

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

The Season of Creation ~ Cosmos Sunday



The Episcopal Church of The Holy Innocents

28 September, 2025 ~ 9:30 AM

Bishop Sally French granted permission to use the liturgical material in this bulletin.

Welcome! In The Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion. **BCP** means The Book of Common Prayer (Red Book). You'll find the BCP and Hymnals in the pew rack in front of you.

Prelude *Voluntary*

Please use this time for quiet prayer and contemplation

Parish Notices

THE WORD OF GOD

Entrance Hymn #412 (*please stand*) *Earth and All Stars* vv. 1,2,3&5

EARTH AND ALL STARS

Celebrant Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People **The Holy One's love is new every morning.**

Celebrant 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. *All: Amen.*

Song of Praise Hymn #405 (*all sing*) *All Things Bright and Beautiful* ROYAL OAK

The Collect of the Day *Web of Creation webpage*

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the cosmos, we celebrate the wondrous design of the universe and the Wisdom that guides its course. Help us to discern how we are connected with living members of the cosmic community. Teach us to sense the presence of the cosmic Christ, whose presence fills and reconciles all forces in creation. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Proverbs 8:22-31

"The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth,
when he had not yet made earth and fields
or the world's first bits of soil.
When he established the heavens, I was there;
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker,
and I was daily his delight,
playing before him always,
playing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

(Read in unison)

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.

2 Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.

3 Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.

4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, *
and you waters above the heavens.
5 Let them praise the Name of the LORD; *
for he commanded, and they were created.
6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
7 Praise the LORD from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
9 Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
10 Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and wingèd birds;
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;
12 Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.
13 Let them praise the Name of the LORD, *
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.
14 He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!

The Epistle

Colossians 1:15-20

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. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come

to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #335 (*please stand*) *I Am the Bread of Life* I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

The Holy Gospel

John 6:41-51

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Then the Jews began to complain about Jesus because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

(*Please be Seated*)

The Rev. Peter De Franco

The Nicene Creed

(*Please Stand*)

BCP, p. 358

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People *Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music*

(The people may stand or kneel)

Celebrant Blessed God, whose love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and who puts in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying, "Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace."

Leader For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:

People **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray:

People **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray:

People **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures especially Colleen our Mayor, Philip our Governor, and Donald our President, that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray:

People **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray:

People **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need especially all those on our Parish Prayer List, and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources or their devastation by war, that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray:

People **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader For the gifts of science and technology and for those who practice these skills, that they may be wise, visionary, and compassionate in their work, we pray:

People **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader For this congregation as we begin our Stewardship Season that we may show our gratitude for the gifts we have received by sharing them with others and so create a future with hope, we pray:

People **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader For the creatures and the people of the earth whose lives and deaths have contributed to the fruitful abundance of this planet. We remember those who have died. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Sally our Bishop; for Peter our Supply Priest and for all bishops and other ministers, we pray:

People **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader Let us pray for the Vestry and Search Committee as they search for a new rector.

People **Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of the members of our Vestry and Search Committee who shall choose a new rector for Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant Gracious God: Grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Confession *From Season of Creation for Episcopal Parishes*

The People Kneel as Able

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbor and the created order.

Celebrant and People **God of compassion, have mercy upon us. Heal our relationship with all creation. Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect of the creatures who share the earth with us. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent for what we have done to harm them, and for what we have not done to**

help them. 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.

Absolution

BCP p. 360

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

The Peace *(All stand)*

Celebrant The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

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

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

Hymn #608 *(please be seated)* *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

MELITA

Presentation of the Gifts *(All stand)*

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee

Eucharistic Prayer *Scottish Liturgy 1982 Holy Eucharist for the Season of Creation*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, O God, Creator of all things visible and invisible, Source of life and immortality, whom the heavens praise, the sun and

moon and all the stars, the earth, the sea and all that is in them, in every place and at all times.

By your holy Word you brought order out of chaos. You divided light from darkness, created the heavens and established the earth; you divided the sea from the dry land, and caused all life to come into being. When you had made the plants and the animals, you formed humanity in your own image, and entrusted us with the priesthood of your Creation.

In Christ your holy Word became flesh, took our human form, lived among us, and, through dying on the cross, overcame sin and death, that your creation might be restored in him.

Through your life-giving Holy Spirit who first moved over the waters, you renew your creation, call us to new birth, in a world restored by love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, with all your creatures throughout space and time we offer you our praise, together with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Sanctus S-129 (all sing) *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

Robert Powell

The Celebrant continues (Please Kneel)

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, God our creator, for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. Christ is your holy Wisdom, existing beyond time, present at creation. Through Christ you revealed yourself in the world, and bring your saving work to its completion. Obedient to your will he died upon the Cross. By your power you raised him from the dead. He broke the bonds of evil and set your people free to be his Body in the world.

On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end. At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:

"Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."
We now obey your Son's command.

People **We recall his blessed passion and death,
we proclaim his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.**

Celebrant Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by the Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, St. Francis, St. Hildegarde, the apostles and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end.

Celebrant and People **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

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 Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the Consecrated Bread. The congregation observes a time of silence.

Fraction Anthem: S-154 (all sing) *Christ Our Passover*

David Hurd

(All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion.)

Postcommunion Prayer (Please stand) *Prayers of Intercession for Creation Time*

Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. May we be one with you so that our work is yours and your work is ours. Lead us to transform our lives to reflect your glory in Creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing *CTI Eco-Congregation Programme*

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 Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn (please stand) *For the Beauty of the Earth* (insert)

DIX

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve God's Creation.

People **Thanks be to God the Creator.**

Postlude *Voluntary*

Serving Today

Crucifer ~ John Wall **Lector** ~ Bill Kehr

Ushers ~ Rob Meyer, Bob Weidmann **Chalice Bearer** ~ Bill Kehr

Thank you to Barbara Wheeler for playing for us this morning!

Please join us in Martin Hall for Coffee & Fellowship!

Fr. Peter will offer prayers and anointing for healing in the chapel today immediately following the Holy Eucharist for anyone who would like this ministry. Persons can come into the chapel and request healing prayer for themselves or for others.

Parish Prayer List – September 28, 2025

PLEASE NOTE: *This is the last Sunday in September. All names will be removed from the prayer list unless you have requested to leave them on. If you need to add or remove a name, please contact Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator by Wednesday, October 1st.*

Lara Sparks Deitz	Mary Ann Crewdson	Dennis
Christian Balint	Christine Hendricks	Warren Lamon
Ann White	Pierro Family	Lovas Family
Debbie & Joe Reising	Connie	Joe
Peg Appleget	Dcn. Judy	Lynne Weidmann
Meg Neff	Rob Meyer	Tino
Florence Lamon	Melanie Harman	Pat
Kathy Rice	Jessie	Rich Cashel
Charles Sullivan	Doug Hunter	JoAnn King
Ellis Barbieri	Judy Hamilton	Cindy Wood
Diane	Ray M.	Gia
Jeannine	Phil	Frank
Fran Iozzi	Johnny Johnson, Jr.	Bill Bentley
Dr. John	Scott	Nellie Riley
Mike Phillips	Adam Boulderstone	Chris Mercer
Katie Gillis	Frank, III	Will Locovare
Pilar Wolfe	Ollie	Milt
Ben Giannico	Bill O'Connell	Mary Jane Mannherz
Glenn Servetah	Mary K.	Tom Serpico
George Balch	Barbara Wheeler	Pat Strocchia
Barbara	Rose Federici	Devin Hone
Rick Rosenbaum	Scotty Camarote	
Family & Friends of Marie Kleber		Family & Friends of Alycia Mullin

Those serving in the military and other dangerous professions:

Paul Bailey, Justin A. Dumhart, Joseph Alexander, Danny Melega, Andrew Wall, Brandan White

Birthdays: Natalie Aftanis (09/29)

Altar Flowers: This week's altar flowers are given in memory of Bob Hunter by Debbie & Dave Hunter and to the Glory of God.

WEEKLY ONLINE CALENDAR September 28 – October 4

28 – Sun	Ellen Cook (DiGiacomo) Committal Service	1:00 PM
29 – Mon	Morning Prayer (FB)	9:00 AM
	Chair Yoga in MH	9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
30 – Tues	Ladies Exercise Group	9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
02 – Thurs	Ladies Exercise Group	9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
	Book/Bible Study	2:00 PM
	“Clam Diggers” AA Group	7:30 PM
	Compline (FB)	9:00 PM
03 – Fri	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
04 – Sat	Blessing of the Animals	1:00PM – 2:00PM



Our Annual Auction date is set for **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9th at 6:00pm** and we will return to the Shell.

Thank you Tom Hughes and the Shell for hosting us!

Tickets are \$75.00 and are now on sale from the church office or Contact: Maggie Aftanis at 609-492-5271.



Oct. 4 – St. Francis Day Annual Blessing of the Animals
1:00pm-2:00pm

Oct. 8 – Auction Preview Day in Martin Hall 2:00pm-6:00pm

Oct. 9 – Annual Silent Bid Auction at Sea Shell at 6:00 p.m.

Oct. 26th – Blessing of the Pledges & Brunch Celebration

Nov. 2 – All Saints' Sunday

Nov. 8 – Antiques Appraisal Day, hosted by the

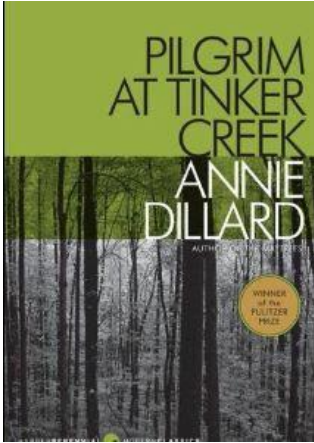
ECW 10:00am-2:00pm

Nov. 22 – Diocese of NJ Annual Convention (delegates attend)

Dec. 3 – ECW Christmas Luncheon at Buckalew's-Time TBD

Dec. 6 – Messiah Sing at 4:00 p.m.

Dec. 12 – Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols 7:00pm



Bible Study Thursdays at 2:00 PM in Martin Hall

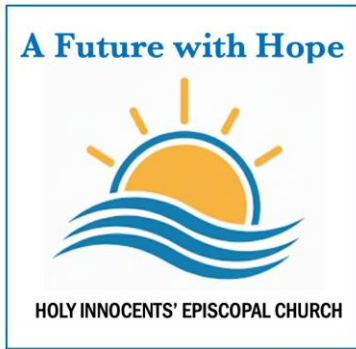
Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard.

Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Dillard takes us on a journey in nature through the seasons, encouraging us to see with eyes of wonder.

Text or email Leila Sullivan, 919-280-4602, for more info or Zoom link.



ANNUAL PET BLESSING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th
From 1 PM to 2 PM



Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign is underway, *A Future with Hope!* The theme for this year references our future in many different ways: a future with a bright strong forecast for our parish, our future with a new priest on the horizon and a future for our island and the world with continued caring environmental stewardship. Do you see the tie-in to the Season of Creation we are exploring this month?

We continue to give testament to our faith in God and our church as we work together toward our goals, encouraging us to grow, thrive and look to the future with positivity. Shortly, you will receive a pledge card and stewardship materials in the mail. When you do, take a moment to prayerfully consider your many blessings. It is out of a profound sense of gratitude for God's many gifts that we make the choice to return some of what we have. ~ *Patricia Peacock*



Donate your way.

Give one time, anytime or
set up a recurring donation.

CLERGY & STAFF

Rev. Peter De Franco, *Supply Priest* revdefranco@gmail.com
Mrs. Ellen J. Dondero, *Minister of Music & Organist* ejdondero@comcast.net
Mrs. Lisa Halpin, *Parish Administrator* hichurch08008@gmail.com
Office Hours: *Monday through Thursday • 9 AM - 2 PM*

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