

St. Paul's, Brunswick

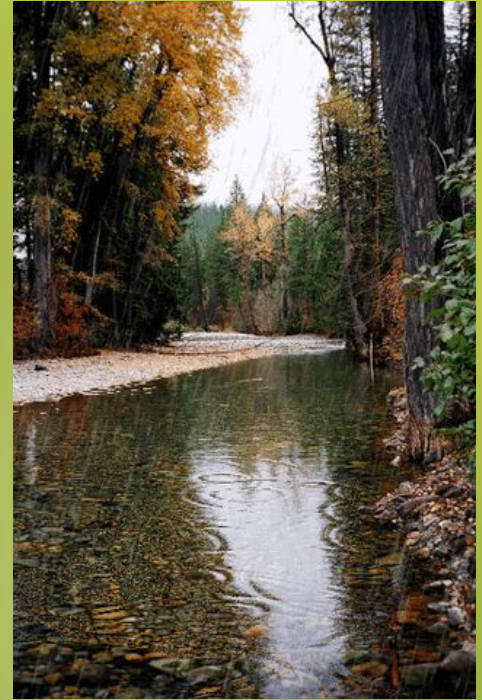
9am Holy Eucharist

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 27, 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: Alleluia *from Palestinian*

Alleluia



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, you show your glory
throughout your Creation, calling it
very good: Grant us the fullness of
your blessing, that we, stewarding
your garden, may become partakers in
your joy; through Jesus Christ the
Wisdom of Creation, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading, Philippians 2:1-13 adapted from the NRSV

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

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Creator. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for God's good pleasure.

Reader (Lector): The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Song: Bringing in the Sheaves

written by Knowles Shaw

Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness
Sowing in the noontide, and the dewy eve
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping
We shall come rejoicing, Bringing in the sheaves

(chorus)

Bringing in the Sheaves, bringing in the sheaves
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves
We shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves

Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows
fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze
By and by the harvest, and the labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves

(chorus)



Gospel Reading, Matthew 21:23-32 NRSV adapted [art:freebibleimages.org](http://art.freebibleimages.org)

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.



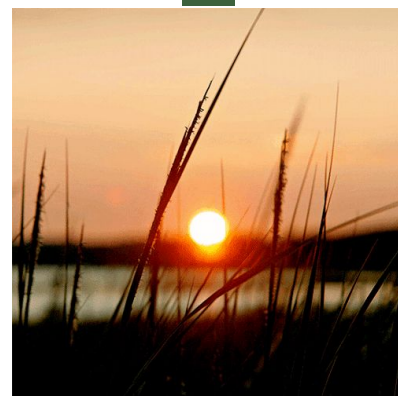
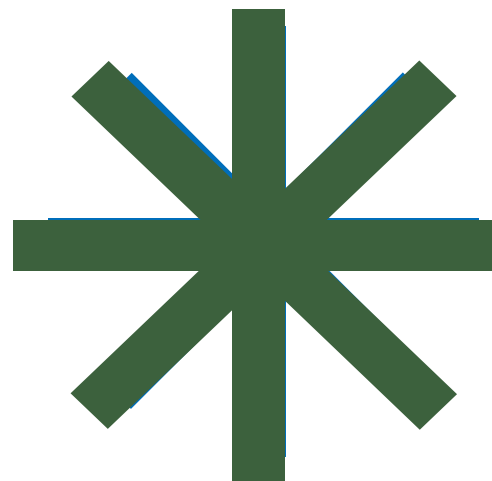
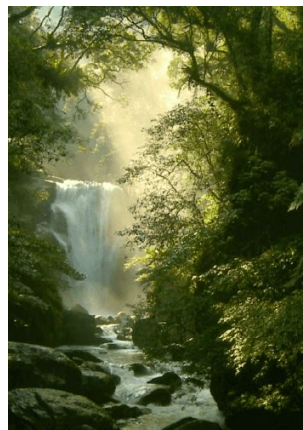
"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

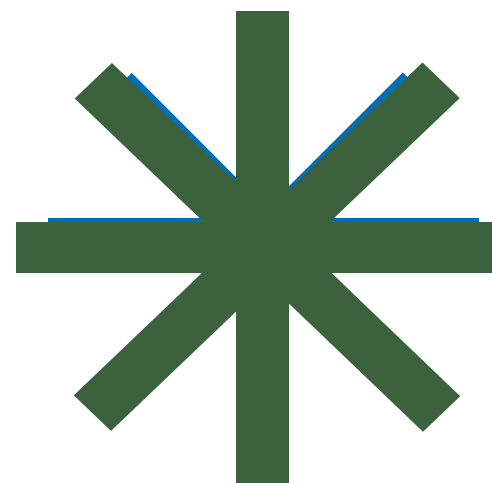
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.



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.



Art: pixabay.com

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.



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 bed 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: This is the Body of Christ

by John Bell from the Iona Community

This is the body of Christ
Broken that we may be whole
This cup, as promised by God
True to his word, cradles our Lord
Food for the good of the soul



Art: pixabay.com

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.

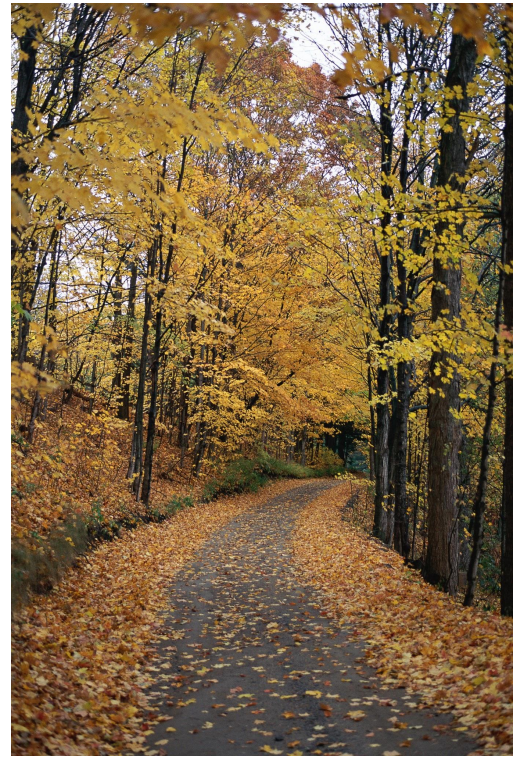
Blessing *adapted from the Episcopal Church Season of Creation*

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: I Have Decided LEVAS #136

- 1 I have decided to follow Jesus (repeat 3x)
No turning back, no turning back!
- 2 Though no one join me, still I will follow (repeat 3x)
No turning back, no turning back!
- 3 The world behind me, the cross before me (repeat 3x)
No turning back, no turning back!



Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God!