



**ST. JAMES'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost:  
The Season of Creation - "Act"**

**September 17, 2023  
10:30 am**

*Welcome to St. James's!*

*We're glad that you have joined us today to enjoy the blessings of worship  
and to participate with us in God's mission in the world of justice and love.*

*However you come to this place,  
exhausted or energized by life, comfortable with church or not,  
gay or straight, trans, nonbinary, cisfemale or cismale;  
of color or white, neurodivergent or neurotypical,  
differently-abled or able-bodied, younger or older!*

*Whoever you are,  
know the people of St. James's strive to love and welcome you as God does,  
unconditionally and completely just as you are!*

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**10:30 am** The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

<i>Acolytes</i>	Marian King, Jonte Folkes
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Laverne Agard-Lynch, JT Kittredge
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Patrick Michaels
<i>Preacher &amp; Presider</i>	The Rev. Matthew Stewart
<i>Readers</i>	Susan Donnelly, Alfred Ironside
<i>Usher</i>	Nancy McArdle
<i>Videographer</i>	Michael Anthony
<i>Welcomer</i>	Nancy McArdle

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## **The Word of God**

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

**Tolling of the Bell**

# Opening Hymn: O beauty ever ancient

1 O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,  
2 O beau - ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,  
3 O beau - ty that is move - ment in li - quid line of grace,  
4 O beau - ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,

di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,  
O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark - ness as in light,  
O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,  
O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,

in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!  
in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!  
in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!  
in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff with treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains four lines of lyrics. The second system contains four lines of lyrics. The third system contains four lines of lyrics, all of which are identical: 'in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 2000. © 2000 Hope Publishing Co.  
Music: Alfred V. Fedak, 2007. © 2009 Selah Publishing Co.

## Opening Acclamation

*Presider* This is the day the Creator has made.

*People* Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## Collect for Purity

*All then pray*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Song of Praise: An Earth Alive



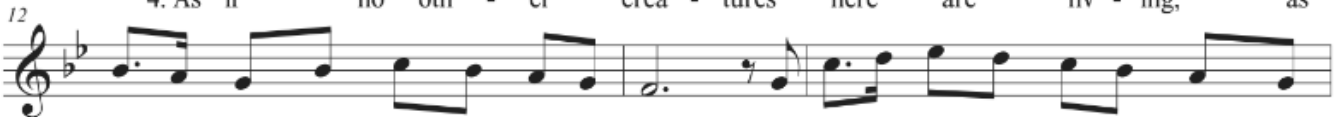
While Earth re - volves in giv-ing and re - ceiv-ing, each life a-part, and each a part of all,



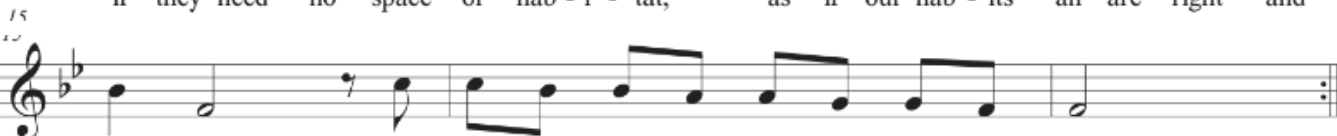
bestow-ing breath and tak-ing back a-gain - we sense our start, yet what will be our end?



1. As if the world has coal e - nough for ev - er, as  
2. As if the land is there for ex - ploi - ta - tion, as  
3. As if the wa - ter runs for - ev - er clear - ly, as  
4. As if no oth - er crea - tures here are liv - ing, as



if the Earth has oil and gas for free, as if the air can be re-stocked, re -  
if our wants should al - ways be ful - filled, as if the o - ceans live to hold our  
if the Earth is not our on - ly home, as if we are not part of some - thing  
if they need no space or hab - i - tat, as if our hab - its all are right and



plen - ished, we live with - out a con - cept of e - nough.  
gar - bage, we live with - out a con - cept of e - nough.  
larg - er, we live with - out a con - cept of e - nough.  
sa - cred, we live with - out a con - cept of e - nough.

Text and Music: Patrick Michaels, © 2020.  
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## The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Creator be with you.

*People* And also be with you.

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for our Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer, through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The First Reading:** Exodus 14:19-31

Susan Donnelly

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

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.

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

**Psalm 114** (All together)

Music: Sam Perlo-Freeman

When Is - ra - el came out of E - gypt, Ja - cob from a for - eign land,  
5 Ju - dah be came God's sanc - tu - ar - y and Is - rael God's do - min - ion.  
9 Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! \_\_\_\_\_

Hallelujah!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Second Reading

Susan Donnelly

A Reading from the Babylonian Talmud

While the sage, Honi, was walking along a road,  
he saw a man planting a carob tree.

Honi asked him, "How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?"

"Seventy years," replied the man.

Honi then asked, "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live  
that length of time and eat its fruit?"

The man answered, "I found a fruitful world because my ancestors  
planted it for me. Likewise I am planting for my children."

*Reader* Here ends the reading.

## Gospel Acclamation: Hallelujah, Amen

Scriptural

Patrick Michaels

Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men! Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men!

Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men! A - men, A - men!

Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men! Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men!



WL800055

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Music © 2015 by Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.

## The Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People* Glory to you, O Christ.

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."

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* Praise to you, O Christ.



## Reflection

The Rev. Matthew Stewart

*Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet,  
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.*

*(Love... Light... Christ...)*

## Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, who creates all things,  
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,  
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life,  
who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,  
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,  
who loves and cares for this world  
and who suffers with it.

And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,  
who came to reconcile and renew this world  
and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,  
who moves with God  
and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God.

And we believe in the hope that one day  
God will put an end to death and all that destroys.

## Prayers of the People

Alfred Ironside

Let us pray for the Church and for all the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as Christ loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

We pray especially for Vida Carrington, for Curtis Fisher and his upcoming back surgery, and for the family of Jaden McDaniels who died in a motorcycle accident.

You are now invited to share the prayers on your heart, aloud or in silence.

*A moment for intercessory prayer is now observed.*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*The community is invited to offer their prayers, aloud or in silence, at this time.*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*The Presider then says*

Great Spirit God, we give you thanks for another day on this earth.

We give you thanks for this day to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator. We acknowledge with one mind our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life. Bind us together in the circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and one another. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

*Presider* Let us confess our sin against God and God's creation.

*People* We confess our lack of gratitude  
for the beauty and bounty of your creation:  
teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.  
We confess that we have misused your earth:  
grant us amendment of life.  
We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:  
strengthen us in self-control.  
We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for  
granted: make us urgent now for its protection. Amen.

*Presider* God of compassion, heal our relationship with all creation.  
Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect of the world you have  
made. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent for the harm we have  
done and for what we have failed to do. Fill us with your Spirit,  
that we may care for one another and for all creatures,  
according to your will and in the fullness of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Presider* The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

*People* Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

*Presider* The peace of God be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

## Announcements & Celebrations

*The people are now invited to come forward to share announcements, birthday and anniversary blessing requests, or prayer requests. The community's prayer is then gathered as they sing together:*

May God bless you; May God keep you; May God's love be with you;  
May God grant you peace and wisdom; May God ever be with you.

# The Holy Communion

## Offertory Sentence

*Presider* Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

*At this time our gifts and offerings will be collected.*

**Offertory Anthem:** Mothering God  
*The Adult Choir*

Text: Jean Janzen  
Music: Patrick Michaels

**Presentation Hymn:** How shall we love thee



How shall we love you, ho-ly hid-den Be-ing, if we love not the world which you have  
made? Bind us in your own love for bet-ter see - ing: all life is ho - ly.  
Pray as Je - sus prayed: your king-dom come, O Lord, your will be done.

Words: Laurence Housman (1865-1959), alt.  
Music: *Langham*, Geoffrey Turton Shaw (1879-1843)

## The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer for Creation* (Rev. Nina Pooley)

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*The Presider chants*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of Christ's incarnation you have gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, calling your people to be ministers of reconciliation and to proclaim the Good News to all creation. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus**

WLP 785

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.  
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

*Presider*

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive. Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew. Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all.

*The Presider then chants*

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing:

### **Lord's Prayer** (Zambian)

SJS 1

*(Soloists sing the words in italics. The congregation joins in unitalicized language.)*

*Hear our plea, dear Father we pray;  
shower upon us your heav'nly grace  
that we may be your people*

Glorifying you.

Lord, our Father, in heaven abiding,  
may your name always be hallowed by us.  
Your will is righteous and ever consistent,  
in heaven and also on earth.

Give us this day what we really have need of.  
Please forgive us the sins we've committed.  
Help us forgive all the sins of our neighbor  
as you have forgiven us ours.

Far from temptation we ask you to lead us.  
Save us also from all that is evil.  
Yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory  
at this time and world without end.

*Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever.  
Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever.  
Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever.  
Forever and ever. Amen.*

Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever.  
Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever.  
Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever.  
Forever and ever. Amen.

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## The Breaking of the Bread (Silence is kept)

### Fraction Anthem: Many and great (Vs. 2 only)

H 385



1 Man - y and great, O God, are thy works, mak - er of  
2 Grant un - to us com - mun - ion with thee, thou star - a -

earth and sky; thy hands have set the hea - vens with stars;  
bid - ing one; come un - to us and dwell with us;

thy fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at thy  
with thee are found the gifts of life. Bless us with

word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey thy voice.  
life that has no end, e - ter - nal life with thee.

## The Invitation

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## Administration of Communion

*The people are invited to come forward to receive communion when directed by an usher.*

*Those that wish a contactless blessing or  
a gluten-free, allergen-free wafer are welcome to ask for that.*

*All are welcome and encouraged to receive Communion from God's table.*

**Communion Anthem: Our Life in the Spirit**  
*The Greenleaf Choir*

Text: John Thornburg  
Music: Patrick Michaels

# Communion Hymn: "What can I do?"

SJS 142

*Unison*

1 What can I do, I asked my Lord, to feed ev - ery  
 2 Give me the strength, I yearned with - in, to com - bat a  
 3 How can I speak, I hum - bly prayed, to hearts of the  
 4 What shall we do, I posed my Lord, with coun - tries that  
 5 I want to live, I cried a - loud, where jus - tice is

throng of hun - gry and poor? Then my Lord spoke with com -  
 world of ha - tred and sin. Then, as a chal - lenge, it  
 wound - ed, cap - tive, and stray? Pa - tient and cer - tain, my  
 waste and stock - pile and hoard? Cut - ting and per - son - al  
 prime and na - tions are proud! Then came a whis - per, so

pas - sion and care: have you but one loaf to share?  
 came from a - bove: turn first to your neigh - bor in love.  
 Teach - er I heard: al - ways be - gin with the Word.  
 was the re - ply: do you need all that you buy?  
 sim - ple and true:

live as my Son died for you.

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## Post Communion Prayer

*Presider* Let us pray.

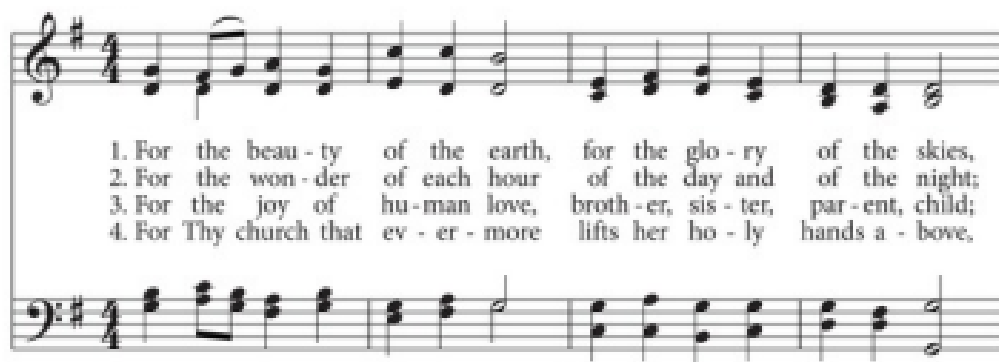
*People* Holy One, you feed us with bread from heaven  
and the gifts of mother earth.  
In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace  
and you call us to friendship with one another.  
You have given us the gift of reconciliation.  
May we who have tasted that gift from you,  
offer ourselves in peace and humility to one another.  
And may you always walk among us as friend. Amen.

## Blessing

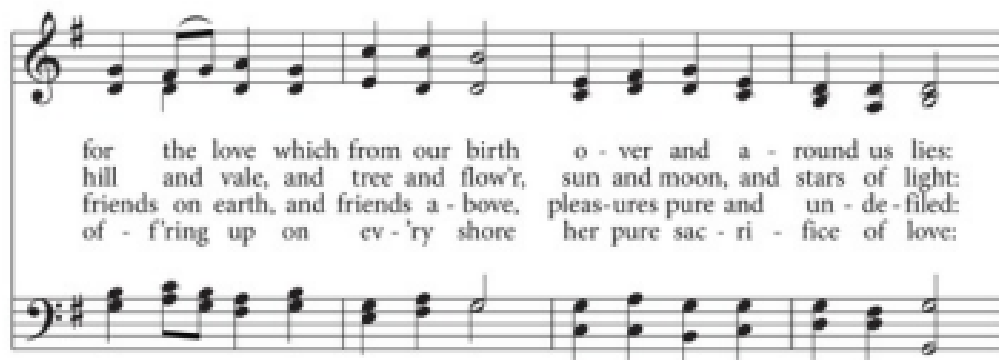
*Presider*

May God who established the dance of creation,  
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,  
Who transforms chaos to order,  
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church  
To listen to the voice of all creatures  
That reflect God's glory in creation.  
and the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: For the beauty of the earth



1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night;  
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child;  
 4. For Thy church that ev - er - more lifts her ho - ly hands a - bove,



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, pleas - ures pure and un - de - filed:  
 of - fring up on ev - 'ry shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love:



Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

5. For the joy of ear and eye,  
 for the heart and mind's delight,  
 for the mystic harmony  
 linking sense and sound and sight:  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

6. For Thyself, best gift divine,  
 to our world so freely giv'n;  
 for that great, great love of Thine,  
 peace on earth and joy in heav'n:  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

WORDS: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.

7.7.7.7.7.7

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; adapt. William Henry Monk, 1861

harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

## Dismissal

*Presider* Tend the earth, care for God's good Creation.  
As you have received freely, so give freely.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

## Postlude

*Saint James's Episcopal Church*  
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Website: [www.stjamescambridge.org](http://www.stjamescambridge.org)  
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Emergency Pastoral Line: 857-600-1329

*Interested in speaking to a priest or asking for prayers?*  
Email Rev. Matt at [matt@stjamescambridge.org](mailto:matt@stjamescambridge.org)

*Want to donate to St. James's? Visit the website  
or follow the QR code here:*



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**St. James's Episcopal Church Welcomes You!**

I am: \_\_\_\_\_ visiting just for today.                      I wish: \_\_\_\_\_ to be on the church mailing list.  
          \_\_\_\_\_ seeking a new church home.                      \_\_\_\_\_ to receive a call or email from St. James's.

Please circle items below you'd like information about:

Church School/Choir/Bible Study/Food Pantry

I'd like prayer for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill this form out and place it in the offering plate or the church office.