

A Season of Creation



Good News for Creation

Christ Episcopal Church

Welcome to Christ Church!

As you prepare for worship today, we invite you to offer a prayer, quietly greet a friend, or listen to the musical prelude.

Worship Books

We use four books in worship, in addition to this inclusive leaflet. The abbreviations for these books are BCP (Red Book of Common Prayer), Hymnal (blue 1982 Hymnal which includes both sung service music and hymns. The service music is at the beginning of the hymnal and is noted with an “S” in front of the number), WLP (green Wonder Love and Praise Hymnal), and CC (green Come Celebrate Hymnal).

Stand, Sit, or Kneel

We adopt a variety of body postures to aid worship and invite you to join in as you desire. We stand to praise, proclaim, and sing. We sit to listen. We kneel to contemplate and to confess. Suggestions for worship are listed in *Italics*. You may notice people using gestures in worship and prayer, you are welcome to join them; if you wish. Please feel free to adopt the body posture and gestures of your home tradition.

Communion

Communion is the table of the Lord. Christ is the host. We are all guests. We are all welcome to eat and be nourished, fed, and forgiven. Come, eat and live! At the sharing of the Eucharist, pick up a small glass to receive the wine from the chalice. You may kneel or stand at the rail depositing your glass on the gold platter at the end. You are invited to say, “Amen” after receiving the bread and the wine. If you prefer a blessing or do not wish to receive the wine, please cross your arms over your chest when you approach the rail. Gluten free bread is available. Please alert someone sitting near you if you desire communion served to you in the pew. You may wish to kneel for prayer before or after receiving communion.

Fellowship

Please join us after the service for conversation and fellowship in the Parish Hall through the doors at the front and right of the church.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

Please stand as you are able

Hymnal 9

Call to Worship

Blessed be the One who creates all things.

The Holy One's love is new every morning.*

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.**

Song of Praise

Hymnal 428 vs 4-5

The God of Creation be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Mysterious God, whose imagination and desire embrace all: We seek to discern you in the interplay of forces, in the order and the chaos of the universe, and in the complexities of every living system. Give us grace to honor your goodness in what we know and in what we do not know, in the world's harmonies and turbulence, and in its promise and change. For you are in, through, and beyond all that is: one God, made known to us in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, our inspiration and guide. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Please be seated

Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to

this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

For the word of God in Scripture;
For the word of God among us;
For the word of God within us.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 8

- 1 O LORD our Governor, *
 how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children *
 your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
 to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
 the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? *
 the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; *
 you adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
 you put all things under his feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen, *
 even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
 and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O LORD our Governor, *
 how exalted is your Name in all the world!

Second Reading - A Reading of “Seeds of life and hope” from Ladder to the Light, Steven Charleston

I have a small vision to share, one that came to me through the night walks we call dreams. In my dream, I saw a shadowy figure standing high on a darkened hill, throwing seeds into the wind.

Once the seeds left the figure's hand, they turned to tiny points of light and were carried away into the sky. That's all I remember, but it is enough. You and I stand on a windswept moment in history. All around us is a gathering darkness. But we are not afraid because we have seeds of life and hope in our pockets. Our task is to cast them as far and wide as we can. The breath of the Spirit will do the rest.

For the word of God in Scripture;
For the word of God among us;
For the word of God within us.
Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 530

Gospel: John 3:1-16, First Nations Version

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

A man named Conquers the People (Nicodemus) came to Creator Sets Free (Jesus) in secret at night. He was one of the Separated Ones (Pharisees) and a headman of the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (Israel) who sat in the Great Council.

Out of the shadows he whispered, "Wisdomkeeper, we know the Great Spirit sent you to teach us. No one can perform powerful signs like these unless the Maker of Life walks with him."

"I speak from my heart," Creator Sets Free answered, "only one who has been born from above can see Creator's good road."

Conquers the People was surprised by this strange answer, so he asked, "Can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter his mother's womb to be born a second time?"

"Listen closely," Creator Sets Free answered. "One must be born of both water and spirit to walk Creator's good road. The human body only gives birth to natural life, but it takes the Spirit of Creator to give birth to spiritual life. Do not be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' Everyone born in this way is like the wind that blows wherever it wants. You can hear its sound, but no one knows where it comes from or where it goes."

"How can these things be?" Conquers the People asked.

Creator Sets Free answered him, "How can it be that a wisdomkeeper and spiritual leader of the tribes of Wrestles with Creator does not understand these things? Listen closely, for you fail to hear what we are talking about. We are speaking about things we know to be true, but if you do not believe me when I talk about things on earth, how will you believe me when I talk about the things from the spirit-world above? For there is only one who has gone up and come down from the world above — the True Human Being.

“Do you not remember when Drawn from the Water (Moses) lifted up a pole with a snake on it in the desert wilderness? This is what will happen to the True Human Being, so people will put their trust in him and have the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony. The Great Spirit loves this world of human beings so deeply he gave us his Son — the only Son who fully represents him. All who trust in him and his way will not come to a bad end, but will have the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Please be seated

Creed: A Confession of St. Patrick

Please stand as you are able

**Our God, God of all people,
God of heaven and earth, sea and rivers,
God of sun and moon, of all stars,
God of highest mountain, of deepest valleys,
God over heaven and in heaven and under heaven.**

**He has his dwelling
in heaven and earth and sea
and all that is in them.**

**He inspires all,
he gives life to all,
he surpasses all,
he upholds all.**

**He ignites the light of the sun.
He surrounds the stars and tells them to shine.
He makes fountains in dry lands,
and dry islands in the sea,
and stars to serve the greater lights.**

**He has a Son,
coeternal with him and like him.
The Son is not younger than the Father,
neither is the Father older than the Son.**

**And the Holy Spirit breathes in them.
Not separate are the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.**

Prayers of the People

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

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

In the beginning,

God was.

Here and now,

God is.

In the future,

God will be.

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

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

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

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

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

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

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

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

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. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for [___]. In the diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for [___].

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

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. We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: [___]. We pray for those celebrating anniversaries this week: [___]

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

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

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

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

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died [especially ___, for whom the altar flowers are given].

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Gracious God: Grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession

Please kneel as you are able

Let us confess our sins to God.

**Merciful and sustaining God,
we have sinned against you.**

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 misused your earth:

grant us amendment of life.

We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:

strengthen us in self-control.

We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted:

make us urgent now for its protection.

Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ,

**by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, now and
for ever. Amen.**

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

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the lord

Offertory Music

Doxology

Please stand as you are able

Hymnal 380, vs 3

The Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We thank you, Creator God, that we live in a place where the glorious revelation of yourself is all
around us. The prairie bursts with song from wind and birds and waving grasses. The abundance 9

of animals roaming freely reminds us of our own freedom, and the many ways you provide sustenance in your kingdom. From the depths of the ocean floor you lifted up massive mountains and pointed them toward the heavens.

We, like your Son, our Lord, are called to these high places to get away and rest in communion with you. We marvel as we wander through stately pines and twirling aspens along the creeks, where trout dance on their tails above the rocks, and deer and elk sip from the water's edge: and we remember that you have given us the Living Water to quench our thirst. Our spirit is refreshed and our strength renewed.

We welcome the passing of seasons in broad circles of time, with anticipation of new things to come, and we recognize that same feeling of hope that encircles our faith. Our lives are lived between sunrises and sunsets and brilliant colors. But at night the limitless stars have a way of pushing back the boundaries of our lives and we dream of heaven and your wonder.

And with all these blessings of your creation around us, O God, we come together in communities on the prairie, by rivers and streams, on mountain tops, and in their shadows in the valley, to receive your Word, which has been sown in rich soil and grown into a fruitful crop in the Body of Christ.

And so, we join with saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we sing:

Sanctus

WLP 858

**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, hosanna in the highest.

You may remain standing or kneel as you are able

As we gather to praise your name, we see your greatest glory, your Son our Savior, reflected in each other's faces and we know the magnitude of your love for us and ours for you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

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

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your Name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Communion

Please be seated until it is time for you to go up to the altar to receive Communion. All are welcome to receive

Communion Music

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Please stand or kneel as you are able

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May our hearts feel the song of the meadowlark,
our minds the clearness of the mountain air,
and our souls the freedom of the soaring eagle.
May our faith be renewed as the creek in spring,
may we celebrate the saving redemption of the Cross in all its mysteries,
may we always feel the love of the community of Christ.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life,
be upon you and remain with you forever.
Amen.

Announcements

Please be seated

Closing Hymn

Please stand as you are able

Hymnal 290

Dismissal

The worship has ended, the service begins.
Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!