



Christ Episcopal Church
Roxbury, Connecticut

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 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 The Theme and Variation No. 4 from the *Six Variations* on *Nel cor piu non mi sento* (“In the heart I don’t feel anymore”) [WoO 70] of Ludwig van Beethoven

Welcome

Worship Leader, Judy Martinez

Opening Hymn *At the Name of Jesus*

Hymn 435 vv. 1, 2 and 6

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 25: 1-8 *In Unison*

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

The Lessons

A Reading from Genesis (50:15-21)

Read by Deb Howes

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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 Deb Howes

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 Philippians (2:1-13) Read by Deb Howes

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 Father.

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 his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn *Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless*

Hymn 343 vv. 1 and 4

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (21:23-32)

Read by Judy Martinez

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.”

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 *What Wondrous Love is This*

Hymn 439 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 blessings flow.

Praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host: Praise Father,

Son, and Holy Ghost Amen.

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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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, *Season of Creation Care*)) Led by Judy Martinez *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, Lisbet, Linnea, Trevor and the family of Steve Morris, Meg, Mia, Millie, Mike Snowden's family, Pat, Peter, Ryan, Sara, Sheila, 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 begin their new life in 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 lift up in prayer the immortal soul of our friend and warden, Steve Morris. We thank you for his faithful service to Christ Church. May he rest peacefully in your loving arms.

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 *Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing*

Hymn: 686

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 *The Waltz in A-Flat Major* [Opus 39 No.15] of Johannes Brahms

Ringling of the Bells

Thank You to our Ministers Today

Worship Leader: Judy Martinez

Music Minister: Mr. Gregory J. Cava

Lector: Deb Howes

Lay Preacher: Jim Stanton

Welcoming: Linda West

Altar Guild Chair: Deb Howes

Sonneur: Larry Apolzon Allemeur: Ed Friedman

Announcements

Congratulations to Patrick Roy and Gary Silva who were married at Christ Church yesterday!

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.

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.

Annie and Safari Bob Return on October 10th at 2:00 PM for a lively show of song, puppetry and audience participation! Volunteers are needed.



Christ Episcopal Church

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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 Suffrages