



CREATION AT REDEEMER

CREATION SEASON V – Eucharist: Blessing of the Animals

PRELUDE “Nun Bitten Wir Den Heiligen Geist” - Buxtehude

HYMN Creator, We Thank You For All You Have Made

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11 ("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise")

Creator, we thank you for all you have made:
For trees by the sidewalk that give us cool shade,
For grass-covered ball fields, for flowers downtown,
For wide autumn leaves that turn crispy and brown.
God, thank you for gardens on back corner-lots,
For insects that hide out in old flower pots,
For lions and polar bears living in zoos,
For high mountain trails that have beautiful views.
God, thank you for rainfall that ends a long drought,
For cracks in the sidewalk where little weeds sprout,
For birds that build nests in the tops of the trees,
For hot summer days when we feel a cool breeze.
O God, we give thanks for the places we go,
For cool mountain lakes and for trails in the snow,
For each city park and for each county fair,
For gifts of creation we see everywhere.

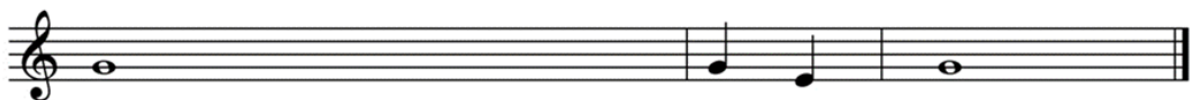
Tune: Traditional Welsh hymn, in John Robert's Caniadau y Cyssegr (Songs of the Sanctuary), 1839
("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise")

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A COLLECT FOR DISCERNMENT

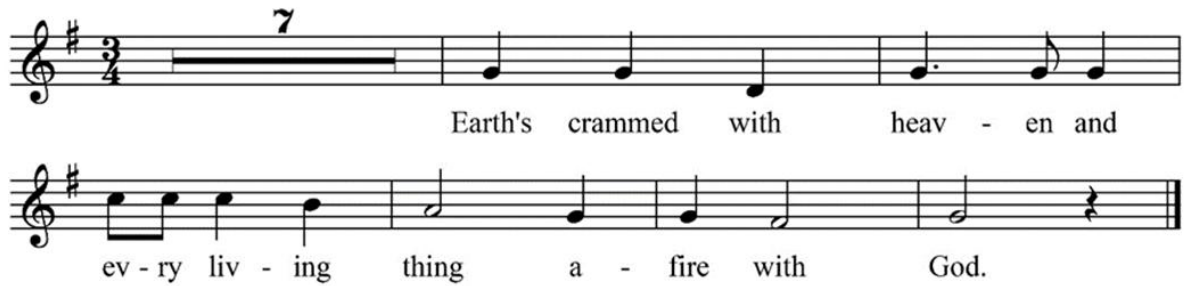
God of all wisdom and vision, guide Redeemer as we discern new directions and pursue the creation of your realm here. Grant that we will be open to your guidance in searching for a new priest and choosing our future. Thank you for our heritage and help us discern your new vision for our community as we continue welcoming all, learning and doing in new ways, and walking in justice as God’s love in the world. Amen.

GREETING *Leader*



Bless-ed - be God, Cre - a - tor of all the universe.

The soloist sings first and then the congregation responds,



Be a gardener. Dig a ditch, toil and sweat.

And turn the earth upside down.

Seek the deepness and water the plants in time.

Continue this labor and make sweet water to run; and noble and abundant fruits to spring.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of peace, sending your word vulnerable to a violent world: take from us the closed fist of death; reveal to us the open arms of love that we might stumble and fall into your hands, through Jesus our Christ, our victim and our Savior. **Amen.**

THE READINGS

A reading from the book of Exodus (20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20)

Psalm 80:7-14 (*Celebrant and the People in Unison*)

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; *

you cast out the nations and planted it.

9 You prepared the ground for it; *

it took root and filled the land.

10 The mountains were covered by its shadow *

and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea *

and its branches to the River.

12 Why have you broken down its wall, *

so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, *

and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

behold and tend this vine; *

preserve what your right hand has planted.

16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *

and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Contemporary Reading “Blessing the Animals,” by Jan Richardson
In memory of Zeke, who always won our battles over who had ownership of my drafting table.

After the reading the reader says,
Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

The people respond
Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT IN CREATION -Video

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

Response before the Gospel
Glory to you, O Christ.

Response after the Gospel
Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION

THE CREED

Three staves of musical notation for the Creed. The first staff is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 4-measure rest. The second staff is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3-measure rest. The third staff is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 3-measure rest. The lyrics are: Je - sus lives on. We are the bo-dy of Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of love, you are with us in every transition and change. As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. God of mercy, God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

Leader The steadfast love of God never ceases: morning, noon or night.

With open hearts and minds, let us pray with confidence, knowing that God hears our prayers, rejoices with us, weeps with us and heals our brokenness.

The leader will leave a period of time during which people may speak their concerns and thanksgivings, or share them in the chat.

We now pray the specific concerns of this parish family...

Also, we pray our thanksgivings...

In the face of racial injustice, flood and famine, storms and wildfires, dying reefs and invasive species, we reflect and pray.

We acknowledge our part in the destruction of the earth, and the oppression of humanity, and we hold these heavily in our hearts.

Forgive us for our denial, apathy and mindless consumption, and call us to live simply and walk humbly within creation;

Loving Creator God, forgive us.

Call us to practice wise and respectful stewardship of this planet that we leave to future generations;

Loving Creator God, change our hearts.

Give us humility, compassion and courage as we look to the future in new ways, seeing all creation as a reflection of God;

Loving Creator God, give us new vision.

Show us how to welcome the stranger displaced by climate crises;

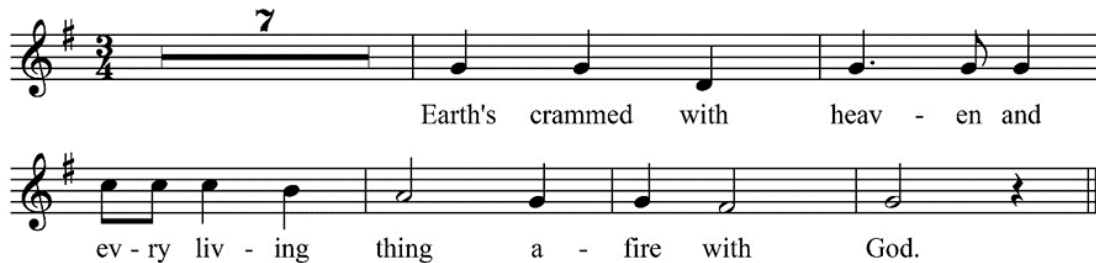
Loving Creator God, show us the way.

We rejoice in the ever-evolving beauty, complexity, and power of your creation and hear your call to act as the formed-out-of-Earth children of God that we are;

We thank you for calling us into a new relationship with you, our neighbors, and all creation.

Silence will be kept for a time.

Remind us that when the journey of life in the world is complete, we take with us only what we have built inside ourselves: treasures of the heart, love and integrity, friendship and generosity. We pray for these in Jesus' name. **Amen.**



THE PEACE

Shalom, the Peace of Christ is always with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

“Lord of The Dance” - Mark Hayes

Krista Donough, Soprano, and Chris Henke, piano

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Holy One, attune us to your wisdom deep in creation. Make our spirits sensitive to the forces of nature at work around us and the sufferings of all experiencing severe changes in their climate. Make our hearts sensitive to the songs of celebration from the wind, the land and the sea, joining in the chorus of praise throughout the cosmos as we sing,



O God, your presence is the living impulse in all things, the Christ deep within us.

Filling earth, sea and air; filling every element and place;

Filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Making us in your image, you love and care for us, your children.

In the middle of all creation, and especially within the life and choices of Jesus of Nazareth, we see your hand at work, bringing new life out of the old. We see you, God, yearning to bring new life today.

By your spirit, O God, and by this story we tell, sanctify these gifts to be for us the Body and Blood of Christ.

On the night Jesus 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, gave thanks, and said:

“Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant, which is given for you and the world as a sign of God’s blessing. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Ever-present God, we now celebrate the memory and promise within the life of Jesus of Nazareth. By means of this bread and cup, we proclaim the victory of life over death, the power of resurrection. May the Spirit through the ages fill all creation today.

Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body. Make us a family of praise and celebration.

Through Christ, yesterday, today and tomorrow, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, honor and glory are yours, Ever-present God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Mother, 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE FRACTION *The breaking of the bread symbolizes that, out of the broken places of our lives, new life will grow.*

Out of the broken places God creates new life.

THE INVITATION

This gift of God’s creation is consecrated within and for the family of Christ, both near and far, and is shared with all who desire to receive it.

THE COMMUNION

For those who are worshiping in person, please know that you are welcome to receive communion no matter how old you are, whether or not you have been baptized or if you belong to any church. This is God’s table and all are welcome. Gluten-free wafers are available. We are not yet serving wine or grape juice at the Eucharist, even though the common cup is now generally in use. Some years ago Redeemer made a conscience decision that, as a simple matter of justice, we would serve both wine and grape juice for communion. It was a choice we made to again affirm that ALL ARE WELCOME at Redeemer. Grape juice is not permitted at this time and because of that, the Vestry has determined that until we can ALL drink from the cup, it will not be offered. It is a matter of justice central to who we are as a community of faith.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Embracing God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food of Jesus, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this meal we share may be to us both a comfort and a pledge of our inheritance in that realm where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

ELLACOMBE 8.6.8.6 D

("I Sing the Mighty Power of God"; "Hail To the Lord's Anointed")

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; Your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn To offer you their praise.
You made the pets we welcome in — They're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, They offer praise to you.
O God, you call us to embrace These creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace To all pets everywhere.
You made the creatures on each farm; You know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm, And safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep, You know their joy, their pain.
God, bless the animals we keep; May all farms be humane.
Your creatures live in every land; They fill the sky and sea.
O God, you give us your command To love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here — To care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, We offer you our praise.

Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzoglich Württembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784 ("I Sing the Mighty Power of God"; "Hail To the Lord's Anointed")

Alternate tune: FOREST GREEN, Traditional English melody; English Hymnal, 1906 ("All Beautiful the March of Days")

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "O Lux, Beata Trinitas" - Weckmann



In this Season of Creation, Redeemer continues to create... we are creating hope, dreams, and visions of our own future as we work in earnest to complete all the work that is required of us to enable us to call our next Priest.

The Search Team made up of Veronica, Debi, Melissa, Barb, Paul, Paulette, Agnes and Colleen are all hard at work integrating all that was created earlier with what was shared online and in the tabletop discussions at our gathering. As soon as we get that all set, we will share it once again with everyone for your chance to see it and add to it before placing it in the hands of the Bishop when she visits on October 25th (fingers and toes all crossed). Your prayers, love and support are deeply appreciated.

I am reminded of how “we each have a story and our stories have power...” Redeemer has a remarkable story of resilience and determination. We choose every day in every way to be there not only for each other but also for others. This is lived out every year during the Season of Lent. In 2012, we began including a Contemporary Passion reading on Good Friday in which we read the Passion of Christ juxtaposed with contemporary passions; of migrants detained, of asylum seekers beheaded, of our environment destroyed by power and abuse. Also since 2012, we have taken to the streets on Good Friday as we follow the Cross into the community standing at the Zufall Clinic offering health care to those who are denied, at the Market Street Mission providing housing for those who have none, at the banks of the Whippany River impacted by environmental degradation, to the Court House in protest of gun violence, to sites of ICE action and abuse within the community, and always to the site of the original Redeemer on the corner of Pine and Morris where day laborers gather seeking work... Redeemer has stories and our stories have power. Be a part of where this journey takes us as our story continues to unfold. Thanks be to God!

And today is Animal Blessing Sunday! Pure joy awaits as our companions join us in church and on zoom to receive their blessings. They each have a story and their story has great power over our hearts!

Colleen Hintz for the Vestry

ANNOUNCEMENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

* **The Serendipity Stitchers** welcome you. 1st and 3rd **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.**

Our gatherings are full of laughter, delicious treats, and plenty of good company. No experience necessary. Please get in touch with Veronica for more information.

Volunteers needed for the **Festival of Books in Morristown, Saturday, October 10th** for the following times (you can sign up for more than one spot)



9:30–11:30 AM

11:30-1:00 PM

1:15-3:15 PM

3:15-5:15 PM The event is great fun for book lovers! You meet authors, can buy new books, and hear great stories. A sign-up form will be near the ushers table.

* **The Book Group meets online at 7pm:**

10/26 - THE COUNTRY PEOPLE - Daniel Mason

Joyous, absurd, and life-affirming, *Country People* is a luminous exploration of marriage and parenthood, the nature of belief and the power of stories, and the ways in which we find connection in an increasingly fragmented world. *Please support your local bookshop* and Redeemer by ordering from our online Bookshop. <https://bookshop.org/shop/Redeemer>

***Earth Ministry & Environmental Sustainability Pace y bene! (peace and goodness to you!) The Blessing of Animals and Feast of St. Francis is upon us!** Most of us know him as the statue with the funky haircut and robe on in people's gardens. Francis was a fascinating and complex person in 12th century Italy, who together with Clare of Assisi, transformed Christianity at the time with their witness to living as Jesus taught: the values of serving those who were poor, building community, rebuilding the church, justice- and peacemaking, commitment to poverty or voluntary simplicity, and for having religious visions and being mystics. Known for caring for those suffering, to be preaching to birds, often in mystical experiences with the Divine in nature, as well as experiencing the stigmata (the crucifixion wounds of Jesus,) he is a perfect example of environmental justice. In the example of Francis' understanding of Earth community, this Sunday we celebrate our relationships with our animal loved ones and have them blessed in gratitude for being in our lives, past or present.

- Consider these rich images of him on <https://tinyurl.com/yzv7tpxb>
- and <https://tinyurl.com/36jcnfsy>
- or watch the movie *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*

Garden of Hope: We continue to tend the garden with our gifts of time, talent, and land, and grow fresh veggies for our neighbors who are food insecure, although the growing season is winding down.. Harvests of string beans and tomatoes continue to be harvested and donated. Thank you to all involved in this ministry tending the garden, including those bringing food waste for the compost!

* **Dia de Los Muertos:** The Morristown community has invited us to celebrate the **Mexican Dia de Los Muertos/Day of the Dead Festival on 11/1/2026, from 1-5PM**. Mark your calendars for this wonderful event! This coincides with our Feast of All Saints and we will build an ofrenda/altar in church for our loved ones who have died. We invite you to participate in our ofrenda and in the walk around Morristown. To get an entertaining intro to this concept, see the trailer (or watch the full movie) for *Coco* on <https://tinyurl.com/55xrdvra>.

We invite you to participate in the festival at Redeemer in some way, and we will need:

Our ofrenda/altar set up in church for our beloved dead open to the public.

Set-up will happen on Saturday, 10/31 in the afternoon.

Clean up & break down the altar in the evening after the open session on 11/1, Sunday.

Redeemer welcomers/altar guardians for 1-2 hour shifts when we are open.

Redeemerites who can share some edible hospitality.

Redeemerites willing to bring framed photos/copies of your beloved dead to participate in the ofrenda, to bring to church on 10/31, or to be dropped off at the church office before then. A framed color copy works also. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of church soon.

Contact Peg for more info at [pegonplanetearth\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:pegonplanetearth@gmail.com)

Keep updated with all that is going on at Redeemer

Visit our website: <https://redeermorristown.org/> for further information and to sign up for our newsletter.

Please "like" and check out our Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/FBchurch> or follow us on Instagram - @RedeemerMorristown - <http://bit.ly/Instachurch>.

We are now on BlueSky @redeermorristown.bsky.social , <https://bit.ly/RedeemerBSKY>



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Or (can you tell we want to make it easy for you?!), go to: <http://tinyurl.com/RedeemerDonateNow>



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

CELEBRATING LOVE. DOING JUSTICE.

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