

"Gracious God, . . . give us new purpose to care in love for the world of your making."

from today's Collect

We worship today according to *A Liturgy of Creation*, developed by Father Wells and others.
A full description of the derivation of the service appears at the end of this bulletin.

Gathering of the People

Song of Praise: Lord of the Dance

**I danced in the morning when the world was young
I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun
I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth
At Bethlehem I had my birth**

Chorus:

**Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all, wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance, said he**

**I danced for the scribes and the Pharisees
They wouldn't dance, they wouldn't follow me
I danced for the fishermen James and John
They came with me so the dance went on**

**I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame
The holy people said it was a shame
They ripped, they stripped, they hung me high
Left me there on the cross to die**

**I danced on a Friday when the world turned black
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back
They buried my body, they thought I was gone
But I am the dance, and the dance goes on**

**They cut me down and I leapt up high
I am the life that will never, never die
I'll live in you if you'll live in me
I am the Lord of the dance, said he**

We give you thanks, O God; we give you thanks,
calling upon your Name and declaring all your wonderful deeds.

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth.
Have mercy on us.

Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world.
Have mercy on us.

Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, One God,
Have mercy on us.

For favorable weather, temperate rains, and fruitful seasons,
that there may be food and drink for all your creatures,
We pray to you, Lord.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Feast of St Francis
Blessing of the Animals
September 22, 2013, 10:30 am

For your blessing upon the lands and waters, and all who work upon them to bring forth food and all things needful for your people,
We pray to you, Lord.

For all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of your creation may abound from age to age,
We pray to you, Lord.

May God be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, Creator of the land, water, and the sky: come and renew the face of the whole earth. Give us new purpose to care in love for the world of your making, and turn our hearts and the hearts of the whole human family to care in thanksgiving and reverence for the world you have given; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Collect for St. Francis of Assisi

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The Epistle - Galatians 6:14-18

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*A Canticle - A Song of Our True Nature
By Julian of Norwich*

Christ revealed our frailty and our falling,*
our trespasses and our humiliations.

Christ also revealed his blessed power,*
his blessed wisdom and love.

He protects us as tenderly and as sweetly when we are in greatest need;*
**he raises us in spirit
and turns everything to glory and joy without ending.**

God is the ground and the substance, the very essence of nature;*
God is the true father and mother of natures.

We are all bound to God by nature,*
and we are all bound to God by grace.

And this grace is for all the world,*
because it is our precious mother, Christ.

For this fair nature was prepared by Christ
for the honor and nobility of all,*
and for the joy and bliss of salvation.

The Gospel Sequence – Matthew 11:25-30

Hymn: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*.....490
Verse 1

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to You, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Hymn: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*.....490
Verses 2-3

Sermon

Father Wells

The Prayers of the People

Caring God, we thank you for your gifts in creation:
for our world,
the heavens tell of your glory;
for our land, its beauty, and its resources,
for the rich heritage we enjoy.

We pray for those who make decisions about our natural resources,

that we may use your gifts responsibly;

For those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry,

**that all may enjoy the fruits of their labors
and marvel at your creation;**

For artists, scientists, and visionaries,
**that through their work we may see creation
anew.**

Silence

We thank you for giving us life;
for all who enrich our experience.

We pray those who, through their own or others' actions,
are deprived of fullness of life,
for prisoners, refugees, and the handicapped;

For those in politics, medical science, and social and relief work,
for all who seek to bring life and help to others.

Silence

We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation;
Give us a reverence for life in your world.

We thank you for your redeeming love;
**May your word and sacrament strengthen us to
love as you love us.**

We ask your blessing, O God, on those who are sick ...

Those with special concerns ...

And those who have died ...

We give thanks, O God, for all the blessings of this life ...

Silence

God, Creator, bring us new life.
**Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.
Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have
created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil that we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Blessing of the Animals

Please bring your pet forward in a carrier or on a leash, to be blessed by Father Wells.

Offertory Sentence

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Offertory Hymn: *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Chorus:

**Shine, Jesus, shine;
fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze;
set out hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow;
flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your Word, Lord,
and let there be light.**

**1. Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining.
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

**2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance.
By the blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

**3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory.
Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

The Holy Communion

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you,
holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.
From before time you made ready the creation.
Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:
sun, moon, and stars;
earth, wind, and waters;
and every living thing.
You made us in your image,
And taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away.
And yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.
Time and again you called us
to live in the fullness of your love.
And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

**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.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus, the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said,
"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
"Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth

and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Blessed Mary and all
your saints, from every tribe and language and people
and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.
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 pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from
evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of
silence is kept.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds.

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

Songs During Communion

Father Wells to elaborate

Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread
of life and cup of salvation; you have united us
with Christ and one another; and you have made
us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that
we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our
Savior. Amen.**

The Blessing

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of
Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit,
who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be
upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: *Wind, Wind, Blow on Me*.....SH-27

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

A Liturgy of Creation was developed for the Diocese of Alabama by the Rev. John Wells Warren, Bets Golden, and the Rev. Mark Johnston utilizing the following resources: The Standing Liturgical Commission, *Supplemental Liturgical Materials* (New York: Church Hymnal Corp., 1991). The Standing Liturgical Commission, *Enriching Our Worship* (New York: Church Hymnal Corp., 1997). "Rogation Procession" in *The Book of Occasional Services*, 1994 (New York: Church Hymnal Corp., 1995). "Prayer for the Environment," in *Occasional Celebrations of the Anglican Church of Canada* (Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 1992). "The Prayers of the People for Creation and Redemption," in Church of the Province of New Zealand, *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (London: Collins, 1989).

Serving at Epiphany this week . . .

Ushers: Maurice and Debra McCord
Altar Guild: Betty Weldon and Pam Van Etten
Music Team: Wells Warren, Fred and Marty Hoerr, Tom Bray,
Amanda Borden, Caleb Hart, Esther Hart (and perhaps others!)

Lay Reader: Nancy Dupree
Eucharistic Minister: Laura Williams
Refreshments: Pam Harper
Stewards: Jere and Pam Van Etten

and next . . .

Ushers: Jimmy and Betty Weldon
Altar Guild: Laura Williams
Lay Readers: Lee Borden
Piano: Caleb Hart

Eucharistic Minister: Tom Bray
Refreshments: Ramona Heil-Norris
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord