



Sunday, August 9, 2026

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to The Beloved Community at The Trees, an Episcopal faith community exploring together what a life of faith “outside of a church” may be. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we believe that all people are God’s beloved and all are welcome, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual identity, ability, faith background, or belief.

In our Baptismal Covenant, we affirm that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. To remember our baptismal promises, that all are God’s beloved, and that we are all one in Christ, we begin each worship gathering with the “Blessing of the Water.”

Gathering the Community

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Opening Song

Sing a New World into Being

Mary Louise Bringle

NETTLETON

Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second 1813



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race.
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry

Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;

dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.
 where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.
 where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
 when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
 Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
 Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
 Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

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Blessing of the Water

From the Book of Common Prayer

Reader We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Celebrant Now bless this water, we pray you, that it may be a sign to us of our Baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Acclamation

From the Anglican Church of Australia

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Deacon We come by the grace of the one God, creator of beauty, lover of justice.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

Deacon We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, one with us in sorrow and in joy.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

Deacon We are one in the Spirit who fills the Church, breath of life, making all things new.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

Deacon Come and worship the holy and glorious Trinity, as we pray together:

People **God of the feast,
your Wisdom calls us,
your Word teaches us and you feed us with your life.
Give us grace to welcome one another
as you have welcomed us in Christ Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

The Collect

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And within you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Narrative Lectionary Theme ~ Mary and Rhoda / Women Proclaiming Jesus's Resurrection

The First Reading

Acts 12:1–17 ~ NRSVUE

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared,

and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, “Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.” He did so. Then he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel’s help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.”

As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. On recognizing Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, “You are out of your mind!” But she insisted that it was so. They said, “It is his angel.” Meanwhile Peter continued knocking, and when they opened the gate they saw him and were amazed. He motioned to them with his hand to be silent and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, “Tell this to James and to the brothers and sisters.” Then he left and went to another place.

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Psalm

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

**“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”**

**I shall not die, but I shall live
and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

**The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.**

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

**This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:1–12

Deacon The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb;

stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

Lectionary Discussion

What did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention? What good news did you hear?

During this time you are invited to share your thoughts, questions, or insights about our readings.

A Feminist Apostles Creed

People **I believe in God, our Mother Bear, source of all being.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's wisdom made flesh,
along with Sophia, the church, and all that live in wisdom.
Born of the bad-ass womanist liberation theologian, Mary,
suffered under the systems of oppression of this world,
was crucified, died, and was buried,
forever joining in solidarity with those murdered by Empire.
On the third day, the women declared him risen;
signifying God's "No" to oppression.
He points to God our Mother Bear,
who works in this world, calling for justice for the poor and oppressed.**

**I believe in Sophia Spirit,
Christ's body, the church,
the communion of saints,
the grace to reject this world's systems,
hope for justice in the future,
and renewed life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Celebrant In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers to God. We remember those among us and those we love in our prayers; especially Alayna, Anthony, Billy, Bob, Chris, Gregory, Karen, Kerry, Mandie, Marie, Maureen, Nikki, September, and Susan.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said. You are also invited to share your prayers on a prayer card and place it in the offering basket next to the baptismal font. Someone from The Beloved Community will take your card home and pray for you over the coming week.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said.

This is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

After all prayers have been shared.

Celebrant God of peace, let us your people know, that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ.

All **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Deacon We remember that the Lord Jesus died to take away our sins.

A moment of silence for private prayer.

Deacon Let us confess our sins to the God who knows us through and through.

People **Holy God, we have disobeyed your commandments,
we have resisted your call,
we have failed to live by your generous love.**

We are sorry for all our sins,
and ask you to forgive us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Celebrant God who has called us is faithful,
and will not remember our sins.

Your sins are forgiven,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Live by the Spirit's transforming power,
and forgive as you have been forgiven. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

During this time we will share announcements for The Beloved Community at The Trees and others.

The Offering

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God

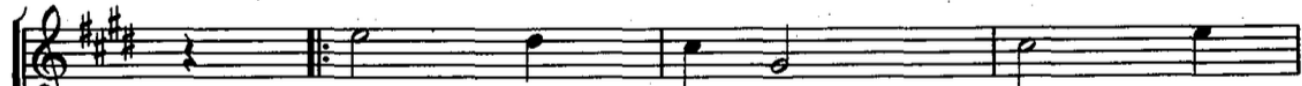
You are invited to share your gifts, financial or other, with the gathered community. During this time of preparation for the Holy Community, you are also invited to remember your baptism.

Music for Preparation

178

Easter

Descant



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give

Praise to his Name. Name.
praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le -
Now we shall live for ev - er.
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

The descant may be sung after stanzas 3 and 4.

Words: Donald Fishel (b. 1950)

Music: *Alleluia No. 1*, Donald Fishel (b. 1950); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928),
Charles Mallory (b. 1950) and George Mims (b. 1938)

887. 85

Music: Arrangement copyright © 1979, Celebration.

The Presentation of Our Offerings to God

Celebrant All things come of Thee O Lord,

People **And of Thine own have we given Thee.**

The Holy Communion

From The Anglican Church of Canada, Eucharistic Prayer 2

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Eternal God, Source of all being,
we give you thanks and praise
for your faithful love.
You call us into friendship
with you and one another
to be your holy people,
a sign of your presence in the world.

When those we trust betray us,
unfailing you remain with us.
When we injure others,
you confront us in your love
and call us to the paths of righteousness.
You stand with the weak,
and those, broken and alone,
whom you have always welcomed home,
making the first last, and the last first.
Therefore we raise our voices
with angels and archangels,
forever praising you and saying:

All

**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

Blessed are you, O Holy One:
when Hagar was driven into the wilderness
you followed her and gave her hope.
When Joseph was sold into bondage,
you turned malice to your people's good.
When you called Israel out of slavery,
you brought them through the wilderness
into the promised land.
When your people were taken into exile
you wept with them by the river of Babylon
and carried them home.

People

Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Celebrant

At the right time you sent your Anointed One
to stand with the poor,
the outcast, and the oppressed.
Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them.

He accepted water from a woman of Samaria
and offered her the water of new life.
Christ knew the desolation of the cross
and opened the way for all humanity
into the redemption of your reconciling love.

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread,
gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine,
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, and said,
“Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Loving and Holy One,
recalling Christ’s death and resurrection,
we offer you these gifts,
longing for the bread of tomorrow
and the wine of the age to come.
Therefore we proclaim our hope.

People

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Celebrant

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts
that through them you may sustain us
in our hunger for your peace.
We hold before you
all whose lives are marked by suffering,
our Beloved siblings.
When we are broken and cast aside,
embrace us in your love.

People

Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Celebrant

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O Source of all life,
now and for ever.

People

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Womanist Lord's Prayer, Rev. Yolanda Norton

Celebrant

And now, as our Saviour Christ
has taught us,
we are bold to say,

All

**Our Mother,
who is in heaven and within us,
we call upon your names.
Your wisdom come,
Your will be done,
in all the spaces in which you dwell.
Give us each day
sustenance and perseverance.
Remind us of our limits
as we give grace to the limits of others.
Separate us from the temptation of empire,
and deliver us into community.
For you are the dwelling place within us,
the empowerment around us
and the celebration among us,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread And The Communion

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant

"I am the bread which has come down from
heaven," says the Lord.

All

Give us this bread for ever.

Celebrant

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

All

May we dwell in him, as he lives in us.

Celebrant

The gifts of God for the People of God.

People

Thanks be to God.

We will observe a few moments of quiet for personal prayer and reflection following the Eucharist. You are invited to pray where you are or move about the space. Deacon Dan is available for healing prayers and anointing during this time.

Taize & Contemplation

Taste and see

Wonder Love and Praise, #764

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness

of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and

see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Fine

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All your works praise you, O Lord.

All

And your faithful servants bless you.

Gracious God

**we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son
Jesus Christ.**

**May we, who share his body,
live his risen life;
we, who drink his cup,
bring life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights,
give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant Beloved, remember, you are one in whom Christ delights and dwells.
You live in the strong and unshakeable kingdom of God.
The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither are you.

And the blessing of God almighty,
our most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity,
be among you this day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Prayer for Our Shared Meal

Deacon Bless the food that you have made, and human hands have prepared. May it satisfy our hunger, and in sharing it together may we come closer to one another. **Amen.**

Commissioning of Josiah Colby

Celebrant Today, we gather as a community of faith to commission and bless you—Josiah—as you step into this new season of life and learning.

You are about to enter a chapter filled with opportunities, challenges, and growth. As you go, we send you not only with our love, but with our prayers and the promises of God.

We commission you to go in the strength of the Lord. *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the Lord your God goes with you”* (Deuteronomy 31:6). Trust that wherever you walk, God walks with you.

All **God go before you to lead you**

Celebrant We commission you to seek wisdom—not just knowledge. *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault”* (James 1:5). Let your education be a tool God uses to form your calling. Created in God’s image, you were created to learn and discern.

All **God go above you to watch over you**

Celebrant We commission you to be a light in dark places, a peacemaker in divided spaces, and a vessel of Christ’s love wherever you go. Let your faith shape your studies, your relationships, and every decision you make.

All **God go behind you to protect you**

Celebrant We commission you to remain rooted in Christ. May you come to know *how wide and long, how high and deep the love of Christ is for you*, and for all that God has made. (Eph. 3:18) May prayer, Scripture, and Christian community anchor your heart.

All **God go beneath you to support you**

Celebrant We commission you to go with boldness, knowing that God has already gone before you. And so, go with this blessing

All **God goes before you to lead you, behind you to protect you**

God goes beneath you to support you, above you to watch over you

And God is always beside you to befriend you.

Celebrant Do not be afraid. May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost be with you and remain on you always.

All **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia !**

You are invited to join our community for a shared meal of soup/salad and bread immediately following our worship service.

We are grateful for our sending parish, The Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, who supported The Beloved Community with their presence, prayer, and resources for our first year.

We are grateful for the use of The Trees, graciously provided to us at no cost by St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham. We also give thanks to St. Philip's for the gift of flowers and printing. Each Sunday, St. Philip's shares their flowers with The Beloved Community so that we too may enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the ancestral territory of the Eno, the Tuscarora, the Occaneechi, and others.

We are grateful that you are with us. Your presence is a gift to The Beloved Community at the Trees, and that is enough. If you would like to support our community financially, you can do so by leaving your offering in the basket.

The Beloved Community at The Trees

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