

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

In the Season of Creation

September 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

*As the altar candles are lit prior to the service and the chimes are played, we are invited
to observe a time of quiet, to gather our hearts in a spirit of prayer.*

The people's responses are in bold print.

Music for the hymns can be found in the blue book in the pew racks, The Hymnal 1982

Welcome

The Rev. Myrna Koonce

Prelude

Excerpt from Chorale in E Major

Cesar Franck

All stand for the

Hymn in Procession

#427 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

The Hymnal 1982

1. When morning gilds the skies,
my heart, awaking, cries,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call,
may Jesus Christ be praised!

3. No lovelier antiphon
in all high heaven is known
than, Jesus Christ be praised!
There to the eternal Word
the eternal psalm is heard:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

2. When mirth for music longs,
this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
hath none that can compare
with: Jesus Christ be praised!

4. Ye nations of mankind,
in this your concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

5. Sing, suns and stars of space,
sing, ye that see his face,
sing, Jesus Christ be praised!
God's whole creation o'er,
both now and evermore
shall Jesus Christ be praised.

All remain standing for the

Opening Acclamation

Presider

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

All pray

The Collect for Purity

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.

The Song of Praise #376 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” VS. 2

The Hymnal 1982

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

All are seated for

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Genesis 50:15-21

Mr. Fred Fowler

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



¹ Bless the Lord, O my /soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy /Name.

² Bless the Lord, O my /soul,
and forget not all his /benefits.

³ He forgives all your /sins
and heals all your in/firmities;

⁴ He redeems your life from the /grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving-/kindness;

⁵ He satisfies you with good /things,
and your youth is renewed like an /eagle's.

⁶ The Lord executes /righteousness
and judgment for all who are /oppressed.

⁷ He made his ways known to /Moses
and his works to the children of /Israel.

⁸ The Lord is full of compassion and /mercy,
slow to anger and of great /kindness.

⁹ He will not always ac/cuse us,
nor will he keep his anger for /ever.

¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our /sins,
nor rewarded us according to our /wickedness.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the /earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who /fear him.

¹² As far as the east is from the /west,
so far has he removed our sins from /us.

The last two measures of the psalm tone are repeated

¹³ As a father cares for his /children,
so does the Lord care for those who /fear him.

The Second Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to

pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."
So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing the

Sequence Hymn

#516 "Come Down O Love Divine"

The Hymnal 1982

**1. Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**2. O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**3. And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.**

All remain standing for the

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Presider

The Holy Gospel of our Savior 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.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily

The Rev. Joe Hubbard

After a period of silence, all stand for 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.

All are seated or kneel for the

Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively. The people respond with “hear our prayer”

Eternal God:

We thank you for the beauty of the World:

for the teeming life of the seas, the flight of birds, and the diversity of animal life.

Grant us grace to treat Creation with respect and care; to protect endangered species,
to preserve the variety of habitats, and to honor the delicate balance of nature. *Pause.*

God of life: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the wealth of blessings from land and sea; for the power of wind, and the warmth of sun. We pray for the nations of the earth. Give us the will to cherish this planet and to use its resources sustainably for the welfare of all. *Pause.*

God of justice: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the faithful witness of the Church, called to reconcile and heal; for this parish and for our clergy, Emily and Myrna. From our diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Christ Church, Gardiner, and for all those suffering ill health in body or in mind. *Pause.*

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the human family. We exult in our diversity and giftedness, we repent of our sins, divisions and violence. By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us. As every human being is known and loved by you, may we care for one another with love and respect. *Pause.*

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those you have commended to our care, for our parish prayer list we pray for Fuji Sprott, David Turner, Tammy, Beth, Pam, the Kutasi family, Kelly Marie Bell, Earle and for those we now name silently or aloud. *Pause.*

God of compassion: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died, especially George Vogel, whom we entrust to your eternal love; may we support and comfort those who mourn. *Pause.*

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

Presider offers a collect
People **Amen.**

then bids the
Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,**

**the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Absolution

All stand and the Presider bids the

Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Offertory Sentence

The Offertory Hymn

#321 "My God, Thy Table Now Is Spread"

The Hymnal 1982

1. My God, thy table now is spread,
thy cup with love doth overflow;
be all thy children thither led,
and let them thy sweet mercies know.

2. O let thy table honored be,
and furnished well with joyful guests;
and may each soul salvation see,
that here its sacred pledges tastes.

3. Drawn by thy quickening grace, O Lord,
in countless number let them come
and gather from their Father's board
the Bread that lives beyond the tomb.

4. Nor let thy spreading Gospel rest
till through the world thy truth has run,
till with this Bread shall all be blessed
who see the light or feel the sun.

The Presentation Hymn

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Sursum Corda

The Presider continues with the Preface, inviting all to join in praying

The musical notation for the Sursum Corda consists of four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The first staff is for the Celebrant and the second for the People. The third staff is for the Celebrant and the fourth for the People. The lyrics are as follows:

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Presider continues with the Preface, inviting all to join in praying

The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The People kneel or sit. The Presider continues giving thanks to God on behalf of the people, and invites all to join in the

Memorial Acclamation

All Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.

The Presider continues, concluding with

By Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

After a period of silence, all join in singing the

Fraction Anthem #S 155

The Hymnal 1982

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Administration of Communion

All are invited to come forward as directed by the user and stand or kneel at the altar rail to receive communion. Please let an usher know if you would like to receive communion in your pew. Gluten-free consecrated bread is available; simply ask the priest when you are being served if you would like one.

Those who cannot be with us to partake in communion in person are invited to pray the

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

All stand for

The Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father,**

**you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.**

Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage

to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Hymn in Procession #410 “Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”

The Hymnal 1982

**1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.**

**2. Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in this faithfulness.**

**3. Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows.**

**4. Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.**

The Dismissal

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

Postlude Toccata in D minor BWV 565 Johann Sebastian Bach

Ministers Serving Today

The People of God, called to be St. Peter's Episcopal Church, *Celebrants*
The Rev. Myrna Koonce, *Presider*
The Rev. Joe Hubbard, *Preacher*
Mr. Sheldon Gaard, *Organist*
Mr. Fred Fowler, *Crucifer & Lector*
Ms. Anne Whitman & Ms. Janene Gorham, *Eucharistic Ministers*
Ms. Lenita Richard, *Usher & Altar Guild*
Mr. Wayne Franklin, *Videographer*
Mr. Wayne Franklin & Mr. Jonathan McCormick, *Counters*
Mr. Bob Simmons, Ms. Anita Chandler, Ms. Patty Lamb, *Breakfast Hosts*

Announcements

Welcome to all of you joining us this morning. If you are new to St. Peter's and want to learn more about us, please fill out one of the pew cards and place in the offering plate or give to an usher. You also can contact our priest, Rev. Myrna Koonce at: stpetersrevkoonce@gmail.com.

Offering our gifts to God is part of our worship whenever we gather. Offerings are received during the Offertory. You may also mail your gift to: St. Peter's Church, 10 Alton Street Portland, ME 04103, or you can give online directly to St. Peter's by going to our website. Offerings can also be made through Venmo. See the back page of this leaflet for information about Venmo. The second offering plate is for donations to Project Feed, our local emergency food pantry.

Join us for our Monthly Breakfast in the undercroft after Mass.

This Week at St. Peter's

Compline, Wed. Sept. 16, 7 pm, Zoom

Coming up at St. Peter's

Evening Mass followed by Spaghetti Dinner, Sat. Oct. 3 at 4 pm

No Sunday Service due to Maine Marathon, Sun. Oct 4th

Harvest Home Dinner, Sat. Oct. 17th, at 6 pm

Harvest Home Festive Eucharist, Sun. Oct. 18th, at 9 am

Please remember these parishioners, friends and family members on our parish prayer list:

Parishioners: Ann Marie Cady, Allison Schroth, Francisco Andreu, Diane Dalton, Dino Rice, Robert Stillings, Pat and Fred Fowler, Mary Ann Hoy, Fred Madore, Alan Biagiotti, Jane Noone, Marc Lombe and family, Linda Foster, Garrett Keniston, Kevin Curty, Paul Loven, Anita Chandler, Melodie Gage, Herb Taylor, and Cindy Sherwood.

Friends and Family: Peter Haskell, Martha Gagliardi, Tommy Valente, Jane Reiha, Stephen and Rebecca Seraniche, Marge Devine, Jimmy Devine, Fuji Sprott, David Turner, Tammy, Beth, Pam, The Kutasi Family, Kelly Marie Bell, Earle, Grace, Kay Gross, Lisa Gorham, Anita Talbot, Peter Munro, Todd Cheney, Jay Sprout, Sandy Woolley, Amanda and Chris Conant, Pam, Michael and Sue King, Joe Kennedy, Mary Jo Floyd, Frank Beal, Cathryn Buckley, John Richard, Jim Halsted, Janice, Dory, and John Lazarczyk.

If you wish to add, remove, or return persons to the prayer list, please contact our Prayer Ministry Coordinators: Allison Schroth, at: 207-807-1315 aschroth207@gmail.com or Emma Bond at: 207-619-3662 emma.e.bond@gmail.com

Notes on This Morning's Music

Excerpt from Chorale in E Major This is part of the largest of three best known chorales by this French romantic composer. The spread of the notes shows how Franck's extremely large hands affected his writing of music. He could easily reach well over an octave. So, the reaches are challenging for most organists. Dupuytren's contractures are no help!

Toccata in D minor BWV 565 Centuries after it was written this is still the most recognized of organ compositions. Its origin has been questioned because of a manuscript by Johannes Ringk now in the Berlin library. But most agree it is authentic Bach, even though its date is vague. Toccata means "touch piece"-or is rather a catch-all term that describes introductions to larger fugues. I would dare to speculate that maybe Bach decided to have some fun with this piece playing with the reverberations of an impressive space!

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Liturgical Notes for the Season of Creation

With many parishes of the Episcopal Church and other denominations, we will be observing the Season of Creation from September 6 through October 4. The celebration of this Season began in 1989 when Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I established September 1 as a Day of Prayer for Creation for the Orthodox Church. The World Council of Churches extended the celebration to October 4th, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. An ecumenical effort is now underway to establish a worldwide Feast of Creation on September 1. The theme for this year's Season of Creation is "Living Water."

Our liturgies for the next few weeks will include resources developed for the observance of this season. Here are some of the changes you will note:

Great Litany on the First Sunday of the Season of Creation: On the first Sunday we begin the Season of Creation with a Great Litany. The litany takes the place of our Prayers of the People, as we give thanks for all that God has given us and ask forgiveness for the ways in which we have erred in being good stewards.

Hymnody: Each week, we will include at least two hymns that calls us to praise or thank God for the beauty of creation.

The Song of Praise: While we are used to singing *The Gloria* after *The Collect for Purity*, *The Book of Common Prayer* rubric provides for alternatives: “When appointed, (the Gloria) or some other song of praise is sung or said, all standing.” Thus, we sing a verse from the hymn, “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,” joining our voices with the whole of creation in praising God.

Prayers of the People: From the second to fifth Sundays of the Season of Creation, we will be using an authorized form of the Prayers of the People developed for this purpose by the Episcopal Church. Our prayers of gratitude and petitions will help us contemplate not only what we have received, but how we can be restorers of that which we have damaged.

Blessing of the Animals and the Gardens, Special St. Francis Mass, Saturday, October 3, at 4 pm: Due to the Maine Marathon happening on Sunday, October 4, and our inability to access the church, we have moved our service, the Feast of St. Francis, to Saturday, October 3 at 4 pm. It will be our final service of the Season of Creation. This Mass will involve going out to bless the Meditation Garden that is being formed around a repurposed font, at the conclusion of the service., Parishioners will be invited to bring pets or photos of pets as part of a blessing of the animals at the garden.

In addition to what we will be doing on Sunday mornings, our Creation Care Team of Earth Keepers is developing plans for a possible speaker and/or field trip related to our waters here in Portland, as well as a book group based on Robin Wall Kimmerer’s *The Serviceberry*, beginning in October.

Rev. Myrna

**St. Peter’s Episcopal Church
A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine**

The Rt. Rev. Thomas James Brown, *Bishop*

The Rev. Myrna Koonce, *Priest in Charge*

The Rev. Emily Keniston, *Transitional Deacon*

Mr. Bruno Mbongo, *Sexton*

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