

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Feast of St. Francis & Blessing of the Animals
Worship Aid for October 4th, 2026 at 10:15 am



Love God, Love People, Make Disciples

Nativity: an inclusive faith community, following the way of Jesus to nourish the body, mind, and spirit of the people of our south metro communities and beyond.

Nativity Episcopal Church is committed to practice the way of love. We follow Jesus' example of radical hospitality as we celebrate God's presence in all people. We welcome all persons, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic or marital status. All are invited as full participants in the life and ministries of our community.



Notice that our service is livestreamed and you may be visible on the camera.
You may reach the office at **Nativity@NativityMN.org** or **952-435-8687**

Nativity Episcopal Church Leadership
The Rev. Dana Fath Strande, Rector
The Rev. Kathleen K. Brusco, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon
Chloe Hrbacek, Parish Office Coordinator
Clayton Heidbreder, Music Minister
Charlotte McLendon, Organist
Jean Hines, Children and Youth Minister

Nate Gooden, Senior Warden
Theresa May, Junior Warden
Steve Grier, Treasurer

15601 Maple Island Road, Burnsville, MN 55306
nativitymn.org; 952-435-8687
Office email: nativity@nativitymn.org

Liturgical Ministers
Lector: Kate Jameson
Prayer Leader:
Eucharistic Ministers: David Seal
Ushers:
Tech: Nate Gooden

Next Week: October 11th

Lector	Jody Spencer
Prayer Leader	
Eucharistic Ministers	
Usher (x2)	
Tech	

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to contemplate and care for our common home, the Oikos of God.

The Season's "Celebration" begins on September 1, the day that several Christian denominations celebrate as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and others celebrate as the Feast of Creation. It ends on October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, who is beloved by many Christian denominations.

This year, we will unite around the theme "Living Water"

"In the Season of Creation, we turn again to Christ, through whom all things were made and in whom all things hold together. In his incarnation, death, and resurrection, God's love is revealed not only for humanity but for the whole created order. To care for creation is therefore an essential expression of Christian discipleship and an integral mark of the Church's mission: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the earth. As we follow Christ, we are called to share in his reconciling work, seeking justice, healing, and hope for the earth and for all who dwell within it."

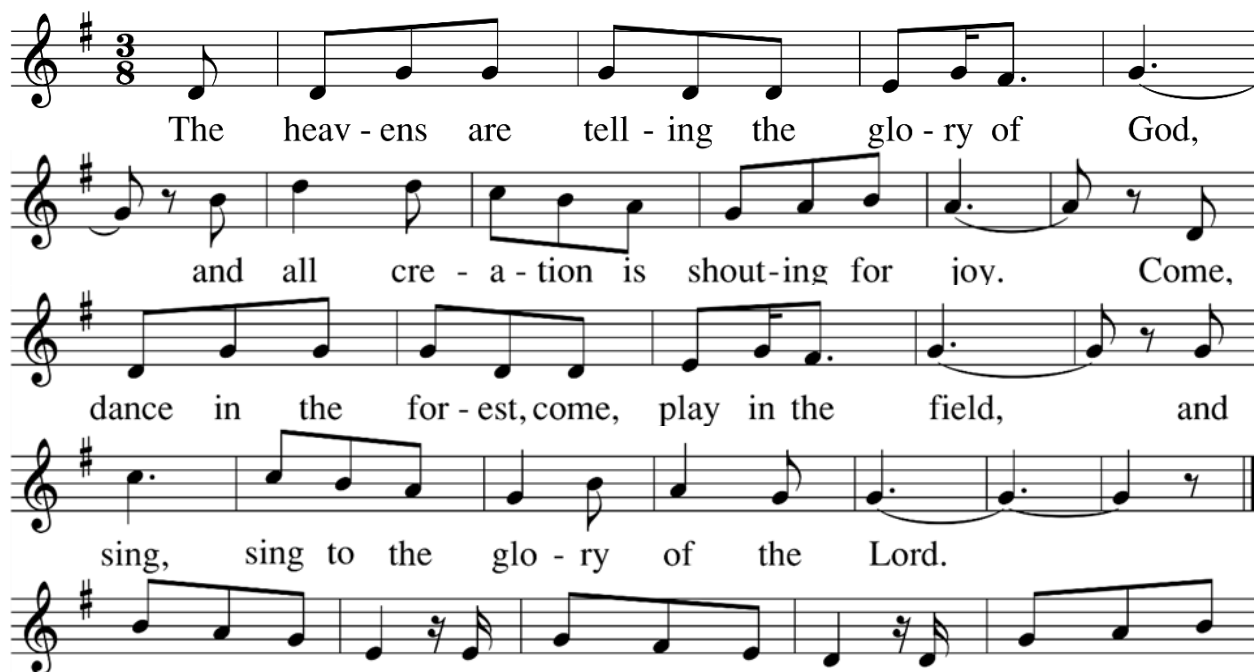
The Most Reverend and Right Honorable

Dame Sarah Mullally,

Archbishop of Canterbury

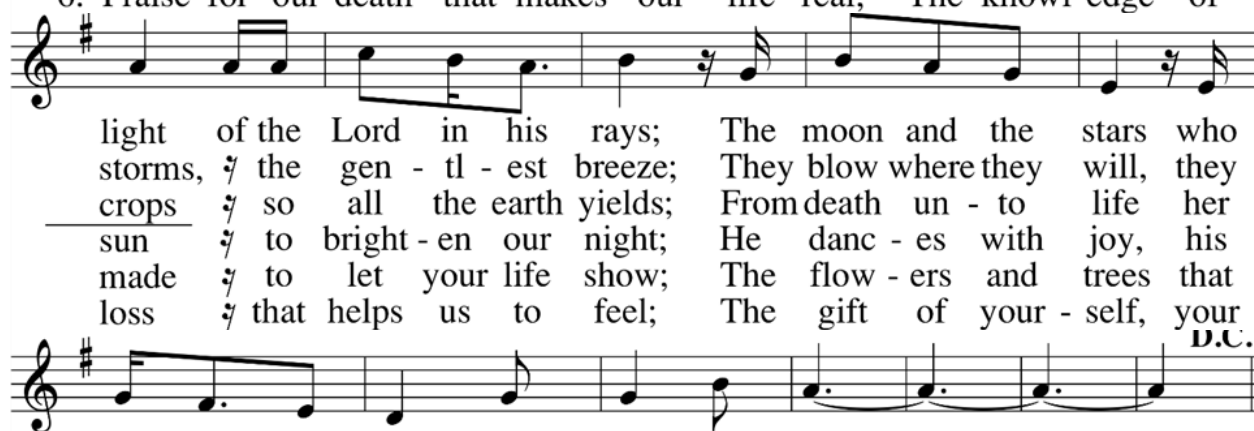
PRELUDE
OPENING HYMN

Charlotte McLendon
Canticle of the Sun



The heav - ens are tell - ing the glo - ry of God,
and all cre - a - tion is shout - ing for joy. Come,
dance in the for - est, come, play in the field, and
sing, sing to the glo - ry of the Lord.

1. Praise for the sun, the bring - er of day, He car - ries the
2. Praise for the wind that blows through the trees, The seas might - y
3. Praise for the rain that wa - ters our fields, And bless - es our
4. Praise for the fire who gives us his light, The warmth of the
5. Praise for the earth who makes life to grow, The crea - tures you
6. Praise for our death that makes our life real, The knowl - edge of



light of the Lord in his rays; The moon and the stars who
storms, the gen - tl - est breeze; They blow where they will, they
crops so all the earth yields; From death un - to life her
sun to bright - en our night; He danc - es with joy, his
made to let your life show; The flow - ers and trees that
loss that helps us to feel; The gift of your - self, your

light up the way Un - to your throne.
blow where they please To please the Lord.
mys - t'ry re - vealed Springs forth in joy.
spir - it so bright, He sings of you.
help us to know The heart of love.
pres - ence re - vealed To lead us home.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
© 1980, GIA Publications, Inc.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

All: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Presider: In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God called them good.

All: **Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.**

Presider: The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple, and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

All: **Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.**

Presider: Jesus cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”

All: **Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.**

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for your love in all creation, and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life. Christ is the living water, cleansing, refreshing, and making all things new. So now we offer our thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the bush, the mountains, coast and the sea. We give thanks and praise for all good lands, for the trees and pastures, for our plentiful crops, and for the living water that quenches them.

All: **Amen.**

GLORIA

Benedictus es, Domine



1. Glo - ry to you, Lord

God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of praise;

glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you

for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; we will

praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your

tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to

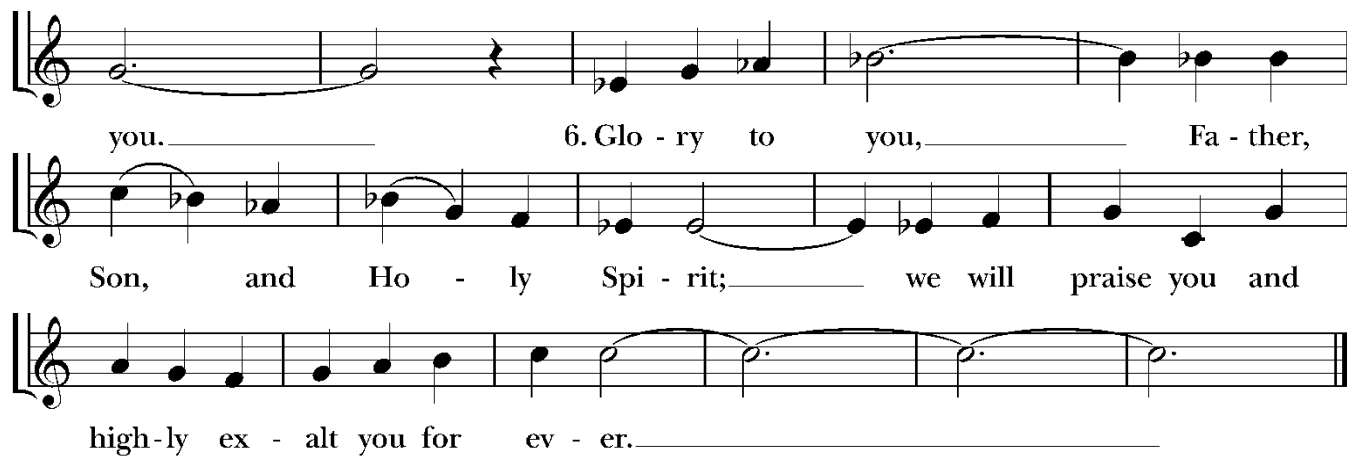
you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -

ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and

high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the

depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to



Music: John Rutter (b. 1945). Copyright © 1985 Oxford University Press, Inc.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen**

PRAYER FOR ALL GOD'S CREATURES

Presider: O God, you have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, so also, we ask for your help so that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE BLESSING OF EACH PET (INDIVIDUALLY)

You are invited to bring your pets forward at this time, so the priest may bless them with these or similar words, "N., (name of the animal, i.e. "Smokey") may you be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May you and (name of the "owner") enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 5:1-7

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Prayed responsively. Pulpit side begins.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
where there is hatred, let me sow love;

**where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;**

where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

**O, God, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;**

to be loved as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

Please sing twice.



Words and Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker (b.1947) © 1985 OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213 [www.ocp.org]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

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

***All:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel is read.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

***All:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE TIME

All children and youth are invited to go with a Children & Youth ministry volunteer during the sermon and prayers.

SERMON

The Rev. Dana Fath Strande

NICENE CREED

Deacon: Let us declare our faith in God.

Deacon and All:

**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.**

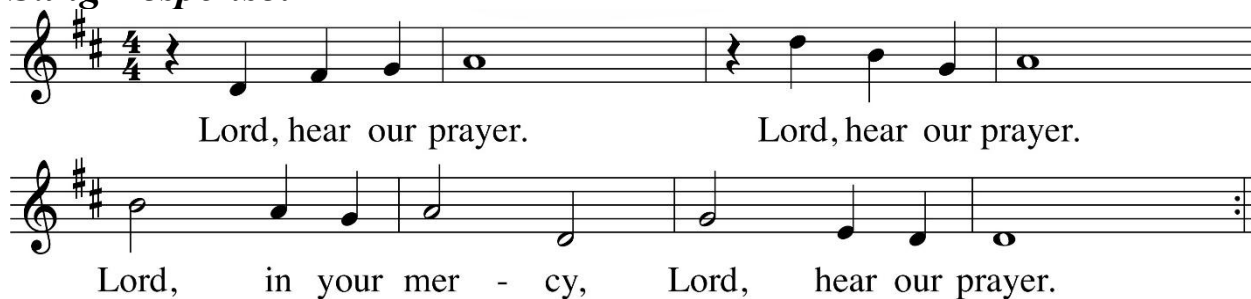
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son,
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**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

Sung Response:

A Celtic Rune



Text: Liam Lawton, b.1959

Tune: Liam Lawton, b.1959; arr. by Ian Callanan, OP

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Deacon: Gracious God, we lift our voices to you in prayer as we ask your blessings on your Church and on all your creation. Grant that we may humbly serve you, seeking your hand in all we do.

Leader: Look, Lord, upon your whole Church. We pray especially for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, for The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil. In the Episcopal Church we pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop and for Craig, our Bishop of Minnesota. Bless and guide us here at Nativity that we will welcome all as you have welcomed us. May we grow in love for you and for each other. Watch over all our work, especially Building Our Future. Hear us as we pray,

All(Sung): Lord, hear our prayer....

Leader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the world, that they will care for those whom they serve and find ways to bring justice and peace across all boundaries. Give us the grace to look upon your created world with honest vision and true caring. Show us ways to tend this earth that you have given us, restoring its plenty, healing its ills, and protecting all your living creatures. Hear us as we pray,

All(Sung): Lord, hear our prayer...

Leader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble. We pray especially for...are there others?

The people may bring their own petitions.

Leader: Deliver them from their distress of body, mind, or spirit.

Leader: We offer thanks for our many blessings and name to you silently or aloud the
graces you have given.

The people may bring their own thanksgivings.

Leader: We pray for those whose life is ending...are there others?

The people may bring their own petitions.

Leader: And we pray for those who have died...are there others?

The people may bring their own petitions.

Leader: And for those who mourn. Give to these departed eternal rest and let your light
perpetual shine upon them. Hear us as we pray,

All(Sung): Lord, hear our prayer...

Deacon: Dearest Lord, we offer these prayers from our hearts, knowing that you hear us
with love and wisdom. Look upon us today as we tell you our needs and ask for
your direction. We stand here on this earth that you have given us as we praise
your Name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***All:* Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Deacon and All:

**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 forever. Amen.**

Presider: 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.

All: **Amen**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, OR ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR A BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

The Presider invites the gifts of the congregation, with these or other words

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Just As I Am, I Come,” arr. Mary Donald

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

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

Presider: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

All: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

All: **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Presider: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

All: **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Presider: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

All: **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Presider: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Music: *Mass of Remembrance*, Marty Haugen, © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Presider: Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

All: **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Presider: Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

All: **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Presider: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

All: **AMEN.**

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

Presider and All:

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Let Us Be Bread

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and shared,
life for the world. Let us be wine, love free - ly poured.
Let us be one in the Lord.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the third line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Text: Thomas J. Porter, b.1958
Tune: Thomas J. Porter, b.1958
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INVITATION

Presider: So come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time;
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

- Verse 1:** **Make me a channel of your peace.**
 Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
 Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
 and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
- Verse 2:** **Make me a channel of your peace.**
 Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
 Where there is darkness only light,
 and where there's sadness, ever joy.
- Verse 3:** **O, Master, grant that I may never seek**
 so much to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved, as to love, with all my soul.
- Verse 4:** **Make me a channel of your peace.**
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 in giving of ourselves that we receive,
 and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and All:

**From this table, we have been fed
and given nourishment
to be your hands
and feet in the world.**
**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 forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Presider: May we be carried by the flow of the great river of life. May we discover a hidden spring within, gushing forth. May we be carried to the shores of the sacred and renewed. And the blessing of the Holy Trinity, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and forever more,

All: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King (Hymnal 400, verses 1,4,5,7)

1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -

1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the

1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

Refrain

O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 123; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

TODAY AT NATIVITY

Pet Blessing

During Service – Sunday, October 4th

WEEKLY AT NATIVITY

Adult Faith Formation

9-9:50am – Sundays

Children's Worship & Response

During Service – Sundays

Coffee Hour

After Service – Sundays

Youth Faith Formation

11:30am – Sundays

Bell Choir & Choir

5 & 6:15pm – Tuesdays

Community Café

5-6pm – Wednesdays

UPCOMING

Parish Potluck

After Service – Sunday, October 11th

Tour Historic Churches

9am (Meet at Nativity) – Thursday, October 15th

More info and sign up in the Nativity Notes

Boo Bash

6-10pm – Saturday, October 24th

