



Christ Episcopal Church
Roxbury, Connecticut

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026

A Service of Morning Prayer

Ringling of the Bells

At ten minutes before the hour, the altar candles are lit to signal the traditional beginning of silent prayer and preparation for the liturgy, as aided by an organ prelude. Worshipers are reminded that cellular phones and other electronic devices should be silenced.

Prelude *But the Lord is Mindful of His Own* from the oratorio *St. Paul*, Opus 36, of Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome

Worship Leader, Patrick Roy

Opening Hymn *Now Thank We All Our God*

Hymn 397 vv. 1 and 2

Officiant: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. *Psalm 19:1*

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together,

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. *Amen.***

The Absolution

Officiant:

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

**People: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
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.**

Officiant: This is the day the Creator has made

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Venite In Unison *Psalm 95:1-7*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 103: 8-13 *In Unison*

- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

The Lessons

A Reading from Genesis (50:15-21)

Read by Tom O'Connor

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 12 *In Unison* A Song of Creation, II. The Earth and its Creatures Led by Tom O'Connor

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,
and all that grows upon the earth, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans (14:1-12)

Read by Tom O'Connor

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.

The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God.

Hymn *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

Hymn 174 vv. 1 and 2

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (18:21-35)

Read by Patrick Roy

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."

Officiant: The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Jim Stanton, Lay Preacher

The Apostles' Creed *In Unison, please stand if possible*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

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 Peace

Officiant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Please greet each other in whatever way you are comfortable.

Announcements Please be seated.

The Offertory

Officiant: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

Hymn 427 vv. as required

*During the offertory hymn, the ushers will collect your gifts and bring them to God's Holy Table.
The Officiant receives the gifts and all sing:*

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

ARRANGED & VOICED BY
GREGORY J. CAVA

INTRODUCTION

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow.

Praise him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove ye heaven - ly host: Praise Fa-ther,

Son, and Ho - ly Ghost A - men.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**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.**

Suffrages A. *From a Season of Creation*

V. Show your creatures mercy, O Creator;

R. And grant all Creation your restoration.

V. Clothe your beloved ones with all goodness;

R. Let your creatures sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Creator, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in harmony.

V. Keep every tribe and community under your wing;

R. And guide us in the way of universal communion.

V. Let your way of love be known upon earth;

R. Your uniting wholeness among all divisions.

V. Let not those in need, O God, be lost;

R. Nor the hope of the endangered be taken away.

V. Put in us new soft hearts of flesh, O God;

R. And inspire us with your Holy Breath who sustains us.

The Collect

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 Guidance *In Unison*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Mission *In Unison*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People (Based on Form VI)

Led by Patrick Roy

Please stand or kneel as able.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people and creatures in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, neighbors, all living things and for those who are alone.

For this our waters, lands and air; this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper dwelling in your Creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, oppression, extinction and climate change.

For all creatures who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For all living beings who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Creation of God;

For all people and all of nature who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our presiding bishop, Jeffrey and Laura our bishops, the ministers of Christ Church Roxbury, and all spiritual leaders who proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

For all who serve God in his Creation.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *Silence*

We remember especially those for whom prayers have been requested: Addison Jade, Ainsley, Ana, Angelica, Annie, Bobby, Charlie, Chris, David, Deb, Deke, Denise, Diane, Drew, Ed, Genesis, Gwynn, James and Robert, Jamie, Jane, Jean, Jeffrey, Jerry, Joan, John, John and Pam, Judy and Mike, Judith, Kathy, Lance, Lily, Linda, Meg, Mia, Millie, Mike Snowden's family, Pat, Peter, Ryan, Sara, Sheila, Steve and Lisbet, Sydney, Timothy, and those we name before you aloud and in our hearts.

We also offer our prayers for Patrick Roy and Gary Silva as they prepare to enter the sacred bond of marriage.

Silence

Hear us Lord;

For we put our trust in you.

We pray for an end to war and all acts of violence of one group of people against another.

We pray for peace in the Holy Land.

We pray for an end to the violence and polarization that plague our communities.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

Silence

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life and the gifts of your Creation.

Please add your own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our Creator;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all living beings who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. We pray for the immortal souls of the soldiers and innocent civilians who have lost their lives in the war in the Middle East. We especially remember those who were lost in the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Silence Please add your own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon all;

Whom you have created and sustained.

A Prayer While Awaiting a New Shepherd *In Unison*

Loving and Faithful God, You have guided our parish through seasons of joy and challenge. As we wait for the shepherd You have chosen for us, fill our hearts with patience, unity, and hope.

Bless those entrusted with the call to discern and decide. Prepare the heart of our future priest with wisdom, compassion, and courage, that they may lead us closer to You and serve with humility and love. Keep us steadfast in prayer, generous in service, and open to the new chapter You are writing for our community. May Your Spirit be our guide until we welcome our new pastor with joy. In Jesus' name we pray, *Amen*.

Officiant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for People Critically Ill or Facing Great Uncertainty *In Unison*

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you.

- Adapted from New Zealand Prayer Book, p.765

A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis *In Unison*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen*

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn “*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*”

Hymn 674

Officiant: Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. *Amen. Colossians 1:15-16*

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *A Sicilienne* attributed to Daniel Gottlob Türk (1750-1813)

Ringling of the Bells

Thank You to our Ministers Today

Worship Leader: Patrick Roy

Music Minister: Mr. Gregory J. Cava

Lector: Tom O'Connor

Lay Preacher: Jim Stanton

Welcoming: Tom O'Connor

Altar Guild Chair: Deb Howes

Sonneur: Larry Apolzon Allemeur: Ed Friedman

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Cover Art: The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Claude Vignon, 1593-1670

Announcements

Portions of today's service are adapted from *Season of Creation, An Ecumenical Celebration*, developed by the World Council of Churches. During the Season of Creation, from September 1st through October 4th. We join with Christians around the world to celebrate in prayer and action our Gospel calling to protect the Earth that God entrusted to our care.

Come and Enjoy **Coffee and Friendship** in the Parish Hall following today's service.

There will be **Healing Prayer** today during the postlude in the back of the church, or speak with our healing minister, Judy Martinez.

Join friends and neighbors at **Bernhardt Meadow for Compline and Healing Prayer** on Wednesday, September 15th at 4:00 PM. All are Welcome!

Next Sunday, September 20th, at 9:30 AM, we welcome Canon D. Littlepage to celebrate the Holy Eucharist with us. Canon D. is the Canon for Advocacy, Racial Justice & Reconciliation

Tuesday, September 22nd, is the next regular Vestry Meeting at 6:30 PM in the parish hall and via ZOOM.

Come to The Blessing of the Animals, Saturday, October 3rd, 10:00 AM.

The Rev. Jack Gilpin will be on hand to give our animal friends a special blessing.

On Sunday, October 4th, at 9:30 AM, we will honor Emergency Responders with a Joint Ecumenical Service with the Roxbury Congregational Church. Reverend Jack Gilpin and Reverend David Peters will officiate.



Christ Episcopal Church

4 Wellers Bridge Rd, PO Box 4, Roxbury CT 06783-00040.

Office phone 860-355-3695 Email: christchurchroxbury@gmail.com

Warden: Dona Murphy, 860-354-6760

Warden: Steve Morris, 203-910-3138



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

The Right Reverend, Jeffrey Mello, Bishop Diocesan

The Right Reverend Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan