



ST. JOHN'S GLOUCESTER

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

CREATION CARE SUNDAY
PRAYERS FOR HEALING

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025
10:00AM

The maternal sea is polluted, the heavens are rent, the forests are being destroyed and the desert areas are increasing. We must protect creation. Better yet, we must embellish it, render it spiritual, transfigure it. But nothing will be done unless there is a general conversion of men's minds and consider a focus on the blessings that we receive from God through Creation and the blessings that God calls us to convey to all creatures.

Patriarch Ignatius IV of Antioch (1920-2012), A Theology of Creation

WE WELCOME YOU TO ST. JOHN'S GLOUCESTER

We know that Christ is present in each person here and we celebrate the diversity of the body of Christ. If this is your first visit, please introduce yourself today and visit again sometime. If you've been away, welcome back. If you are here every week, it's always great to see you! We worship in the Anglican tradition and are a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, which is part of the Episcopal Church USA. We honor individuals of every age, gender, ethnic heritage, sexual orientation and religious background. We respect the dignity of every human being.

NEWCOMER'S WELCOME

Please accept our warmest welcome! We hope you will experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship together. Please greet the Priest as you leave and complete a visitor's card found in each pew and place it in the offertory plate, give it to an usher, or give it to the Priest. Please join us for coffee hour, which is located in the Parish Hall, so our community can get to know you informally. We have two restrooms; one (handicapped accessible) is located next to the Parish Hall, the other restroom is located on the second floor up the stairs from the Parish Hall kitchen.

PARTICIPATING IN THE LITURGY

The People of God gathered in St. John's Church

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Marya DeCarlen
<i>Lector</i>	Alex Garcia-Mata
<i>LEM</i>	Geoff Pope
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sue Lupo
<i>Ushers</i>	Doug Musco, Isabel Musco
<i>Musicians</i>	Congregation, Choir, John Churchwell – Director of Music, Steve Lacey, Guest Musician
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Dani Stotzer, Karen Kasper
<i>Flower Guild</i>	Gwen Kopka, Kip Ellis
<i>Healing Prayers</i>	Karen Kasper, Doug Parsons
<i>Live Streaming</i>	Norm Barr
<i>Vestry Ambassador</i>	Karen Kasper
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Connie DeSimone, Patricia Anders, Priscilla Gerrard
<i>Action Lunches</i>	Kimberly Rea

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE

Prelude in D Major

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

TERRA PATRIS

This is God's wondrous world



1 This is God's won-drous world, and to my listen-ing ears
2 This is God's won-drous world: the birds their car-ols raise;
3 This is God's won-drous world: O let me ne'er for-get

all na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.
the morn-ing light, the li-ly white, de-clare their Mak-er's praise.
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.

This is God's won-drous world, I rest me in the thought of
This is God's won-drous world: God shines in all that's fair, in the
This is God's won-drous world: why should my heart be sad? Let

rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the won-ders wrought.
rus-tling grass or moun-tain pass, God's voice speaks ev-ery-where.
voic-es sing, let the heav-ens ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Malthie D. Babcock (1858-1901), adapted by Stanley Oliver, Franklin Sheppard

THE OPENING SENTENCES

Celebrant Blessed be the One who creates all things.

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant 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 the Word.

People Amen.

THE SONG OF PRAISE

Green Hymnal WLP #885

Let all creation bless the Lord

This hymn is in honor of the 800th Anniversary of the Canticle of Creatures



1. Let all cre - a - tion bless the Lord, till heav'n with praise is ring - ing.
2. All liv - ing things up - on the earth, green fer - tile hills and moun-tains,
3. O men and wo - men ev - ery-where, lift up a hymn of glo - ry;



Sun, moon, and stars, peal out a chord, stir up the an - gels' sing - ing.
sing to the God who gave you birth; be joy - ful, springs and foun-tains.
let all who know God's stead - fast care tell our sal - va - tion's sto - ry.



Sing, wind and rain! Sing, snow and sleet! Make mu - sic, day, night, cold and heat: ex -
Lithe wa - ter life, bright air - borne birds, wild rov - ing beast, tame flocks and herds: ex -
No tongue be si - lent; sing your part, you hum - ble souls and meek of heart: ex -



Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Music: *Whitehead*, William Bradley Roberts (b. 1947).

THE CREATION COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray together.

All-loving and everliving God, you are always more ready to give than we are to receive: Pour upon us your abundance of contentment with simple, faithful living; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE COSMOS - *from Koinonia*

Creating God, your name is written on every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation. Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE CHOIR ANTHEM

Look at the World

Words and Music by John Rutter (b. 1945)

Look at the world: Everything all around us.

Look at the world: and marvel everyday.

Look at the world: So many joys and wonders.

So many miracles along our way.

Praise to thee O lord for all creation.

Give us thankful hearts that we may see.

All the gifts we share and every blessing.

All things come of thee.

*Look at the earth: Bringing forth fruit and flower.
Look at the sky: The sunshine and the rain.
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains.
Valley and flowing river field and plain.*

*Think of the spring, Think of the warmth of summer.
Bringing the harvest before the winters cold.
Everything grows, everything has a season.
Til' it is gathered to the fathers fold.*

*Every good gift, all that we need and cherish.
Comes from the Lord in token of his love.
We are God's hands, stewards of all the bounty.
His is the earth and his the heavens above.
All things come of thee.*

THE PSALM

Psalm 104:1, 14–23

Read the Psalm responsively by section.

<i>Lector</i>	Everything I am will praise and bless the Lord!
<i>Organ Side</i>	O Lord, my God, your greatness takes my breath away, overwhelming me by your majesty, beauty, and splendor!
<i>Lectern Side</i>	Your compassion brings the earth's harvest, feeding the hungry.
<i>Choir</i>	You cause the grass to grow for livestock, along with the fruit, grains, and vegetables to feed humankind.
 <i>Lector</i>	 You provide sweet wine to gladden hearts. You give us daily bread to sustain life, giving us glowing health for our bodies.
<i>Organ Side</i>	The trees of the Spirit drink until they're satisfied.
<i>Lectern Side</i>	Lebanon's lofty trees stand tall right where you planted them.
<i>Choir</i>	Within their branches you provide for birds a place to build their nests; even herons find a home in the cypress trees.
 <i>Lector</i>	 You make the high mountains a home for wild goats and the rocky crag where the rock badgers burrow.
<i>Organ Side</i>	You made the moon to mark the months and the sun to measure the days.
<i>Lectern Side</i>	You turn off the light and it becomes night, and all the beasts of the forest come out to prowl.
<i>Choir</i>	The mighty lions roar for their dinner, but it's you, God, who feeds them all.
<i>Everyone</i>	At sunrise they slink back to their dens to crouch down in the shadows. Then humans go out to labor and toil, working from dawn to dusk.

A READING ATTRIBUTED TO MEISTER ECKHART (1260-1328)

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—even a caterpillar—I would never have to prepare a sermon, so full of God is every creature.

Johannes Eckhart (c. 1260 – c. 1328) was a German Catholic theologian, philosopher and mystic well known for his work with pious lay groups such as the Friends of God. He has acquired a status as a great mystic within contemporary popular spirituality, as well as considerable interest from scholars situating him within the medieval scholastic and philosophical tradition.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.
People **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Choir and Congregation will sing before and after the Gospel Reading.



THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6:24-34

Celebrant The Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Christ Jesus.**

“How could you worship two gods at the same time? You will have to hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You can’t worship the true God while enslaved to the god of money!” “This is why I tell you to never be worried about your life, for all that you need will be provided, such as food, water, clothing—everything your body needs. Isn’t there more to your life than a meal? Isn’t your body more than clothing? “Consider the birds—do you think they worry about their existence? They don’t plant or reap or store up food, yet God provides them each with food. Aren’t you much more valuable to God than they? So, which one of you by worrying could add anything to your life? “And why would you worry about your clothing? Look at all the beautiful flowers of the field. They don’t work or toil, and yet not even Solomon in all his splendor was robed in beauty like one of these! So if God has clothed the meadow with hay, which is here for such a short time and then dried up and burned, won’t he provide for you the clothes you need—you of little faith? “So then, forsake your worries! Why

would you say, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For that is what the unbelievers chase after. Doesn’t God already know the things your bodies require? “So above all, constantly seek God’s kingdom and righteousness, then all these less important things will be given to you abundantly. Refuse to worry about tomorrow, but deal with each challenge that comes your way, one day at a time. Tomorrow will take care of itself.”

Celebrant Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God’s Creation.
People **The Good News of Christ!**

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute

**We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world
and who suffers with it.
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.
We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces. AMEN.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(During the prayers and confession, we invite you to stand or kneel, as you are able.)

Loving God, even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she places her young near Your altar. You are attentive to all you have made.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

Loving God, help us provide refuge to every animal and plant with whom we live. Help us be attentive to all you have made.

God, in whom all creation subsists,

Help us listen as you do.

Loving God, help us hear and know you just as the earth and rocks do. Help us to learn from the way in which we see Creation recognize your glorious beauty.

God, to whom all creation responds,

Help us respond to you.

Loving God, surround those who suffer illness, want, or exile. Today, especially prayer for **Latricia** Reed, **Bob** Stewart. Are there others to be named aloud or silently?

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

Loving God, embrace those who in their daily work are stewards and protectors of God's creation in ways large and small; for gardeners, farmers, and ranchers; for oceanographers and park managers; for fishers and foresters; for climate scientists, ecologists, and activists, and for all who work to restore and heal our wounded Earth.

God, who is present with your Creation,

Help us be present too.

Pray for those who have died, especially for those holy women and men who taught us to marvel in all God's works. Are there any to be named aloud or silently?

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

Loving God, who hears every voice, knows each cry of injustice, and is attentive to the suffering of the earth: teach us to listen. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may listen to the world you have created and not close ourselves off from it. Reveal to us the ways in which we have failed to hear your voice in how we treat the earth.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

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

THE CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.
We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.
Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

May God our heavenly Maker, who with great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with earnest repentance and open faith turn to the good, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Christ the Word. **Amen.**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Celebrant In Christ we are becoming a new creation.

People **We see God around us. We see God within us.
We give thanks to our Creator.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with gladness devote the fruits of creation to our Maker.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

God of the sparrow, God of the whale

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the

swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy

How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life
 How does the crea - ture say Peace
 How do your chil - dren say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919-2008)

Music: Carl F. Schalk (1929-2021)

Tune: ROEDER

THE DOXOLOGY

The gifts of the people are brought to the Altar.

*Praise God, who fills each cup and plate,
 Whose table's wide and love is great.
 From broken bread, may all be fed,
 And Justice rise where fear is spread. Amen.*

THE MINISTRY OF THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Today we give thanks for the flowers beautifying the bench in front of our church, given in memory of Roger Cook, St. John's sexton from 1973 to 1985 by his granddaughter, Patti Amaral.

Celebrant The Creator be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Creator.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to our loving God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

In the mystery of Christ's incarnation you have gathered all things earthly and heavenly, by calling your people to be ministers of reconciliation and to proclaim the Good News to all creation.

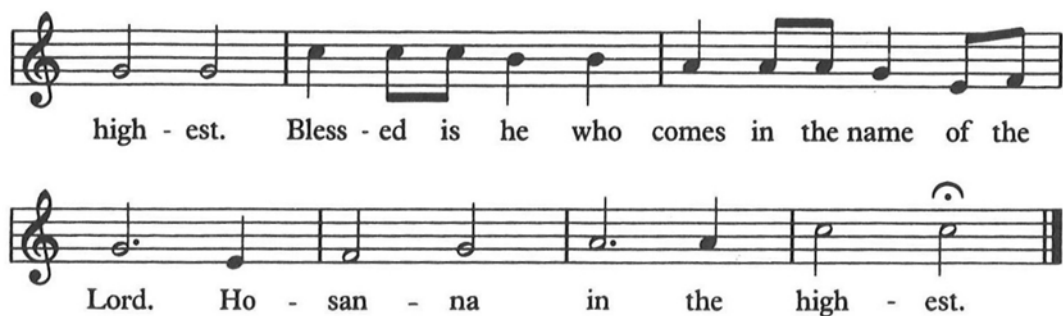
It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of all. We praise you here where the Annisquam River meets Gloucester Harbor and the Gulf of Maine; where our parks, beaches and orchards; marshes, fishing boats and schooners are side by side. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again.

We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness, prophets spoke of cedars and listened to ravens.

Together with angels and ancestors, whale and cod, catfish and chickadees, wild turkey and lady bug, we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honor song:

THE SANCTUS





We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. You were baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness and traveled in fishing boats, telling parables of farmers and seeds, labor and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me.

Again, after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me.

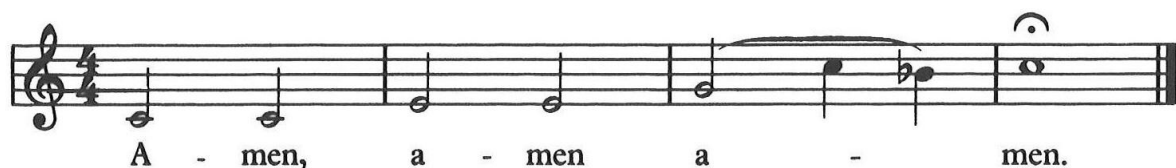
Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting the coming realm, we offer you this bread and this cup. Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community.

Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation.

Bring us with Francis of Assisi and all your saints to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar which is both now and yet to come.

All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, now and forever.

THE GREAT AMEN



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

**Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.
Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.

People All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.

THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for you, the People of God!

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AND PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Today, St. John's will have Prayers for Healing, as well as Communion. Communion will take place at the low Altar without kneeling. You may participate by extending your hands and placing one hand over the other for the bread and sipping from the chalice. Please let the priest know if you need a gluten free wafer. If you prefer not to receive wine, you may cross your hands over your chest. You may also come forward for a blessing, while others come for communion.

To receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest.

The Priest will pray for God's blessing upon you.

After Communion, you may come to the Altar railing and briefly describe to the healing minister, petitions or thanksgivings for which you would like prayers. You may kneel or stand, and if you would prefer not to be touched or anointed with oil, please so indicate. The minister will then offer a prayer and blessing.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Sketches of Autumn

Steve Lacey

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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 for ever. Amen.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND PRAYERS FOR TRAVEL

THE BLESSING

Go forth now to care for God's world. Use resources wisely. Share your knowledge.
Sacrifice where necessary. Live in harmony with all creation. Go out into all the world as
prophets of a new way of living and preach the good news to all. And the blessing of the
Creator God, the Risen Son, and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you that you might be a
blessing to others today and always. Amen.

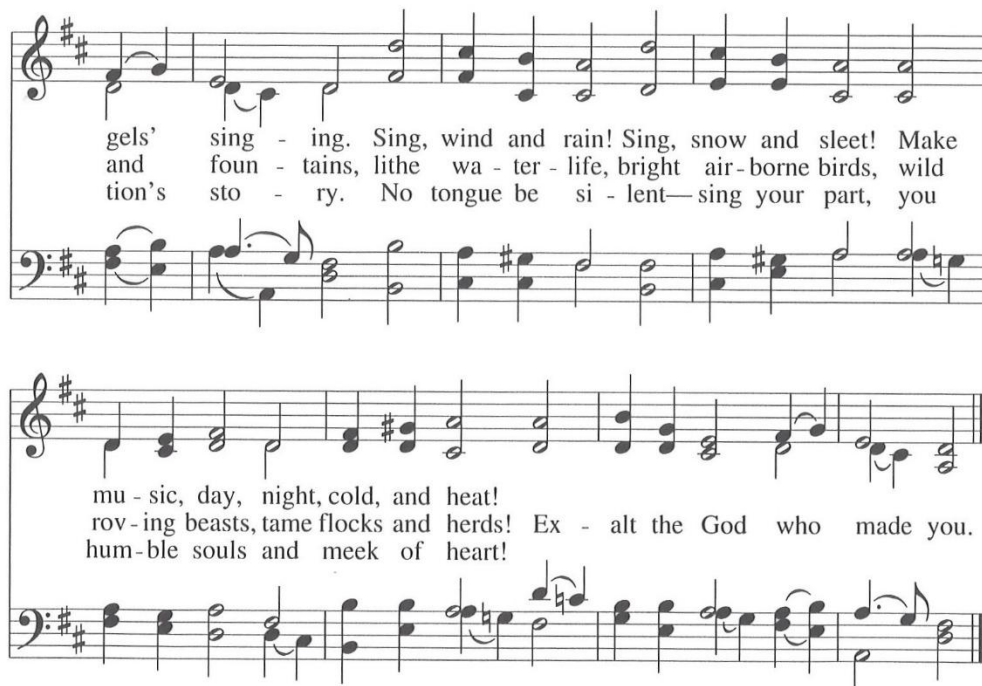
THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Let all creation bless the Lord

1 Let all cre - a - tion bless the Lord, till heaven with praise is
2 All liv - ing things up - on the earth, green fer - tile hills and
3 O men and wom - en ev - ery - where, lift up a hymn of

ring - ing. Sun, moon, and stars, peal out a chord, stir up the an -
moun - tains, sing to the God who gave you birth! Be joy - ful, springs
glo - ry. Let all who know God's stead - fast care tell out sal - va -



THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless our God and all Creation.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

Menagie Musicale

arr. Robert Jones

CREATION CARE SUNDAY

2025 marks the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' "Canticle of the Creatures"

The poem is a song of praise to God through all of creation, viewing all living things—sun, moon, wind, water, fire, and earth—as brothers and sisters that give praise to God simply by being themselves. Francis' view of creation as a gift from God, inspires a sense of gratitude and responsibility for its care. Our annual Season of Creation provides a dedicated time for us to reflect on God's relationship with creation and inspire care for the planet.

The 800th anniversary of the Canticle serves as a timely opportunity to rekindle the vision of the Canticle and apply it to today's challenges, such as climate change and pollution. We hope to foster with one another, a renewed commitment to stewardship of creation.

CANTICLE OF CREATURES

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honor, and all blessing,
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.
Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.
Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.
Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND AND HEART FOR OUR WORSHIP LIVES TOGETHER

October 4	Blessing of the Animals (11:00am-1:00pm)
October 5	The Feast of St. John (10:00am)
October 12	Indigenous People's Sunday (10:00am)
October 26	Prayers for Healing (10:00am) The Rev. Ali Lutz Co-Celebrating with The Rev. Edward Ball
November 2	All Saints Sunday (10:00am)
November 2	Boston University Recital: Dr. Shiela Kibbe Dr. Alison Trainer (3:00pm)
November 9	Concert Fundraiser for the Open Door (4:00pm)
November 22	The Village Fair (9:00am – 2:00pm)
November 30	First Sunday of Advent (10:00am)
November 30	Prayers for Healing (10:00am)
December 7	Advent Evensong (5:00pm)
December 13	Middle Street Walk (10:00am-3:00pm)
December 14	Boston University Recital: Abigail Cunningham (3:00pm)
December 24	Christmas Eve Service (5:00pm)
December 28	Prayers for Healing (10:00am)
January 4	Epiphany Lessons and Carols (3:00pm)
January 25	Annual Meeting

NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Please welcome Veyla Tibert to St. John's as our new Parish Administrator. She started orientation and training this week with Elizabeth and John And will continue with Marya and Marge next week before she starts occupying the position fully. We hope to meet her during an upcoming Sunday for worship and coffee hour!

Veyla has grown up and lived in Gloucester for the majority of her life. She holds an undergraduate degree from Salem State University in English, and a Masters in Education from Gordon College. Veyla's happy places are her garden, her kitchen, and the woods. She has too many hobbies to count and is always trying to collect more. Veyla is married to her high school sweetheart, Matthew Tibert, of Rockport, and is the loving mother to a bubbly boisterous boy, Gus. Veyla is taking the place of Elizabeth, as the Parish Administrator.

ST. JOHN'S T-SHIRTS

Exclusively available here, a t-shirt with St. John's logo on the front and the top 10 reasons to visit St. John's on the back side. The short sleeve will run around \$20, if we order 30; long sleeve will be \$25 based on an order of 30 also. The shirts will be navy blue (short sleeve) and heather blue (long sleeve) with the logo and "top 10" in Episcopal blue. Sizes are available from small to 2X. We will order the shirts based on the first 30 reserved (short or long). If there is still interest we will make another order.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall at coffee hour until Sept. 29. We will collect for the cost of the T shirts in person when they arrive. Hopefully they can be distributed the first Sunday in October! Share and wear the joy!

Don Crane, St. John's Vitality Team

PRAYER GROUP

Weekly, a group of parishioners gathers at St. John's to speak aloud the names on our short and long term intercessory prayer lists, to wander into that liminal space where we share with God our concerns for those we cherish. If you would like to join us, we are resuming for 2025-26 on Tuesday, October 7 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. Questions? Call Sarah Larson 703-395-4233.

SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH

LET'S DO THIS! During Hunger Awareness Month, it is so important that the shelves at The Open Door are well stocked. Picking up an extra box of cereal, or checking the pantry for some extra canned goods and bringing it all to church on Sunday would help meet the goal of feeding families in the Cape Ann community. The following would be most appreciated: healthy cereal, oatmeal, granola/breakfast bars, pasta, and juice boxes. Thank you.

The Open Door and its mission to provide nutritious food to the families of Cape Ann has increased over the past year. Since August 2024, in addition to clients already receiving services, The Open Door has registered 820 new households for services at its Gloucester and Ipswich food pantry locations: An average of 68 new families per month.

PARISH HALL LABYRINTH

Beneath the tables and chairs and shoes and walker wheels in our Great Hall is a labyrinth, patterned into the tiles. The brainstormers of the Adult Formation team would like to offer a program on labyrinths—their history, how they factor into our faith journey, what they offer to us today.

While we have one expert on hand, we are looking for a **BUDDY EXPERT!** Do you need to know anything in advance about labyrinths? That would be great, but not really. All you need is a lively curiosity and a willingness to learn and help run a class for your fellow parishioners.

Intrigued? Call Sarah Larson at 703-395-4233

SURVEY

This Sunday and the following, Sept 28 and Oct 5, you will be handed a VERY SHORT survey asking what times of the week are best for you to attend St. John's Adult Formation classes and programs. Please give this some thought beforehand, bearing in mind whether you like to drive/walk at night and whether you're willing to bestir yourself during the week. Like Gypsy Rose Lee, we aim to entertain you (though fully clothed at all times), but hate to perform to an empty house.

IMMIGRATION SAFETY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON CAPE ANN

Join local members of the Essex County Community Organization and other community groups for this event in Gloucester: Monday, Sept. 29: Public Action – Call on Senator Tarr and Representatives Ferrante and Kassner for their support.

Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church, 10 Church St., Gloucester, 6:30-8:30 p.m.



St. John's Gloucester

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The Rt. Rev. Julia E. Whitworth, Bishop of Mass. & The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol Gallagher, Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen, Priest-in-Collaboration
mdecarlen@comcast.net
Priest Associates: The Rev. Malcolm Henderson
and The Rev. Ali Lutz
Marge Bishop, Church Assistant
marge@stjohnsgloucester.org
John Churchwell, Director of Music
Elizabeth de Veer, Parish Administrator

Wardens: Patricia Anders & Katharine Newhouse
Clerk: Geoff Pope
Treasurer: Karen Kasper, Assistant Treasurer: Sue Lupo
VESTRY: 2026: Dee Dee Bedford, Rick Britton, Sarah Larson
2027: Maryann Tapiro
2028: Sue Lupo, Doug Parsons, Lindsay Smith, Barbara Soreng

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