hymn: This is My Father's World**

This is my Father's world  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and roundly rings  
The music of the spheres  
This is my Father's world  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas  
His hand the wonders wrought

This is my Father's world  
The birds their carols raise  
The morning light, the lily-white  
Declare their maker's praise  
This is my Father's world  
He shines in all that's fair  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass  
He speaks to me everywhere

This is my Father's world  
Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong  
God is the ruler yet  
This is my Father's world  
Why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring  
God reigns, let the earth be glad

***Dismissal:***

Let us go out as people open to the way of the Christ -- walking in the footsteps of Jesus. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

# Parish Notices and Announcements

## Prayer Cycle:

**World:** The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

**Diocese:**

## Read Your Bible:

Mon- Psalm 78:56-72

Tue- Exodus 16:2-15

Wed- Phil 1:12-30

Thu- Matthew 9:9-17

Fri- Matthew 18:21-35

Sat- Matthew 19:1-15

Sun- Matthew 19:16-30

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Ex 16:2-15; Ps 105:1-6, 37-45; Phil 1:21-30; Mt 20:1-16

**Weekly Wisdom:** *"The basic idea is this: tshuvah, in Judaism, is often translated as "repentance," but it really means "to return," like to get back on the path from where you strayed. Our focus is not so much on whether or not the victim forgives as whether the perpetrator does the work of repair and transformation."* Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg

## Events this week:

**Walk-A-Thon- Funds:** any funds remaining to be passed in can across the plate in an envelope.

**Parish Council meeting-** Our next meeting will be on Tue, 19 Sep @ 7 pm at St George's

**Monday Music Jams-** Our next Jam session will be on Monday 02 Oct from 1-3 pm at Christ Church

**Food Bank-** The first Sunday of the month is food bank Sunday

## Contact Information

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## A Prayer of Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Creator God,  
you have called us to be keepers of your earth. Through greed we have  
established an economy that destroys the web of life.

We have changed our climate;  
and we drown in despair.

Let oceans of justice flow.

May we learn to sustain and renew  
the life of our Mother Earth.

We stand with indigenous people worldwide  
who are demanding restoration of their ancestral lands. We pray for our  
leaders, custodians of Mother Earth, that they may negotiate with wisdom  
and fairness. May they act with compassion and courage;  
and lead us into the path of justice  
for the sake of our children  
and our children's children.

Amen.

**How will *you* care for our planet,  
this week?**