



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
SAINTS JAMES AND ANDREW

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Morning Prayer

Live-streamed

Followed by Virtual Coffee Hour

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Welcome to Worship! We are blessed by your presence with us today.

In celebrating the resurrection and Christ's presence with the disciples, throughout this Easter we open ourselves to the new life which God offers us. Today's service of Morning Prayer comes from *Enriching Our Worship*, a collection of liturgies in contemporary language authorized by The Standing Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Church.

Our Mission

We believe God is calling us to cultivate a community of love, joy, hope, and healing. Jesus is our model for a life of faith, compassion, hospitality and service. We strive to be affirming and accessible, welcoming and inclusive; we seek to promote reconciliation, exercise responsible stewardship, and embrace ancient traditions for modern lives.

Dear People of Saints James and Andrew,

We have shifted our online worship, alternating between Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion and Morning Prayer, to walk in solidarity with the wider body of Christ in The Episcopal Church. We hope this will be an opportunity to grow and deepen in our faith. Please note that per the Vestry, the buildings of Saints James and Andrew will remain closed until at least September 8.

What is Spiritual Communion?

In Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion we participate in the Eucharist in a limited way, desiring its graces in the heart. Clergy and laity alike fast from receiving communion, and when we would normally receive the consecrated bread and wine instead join in a moment of silence and then a communal prayer.

What is Morning Prayer?

A daily morning worship service without communion, which can be led by lay or ordained worship leaders. Its origins are in the monastic tradition, and was made popular in the Anglican Church through the prayer book. Up until the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*, Morning Prayer was the chief worship service most Sundays of the month across The Episcopal Church.

Online Streamed Worship Sundays at 10 a.m., feed starts at 9:55 a.m.

Join us for worship on [Facebook Live](#). (*You do not need to have a Facebook account to view this public live stream*). You may need to refresh your browser.

Offering Plate

We realize household finances are shifting due to COVID-19. For those who are able, please consider mailing in the check you would ordinarily put in the offering plate. A Counter is coming in each week to deposit our checks. For those interested in giving electronically, please consider taking advantage of your bank's online bill pay feature or [donating on our website through Tithe.ly](#). (If at all possible, it helps if you can cover the processing fee). Your ongoing pledge will allow us to continue our outreach and mission, paying our staff, and caring for our campus. Thank you in advance.

Virtual Coffee Hour at 10:45 a.m.

Following Facebook Live Worship, we will gather on Zoom for a virtual coffee hour. If you have never used Zoom before, please watch this video showing how to use it:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

Join our virtual coffee hour by <https://zoom.us/j/592077112>

Meeting ID: 592 077 112

Dial in by Phone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

We will continue to offer live streamed worship until advised by Bishop Fisher and Governor Baker that churches may resume in person worship. This is one small action our community can do to slow down the spread of COVID-19. Know we are holding each of you in love and prayer.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Heather & Rev. Molly

SUNDAY, SEPT. 13, 2020

National Bishop Susan
Johnson, Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada

+ Pentecost 15 (Lectionary 24)

Exodus 14:19-31 | Psalm 114

or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 |

Romans 14:1-12 |

Matthew 18:21-35



*Lord, if another member
of the church sins against me, how often should I
forgive?* Matthew 18:21

At the 2018 Bishops' Academy, theologian Cynthia Moe-Lobeda reminded us of our call to "neighbour love," to love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself. She went on to say that if God loves the creation, then we must think of the creation as our neighbour.

I am reminded of this when I read today's lesson. What if Peter had rephrased his question to Jesus as "Lord, if a neighbour sins against me, how often should I forgive?" Or, what if the neighbour asking the question was creation asking about us? How many times should creation forgive us for overfishing, deforesting, polluting, endangering species, desertification, commodifying or even just not paying attention? Whether it is seventy-seven times, or seventy times seven, we are past the breaking point.

The 1854 speech attributed to Chief Seattle included these words: "Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves. ... The earth is precious to [God], and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator."

How long until we don't just know it in our heads, but know it in our hearts, and change the way we treat the creation, our neighbour?

Creator, we pray that you would help us touch the earth gently. Turn us from our ways of commodifying the earth and consuming its riches without thought. Amen.

Suggested hymn: **"Touch the Earth Lightly"**
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 739)

Prelude

Variations on "'Tis the Last Rose of Summer"(1869)

Henry Wilson
(1828-1878)

Welcome

Meditation - Hymnal 1982 #416 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

David Evans

Opening Acclamation

Heather

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

Confession and Absolution

Heather

Omnipotent God,

Creator and Sustainer of sacred seas, lands, and skies--

your loving hand is open wide

to satisfy the need of every living creature,

yet we have turned against you and against your creation.

We have failed to love your creation and all your creatures.

We confess that we have polluted your waters and lands

and soiled your heavens;

we have ignored the weak and vulnerable

and those who lack justice.

Our thoughtlessness, passivity and greed

have put all creation at the brink of extinction.

We repent of our sins against you and your creation,

and remembering the account that we must one day give,

we vow to work to restore all that is broken,

polluted and harmed

with the help of Christ our Lord,

who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns

one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ever fashioning, ever renewing God, may we never lose our sense of awe, wonder and amazement at this universe which we are so insignificant a part. Yet may we never be so overawed that we forget that, great as you are, and vast and intricate as are your works, you know and love each one of us, and we are ever in your care. **Amen.**

Opening Versicle

Molly

O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

And your glory all the day long.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

The Holy One is in our midst: O come let us worship.

Molly

Jubilate

Psalm 100

Molly

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Antiphon

The Holy One is in our midst: O come let us worship.

Molly

Psalm 114

In exitu Israel

Molly

1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

Molly

The Holy One is in our midst: O come let us worship.

The First Lesson

Exodus 14:19-31

Karis Post

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle

Judith 16:13-16

Karis Post

I will sing to my God a new song:
O Lord, you are great and glorious,
Wonderful in strength, invincible.

**Let all your creatures serve you,
For you spoke, and they were made.**

You sent forth your spirit, and it formed them;
there is none that can resist your voice.

**For the mountains shall be shaken to their foundations with the waters;
before your glance the rocks shall melt like wax.**

But to those who fear you,
You show mercy.

**For every sacrifice as a fragrant offering is a small thing...
But whoever fears the Lord is great forever.**

The Second Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

Karis Post

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 Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Homily

Molly

Silence for Reflection

The Apostles' Creed

Heather

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Heather

Hear our cry, O God.
And listen to our prayer.

Let us 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 forever. Amen.

Suffrages C

Heather

V. Help us, O God our Savior;
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

V. Look upon your congregation;
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.

V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. And your wonders among all peoples.

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.

V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.

V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Collects

Heather

The Collect of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for Creation

Creator of the land, the water, and the sky, come and renew the faces of the whole earth. Giver of life, we are the children of your holy breath; give us new awareness of your role in the world of your making. Savior of the world, touch us in the power of your new creation, that we might hold in reverence the creation you have given. God of sparrows and wild flowers, open our eyes to the interconnectedness of all things. Weave us into our rightful place in your great design; strengthen the will of people everywhere to appreciate your creation, and to seek to live in deep and caring harmony within it. So may the whole earth be truly blessed by our hard work and joyful living, by your presence and ours. **Amen.**

Silence: please add your own petitions and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

We pray especially, in these times of global pandemic, for those who are ill and those who are frightened, for medical personnel caring for the sick and workers who provide support to their communities, for scientists seeking treatments and prevention, and for those officials who bear the weight of decision-making for the common good. We pray especially today for the Clark/Perry family, Tammy, the Miner family, John, Anne, Jacob, Elle, Ann, Adri, Ronel, Kelsey, Robert, and Donna.

In this time when eyes that have been blind to racial injustice and ears that have not heard the cries of human suffering are opening, help us to maintain our attention in the work we have to do in bringing about your reign of justice and peace. Help us to listen and learn, and guide us, in your wisdom, that we may not settle for simple answers in changing unjust systems, so that all of your children may enjoy the abundant life you promise. **Amen.**

The Peace

Heather

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Closing Prayers

The General Thanksgiving

Molly

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Molly

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Announcements

Heather

Dismissal

Molly

This service has ended. Now let ours begin.
Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Concluding Sentence

Molly

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Scripture for Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 20, 2020

View the texts at: www.lectionarypage.net:

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Prayer List

Names are on the list for 4 weeks, then removed. Feel free to add a name again.

The Clark/Perry family, Tammy, the Miner family, John, Anne, Jacob, Elle, Ann, Adri, Ronel, Kelsey, Robert, and Donna.

Announcements

Creation Season 2020: The Diocese has once again designated from September 1 to October 4 for the observance of Creation Season: "We observe this special season in the hope that caring for Creation will increasingly be woven into every aspect of congregational life. Through preaching and prayer, and in sacrificial acts of generosity and bold public witness, we hope to strengthen our Christian response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." Creation Season reminds us of our relationship to and responsibility for the non-human parts of creation that God loves just as God loves us. During the Sundays of Creation Season our Sunday liturgy – both Spiritual Communion and Morning prayer – will include creation-themed prayer. We also encourage all members to view "The Story of Plastic" and take part in the Green Team-sponsored discussion of the film on Sunday, September 13 at 11:30 AM.

Discussion on *The Story of Plastic* takes place TODAY at 11:30 a.m.: We have posted material on the church website to use when you watch the movie. This includes pre-movie and during-the-movie activities designed to make discussing it more meaningful. We hope you have been able to watch this movie; it provides a detailed look into the environmental damage and human rights abuses that occur throughout the lifecycle of plastic.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/592077112>

Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdy0jLDhEc>

Can the parish help you find and maintain companionship and community? We would like to help facilitate the establishment of small groups that provide fellowship for any who are interested. We recognize that one size will not fit all: folks will differ in preferences for ways to connect (whether physical, on screen or by phone), how many people they'd like in a group, frequency of contact, and focus for conversation. We're willing to provide tech instruction, suggestions for structuring time together and building community, and material for discussion. If you are interested in joining in a small fellowship circle, we'd like to hear from you. Please call or

email the Office by Friday, September 25, including as much detail as may be helpful about what you are (and are not) looking and hoping for. Once we know who is interested, we can figure out next steps in moving forward.

Digital Blessing of the Animals: Please send us a picture of your beloved creatures, whether they be stuffies, pets, or farm animals by September 30. We will be putting together a digital blessing of the animals, and will release the video on our website and facebook on Sunday, October 4, better known as St. Francis Day. You can send us your pictures by email at office@saintsjamesandandrew.org or by mail.

Please donate plastic and paper grocery bags. Our to-go food and pantry ministries need donations of clean, sturdy plastic or paper shoppingbags. You can place them in the marked bin near the parking lot entrance to the parish hall on Sundays between 10:30 and 12:30 or Mondays between 3:00 and 6:00. No produce bags please. Thank you! Maggie Sweeney, for the Mission Team, and Doris Macleod, for Whitney's Pantry..

Directory Update: We will be publishing a new church directory before Christmas. It will include parishioners, mailing addresses, phone numbers and emails, but not photos. We would like it to be as up-to-date as possible. If you have updates to your contact information, please email them to Beau in the office by November 1st, office@saintsjamesandandrew.org.

Interfaith Council of Franklin County: 400 Years: Truth and Healing for the Next Seven Generations is an interfaith / inter-community project of listening, connecting, and acting for justice during this 400th year since the 1620 landing of English colonists on Native homelands in the Northeast. Join us in a live online gathering on Sunday, Oct. 18th at 2:00 pm. This program will be broadcast live on YouTube and Facebook. Some presenters will speak from Unity Park in Turners Falls (Great Falls), the site of the Great Falls Massacre on May 19, 1676. For more information visit <https://interfaithamherst.org/400-years-truth-healing>.

Contribute to The Newsletter: by emailing the office, office@saintsjamesandandrew.org by the Monday before each edition is published. The Newsletter is published on the first and third Thursdays of the month.

Welcome to Newcomers and Visitors

Welcome to The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew! Whether you are passing through or looking for a church home, we invite you to explore this community. We are eager to welcome you and look forward to an opportunity to meet you. Please fill out a Welcome Card, hanging on the back of the pew. Place it in the offertory plate, or hand it to an Usher after the service. Please sign the Visitor's Sheet in the front entryway. We invite you to join us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall, immediately following the 10 a.m. service.

Children of all ages are always welcome and encouraged to attend any worship service. We seek to make it as meaningful an experience for them as possible, and we encourage their participation throughout the service. We invite little ones to explore our Littles' Corner in the back of the church and the rest of the sanctuary. In this corner you can find drawing and coloring materials, quiet toys, books, a blanket to crawl on, and comfortable chairs. We invite school aged children to sit with their families or in the front of our worship space to get a closer look. The ushers also have grab bags of coloring and other quiet activities that are for kids of all ages.

Our worship is drawn from the Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship 1 & 2, Hymnal 1982, Wonder, Love, and Praise, and Lift Every Voice and Sing II, and other approved liturgical resources. All that you will need for worship is inside this worship leaflet. We invite you to help yourself to the items in the Literature Rack on the door in the entryway that provide information about us and about our life and work, especially the Newcomer's Guide. Please introduce yourself to our clergy, who greet parishioners and visitors at the front door after the service. We welcome you in the Name of God!

From time to time Saints James and Andrew will record our worship services and events on video and film to share on our social media as a way to increase our evangelism to the larger community. If you would prefer that you not be included on video or film, please notify our Rector, and she will ensure your wishes are respected.

The Episcopal Church of Ss. James & Andrew

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Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas J. Fisher, Bishop

The Rev. Heather J. Blais, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Molly Scherm, Associate Rector

The Rev. Ann Wood, Deacon

The Rev. Jane Dunning, Priest Associate

Remote Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9 am - 12 pm (Closed Holidays)