

St. Paul's, Brunswick

9am Holy Eucharist

Season of Creation

Welcome

Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we stand on territory that was taken from the Abenaki people of the Wabanaki Confederacy, the people of the Dawnland. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us, that we belong to the Earth, and that we are all companions in life. May we learn from our past sins and be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world. We ask for inspiration that we might be compelled to take action and support our native neighbors as they continue to seek their sovereignty here in Maine.



September 13, 2026

Season of Creation

Thanksgiving for the Earth From the Iona Abbey



Celebrant: Remember the fruits of the earth, for sowing and for harvest. Remember the dew of the air. Remember the downcoming of the rains and the waters and the rivers. Remember the plants and the blooms of every year. Remember the safety of humans and of animals and of me, your sinful servant. For the rain, the wind of the sky, seed, plants, the fruit of the trees and also the vineyards, and for every tree in the entire world,

People We are grateful.

Celebrant: For the Holy Trinity who brings us to perfection in safety and peace, forgives us our sins, brings us up according to their measure that we may grow and prosper through your grace, who makes the face of the earth to rejoice, waters her furrows, lets her grain be abundantly multiplied and makes ready her seed-time and harvest,

People We give You thanks.

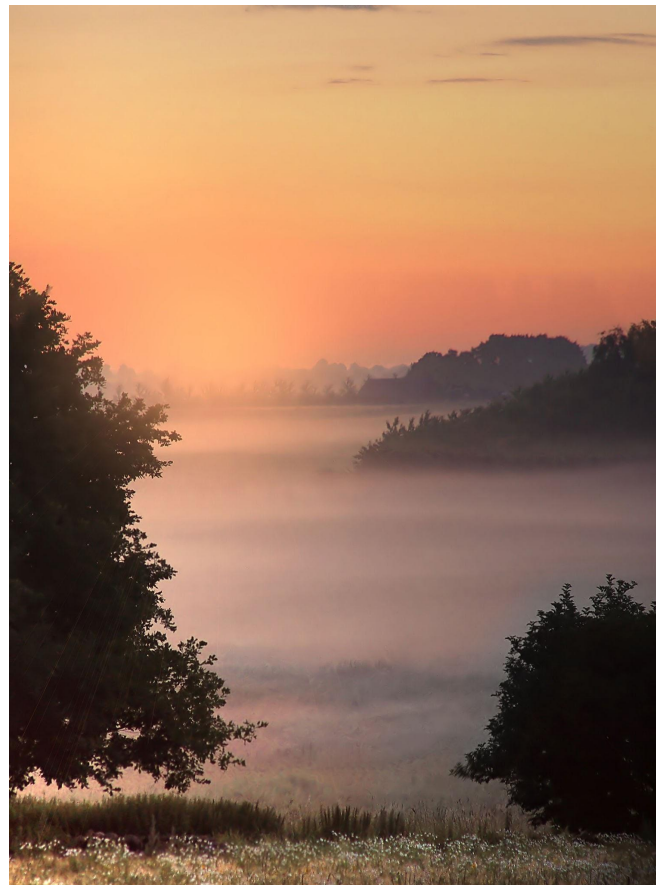


Opening Song: Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dew fall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where Their feet pass

Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
Born of the One Light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day





Call to Prayer from the Iona Abbey

Celebrant: Eternal God, maker of the skies above,
lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people,
unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts,

All: you are present among us.

Celebrant: O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns,
soul within all souls, in all we touch, in all we meet,

All: you are present among us.

Celebrant: As bearers of your image, we come to
be reshaped;

**All: dependent on your mercy, we ask to
be made new.**



Creation Collect of the Day

O God, because in our ignorance
and selfishness we so often fail to
care rightly for your Creation,
mercifully grant that your Holy
Spirit may soften and unite our
hearts with all living beings who
suffer; through Jesus Christ the
Wisdom of Creation, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.



First Reading, Romans 14:1-12 from the NRSV

Reader (*Lector*): A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader (*Lector*): The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Song: I have decided (#136, Lift Every Voice and Sing II)

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.

2. Tho' none go with me, I still will follow,
Tho' none go with me I still will follow,
Tho' none go with me, I still will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.

3. The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back





Gospel Reading, Matthew 18:21-35 NRSV adapted *art:freebibleimages.org*

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’



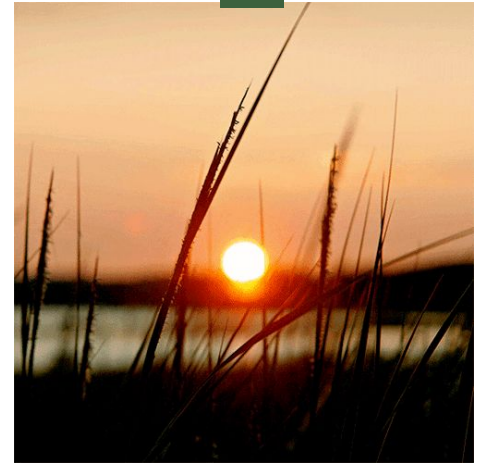
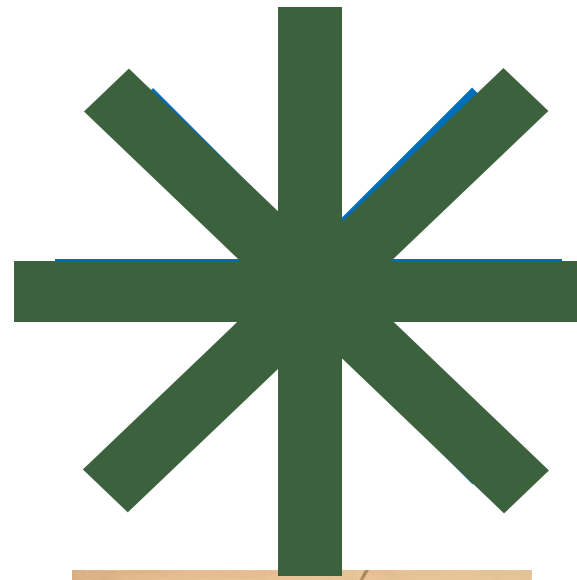
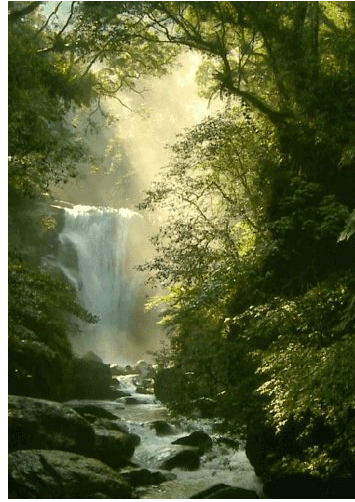
Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Creator will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

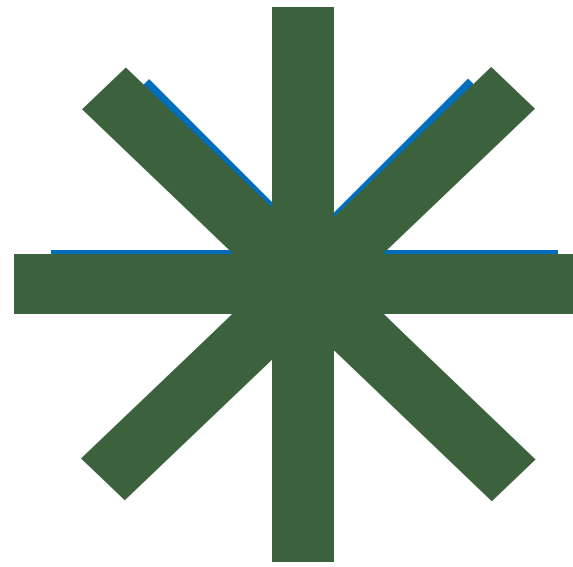
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.



HOMILY



Sharing Time



The Profession of Faith from South India

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.





Prayers Let us pray for the life of the world...

For the things we are thankful for...

For our loved ones ...

For those who teach us...

For those who lead us...

For the sick and for those who do not have enough... naming especially those on
our parish prayer list

For ourselves...

We gather our prayers and lift them up to God who knows and loves us. Amen.



Art: pixabay.com





Confession and Absolution

Is there anything you did that you are sorry for? Silently think about it in your mind.

Celebrant: Lord God, we are sorry for the times we have been unkind, Lord have mercy.

ALL: Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord God, we are sorry for the times we have forgotten you, Christ have mercy.

ALL: Christ have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord God, we ask you to forgive us, Lord have mercy.

ALL: Lord have mercy.

Prayer For Forgiveness

Celebrant: Holy God, have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins, and bring you to eternal life.

ALL: Amen.





Peace

Leader: The Peace of Christ be always with you!

People: And also with you!

Announcements

Offertory Anthem

(the parade to bring up the elements while collection plate is passed)





The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer Creation II

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.

Celebrant: It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of all. We praise you here where the waters of the Mere Brook Watershed and Androscoggin River flow, where town, wilderness, farm, and sea are side by side. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again.





Celebrant: 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 who spoke of cedars and listened to ravens.

Together with angels and ancestors, lupine and alewife, cedar and moose, pine and eagle, we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honor song:



**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 give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first deed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told 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.





Celebrant: Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, 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 St. Paul 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. AMEN.





The Lord's Prayer

Our God 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.

Fraction *(break bread)*

Be known to us Jesus in the breaking of the bread. We are the communion of Christ's Body.

We share one bread together.

Invitation Holy Food for Holy People.

Administration of Sacrament The body of Christ, the bread of life!

The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.



Communion Hymn: Be Thou My Vision H#488

1.Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

3.Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
High One of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art





Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, we are grateful for the love that we share in this community and in Your Holy Food. Send us into the world to listen to our neighbors with hearts of love, and to share the Good News of Jesus. Amen.

Blessing *adapted from the Episcopal Church Season of Creation*

May God who established the dance of creation,

Who marveled at the lilies of the field,

Who transforms chaos to order,

Lead us to transform our lives and the Church

To listen to the voice of all creatures

That reflect God's glory in creation.

In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. **Amen!**



Closing Song

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me *O Christ, Surround Me*

from ACS #1040



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967

Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

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Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the love and peace of Jesus to serve our neighbors!

People: Thanks be to God!