



Season of Creation

Labor Day

September 5 and 6, 2026



During the Season of Creation, we join with Christians around the world to celebrate in prayer and action our Gospel calling to protect the Earth that God entrusted to our care. Our Season of Creation is observed now through the Feast of St. Francis (October 3rd and 4th).

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Blessed be our God. For ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant We gather today to explore God's holy land, land that was first named holy by the *Nauset and Wôpanâak (Wampanoag)*. We come today in the name of God that calls things Good.

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 Gloria *said*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

God our Father, who in Christ, the firstborn of all creation, called all things into being, grant, we pray, that docile to the life-giving breath of your Spirit, we may lovingly care for the work of your hands. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 38:27-32a

A reading from Sirach from the Apocrypha.

So it is with every artisan and master artisan
who labors by night as well as by day;
those who cut the signets of seals,
each is diligent in making a great variety;

they set their heart on painting a lifelike image,
and they are careful to finish their work.
So it is with the smith, sitting by the anvil,
intent on his ironwork;

the breath of the fire melts his flesh,
and he struggles with the heat of the
furnace;
the sound of the hammer deafens his ears,
and his eyes are on the pattern of the object.
He sets his heart on finishing his handiwork,
and he is careful to complete its decoration.
So it is with is the potter sitting at his work
and turning the wheel with his feet;
he is always deeply concerned over his products,
and he produces them in quantity.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response Psalm 107

We will read the Psalm responsively breaking at the half-verse.

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
**from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**
- 4 Some wandered in desert wastes; *
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.
- 5 They were hungry and thirsty; *
their spirits languished within them.
- 6 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 7 He put their feet on a straight path *
to go to a city where they might dwell.
- 8 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
- 9 For he satisfies the thirsty *
and fills the hungry with good things.

The Second Lesson

A reading from Paul's letter to the church of Corinth.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

He molds the clay with his arm
and makes it pliable with his feet;
he sets his heart on finishing the glazing,
and he takes care in firing the kiln.

All these rely on their hands,
and all are skillful in their own work.

Without them no city can be inhabited,
and wherever they live, they will not go
hungry.

Confitemini Domino

1 Corinthians 3:10-14

The Gospel *all standing, as able*

Matthew 6:19-24

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Alan R. Hesse

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 substance with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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

The Prayers of the People

Lay Leader O Lord our God, help us call upon You with one heart and soul, according to Your will!

We pray for Your created world: You made the universe and all that lives and exists in it. The earth is filled with Your creatures. You make grass grow, plants, and fruit-bearing trees; You feed the birds of the sky and care for all creatures on earth. Out of Your love, You created humanity; give us strength to faithfully cultivate and guard Your creation according to Your will O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom you chose us, before the foundation of the world, and destined us in love to be your own: help us to pray for all your children. For the life of the world; that your peace may be known and may prevail. For this and so much more we offer you our prayers.

We remember the victims of gun violence and natural disaster. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We remember those on our prayer list: We pray for healing and wholeness for Amy, Mary, MaryAnn, Cheryl, Marilyn, John, Alan, Mia, Jimmy, Jim, Lily, Catherine, Ann, Regina, Gerry, Herb, Al, Olivia, Jessica, Shaun, and Bailey. Have compassion for those who suffer from any grief or trouble. I invite your prayers and petitions either silently or aloud. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who exercise rule and authority; that they may acknowledge your power:

For Donald our President, for Maura our Governor, for our Senators Edward and Elizabeth, for our Representative Bill, and for all our elected official. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the Church which is Christ's body; that it may live for the praise of your glory:

In our prayers, we hold our Presiding Bishop- Sean, our Diocesan Bishop-Julia and our Rector Alan. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We remember all those who have died in the hope of resurrection, especially Christine Kent. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer. We give thanks for the churches of the Neponset River Deanery:

Christ Church (Hyde Park/Boston), **Iglesia de San Juan** (Hyde Park/Boston), **Church of the Holy Spirit** (Mattapan/Boston), **Church of the Advent** (Medfield), and the **Daughters of the King and Brotherhood of St. Andrew**. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for humanity—every community and every person. Grant that we may treat all with respect and uphold the dignity of our neighbors, accepting all in their diversity. Give us grateful hearts, understanding, responsible thought, and value-creating work. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. I invite you to lift up your personal thanksgivings and petitions.

Celebrant offers a concluding collect.

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

Minister and People

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.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace *Then, all standing in body or spirit.*

Celebrant Peace with yourself. Peace with Creation. Peace with one another. The peace of Christ be always with you. *People*
And also with you.

The Offering

The Offertory Prayer, *all standing in body or spirit.*

Celebrant Receive, O God, these fruits of the earth and of our hands: bring to completion in them the work of your creation, so that, transformed by the Holy Spirit, they may be for us the food and drink of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord.



The Great Thanksgiving

Creation Care Holy Eucharist, as adapted

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 This day we join with all creation in the chorus of praise that rings throughout eternity:

The Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant We praise you, God, source of all life.

You made all of the creation as Your spirit moved over the water. You spoke and brought all things into being. You saw that it was good. You spoke, breathed, and made us in your image. You saw that it was Good.

Yet we rebelled against you and what you had named Good. We violated your creation. We abused one another. We rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us and prepared the way of salvation for us. You called us into covenant. You delivered us from slavery. You sustained us in the wilderness. You raised up prophets.

In fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. He lived with us in the midst of your creation. He embraced us as his children, welcoming us to sit and eat with you.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you."

Then Jesus took the cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to his friends, saying "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, for the remembrance of me." We proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant May the Holy Spirit that swept over the water on that first day of creation, pour Herself on these gifts that they may be to us the Body and Blood of Christ and make us your new creation.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray,

**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.

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People **This is living Bread, given for all Creation. All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ, are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Hold out your hand to receive the host. You may receive the wine by the chalice or in the small cups in the tray.
If you prefer not to receive the wine, cross your arms and wait for the minister to say *The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.*

If you prefer to receive a blessing you may cross your arms across your chest.

As you return to your seats, deposit your cup in the place provided in a white pedestal table.

If you would like to remain in your seat and receive communion, please let an usher know.

Postcommunion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people and your whole creation. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Celebrant Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share: Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation. Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family. Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land and sea, and to hear and understand those who extract its resources. Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities and to heal the wounds we have inflicted. Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people and to shape beloved community. For you are the One who seeks the lost, binds our wounds and sets us free, and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ that we pray. **Amen.**

The Final Blessing Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, Bring forth the fruits of righteousness. May the source of all things Good, pour God's blessing upon all things created, and upon you God's children, that you may use God's gifts to her glory and the welfare of all creation; And the Blessing of God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Sustainer, the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Welcome, Announcements, and Celebrations

The Dismissal

Let us go forth into all of Creation, rejoicing in the power of the Triune God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Liturgical Notes:

--Introduction to the readings come from Fredrick Borsch's "Introducing the Lessons of the Church Year, 3rd Edition" Morehouse 2009.

--This service adapted by the Rev. Anna Woofenden (Creation Care Leadership Circle, Diocese of Western MA), adapted by Jess Kotnour from *Enriching Our Worship*; St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco; and *Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration* (20220 and the two Episcopal dioceses in MA). [SeasonOfCreation-ACelebrationGuideForEpiscopalParishes2025.pdf](#) Along with other gathered worship material.

The 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church (2022) recognized climate change as "an all-encompassing social crisis and moral emergency that impacts and interconnects every aspect of pastoral concern including health, poverty, employment, racism, social justice, and family life and that can only be addressed by a Great Work involving every sector of society, including the Church."

Announcements

GOLF RAFFLE: Our Golf Raffle winners were drawn on Saturday at the last music concert. Bevely Calvert of Centerville won the White Cliffs Country Club Golf Package and Ed Chase of Florida and Bourne won the Quashnet Valley Country Club Golf Package. We appreciate the generosity of White Cliffs and Quashnet for their donations. Thanks to Jim Stanley for securing the Quashnet Gift and Ann Geary Roche for securing the White Cliffs Gift. Thank you to all those who supported this raffle and who volunteered to help sell tickets to their friends and neighbors. Your efforts made all the difference. With your help we raised over \$1,000.00 for St. John's. Many thanks, Brian Kuchar and Ann Geary Roche.

ALL PARISH PICNIC: We are taking the Second Saturday Social on the road to the American Legion Pavilion, 20 Main Street, Sandwich on Saturday, September 12th at 4pm. Our worship service with Holy Eucharist starts at 5pm, followed by a potluck supper. Join us for food, fellowship, fun, and a worship service. All ages are welcome. Let Diana

Stanley know what special potluck dish you will bring at: Stanleyzook@gmail.com, or check for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. You can also call the office to sign up. There will be a fire pit for S'mores!

QUILT RAFFLE: Have you purchased your raffle tickets for the beautiful quilt yet? If not, they are available in the Thrift Shop, after worship services, or from the office during business hours. Made by expert professional quilter Lynne Benson, it is twin-sized and reversible. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and benefit the church. Drawing will be held on September 13 and you do not need to be present to win!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: Attention students, teachers, teaching assistants and others! Bring your backpacks to worship services on Saturday, September 12 and 13 for a Backpack Blessing.

CHOIR RETURNS: Sunday, September 13; Coffee hour resumes in the Parish Hall following worship.

COMMON THREADS: Meets on Wednesday, September 9 at 1pm in the Parish Hall. New attendees welcome, no experience necessary, bring your own craft or help with ours. Friendly faces and willing hearts welcome here!

VESTRY: Meets Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30pm via Zoom.

PORCHFEST/SANDWICH 2026: We are gearing up for this town-wide celebration on Saturday, September 19th from 1-4pm. St. John's Thrift Boutique porch will be used for musical groups between 1 and 4pm. Stop by for some toe-tapping music, and shopping.

PAWS FOR JOY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL — Sept. 19: Join Amazing Grace of Cape Cod for "Paws for Joy," a free family festival Saturday, September 19, 10 AM–5 PM, at Saint David Episcopal Church, 205 Old Main St., South Yarmouth. Enjoy live music, pet awards, animal meet-and-greets, and a raffle — all benefiting local children affected by a parent's incarceration. Info: agfestival.org.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: Please join us in the Parish Hall after worship on Sunday, September 20 as we celebrate Rev. Barbara Peterson's 75th birthday. Cake will be served!

CARING FOR CREATION SERIES PRESENTATION: After a break for the month of August, our next series presentation is Tuesday, September 22 at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Our guest speaker is Dr. Kumara Sidhartha, MD, MPH, Chief Health Equity and Wellness Officer, Cape Cod Healthcare. Dr. Sidhartha's program is titled "Nourishing Human and Planetary Health". These programs are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

HOUR OF PRAYER: The church is open for your quiet prayers weekly on Wednesdays from 12noon-1pm.

CARING FOR CREATION COMMITTEE: Meeting Fridays at 11am via Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>. Ask Steve Tom or Fr. Al for details.

September 5-12, 2026

Saturday, September 5

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, September 6

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

10:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Monday, September 7

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall

Tuesday, September 8

12noon AA, Parish Hall

6:30pm Vestry via Zoom

Wednesday, September 9

12noon-1pm Open Prayer, Church

1pm Common Threads, Parish Hall

7pm Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, September 10

12noon AA, Parish Hall

4:30-7pm Lasit Theatre Group, Church

6pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, September 11

11am Caring for Creation Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>

Saturday, September 12

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist **at American Legion with Parish Picnic**, Blessing of the Backpacks

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

September 12 - Parish Picnic and Worship Service at American Legion

September 13 - Choir Returns; Blessing of the Backpacks

September 20 - Birthday celebration for Rev. Barbara following (9:30am Worship Service, Parish Hall

September 22 - Caring For Creation Presentation

October 3/4 - Blessing of the Animals

October 31 - All Saints photos of loved ones or mementos are due by 3pm. You may also bring those photos in on October 25th or throughout the week and leave them in the chapel.

NOTE Our **5pm Service** will be at **3pm**, to avoid the congestion of Trick or Treaters and their safety. At dusk, Halloween on Main Street.

Dec. 4/5 - Christmas Fair

We will miss Misao this Sunday.

**Musicians are a treasure, and those treasures are hard to find.
Our worship service on Sunday will have no music.**

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:

Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Celebrant: The Reverend Alan R. Hesse

Director of Music: Misao Koyama

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Ames and Jared Cohen

Lectors: Nancy Silva, Eileen Donaruma, and Wendy Nevins

Altar Guild: Judy Cohen, Jann Czarnetzki, Dee McLaughlin, and Sharon Therriault

Ushers: Alan Carlson and Mary Howe

Hospitality: Volunteers Needed for serving punch on the lawn. See Fr. Al.

Whether this is your first visit to St. John's or you are a long-time member, please know that there is a warm welcome for you here!

Please feel free to participate fully in our service today and in the life of the parish. We are glad you have come and hope you leave feeling closer to God! At several points in the service, you may notice that some people are kneeling, some are standing and some are sitting. We are given this choice and you should feel free to do whichever is most appropriate for you. Please know that you are invited to fully participate in the Holy Eucharist as a Baptized Christian.

If you would like to know more about St. John's and may be interested in membership or interested in being placed on our email mailing list, please contact the church office.



The Episcopal Church of Sandwich Est. 1854

159 Main St, Sandwich, MA

Office Hours, Tues-Fri 9am-2pm Parish Office 508-888-2828

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