



Rogation 2020

Rogation Celebration

Morning Prayer

Rogation Celebration, Sunday, May 17th 2020

*A Joint Celebration of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Roxobel,
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Windsor,
& St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Ahoskie*

Prelude *Allegro* from *La Primavera, The Four Seasons* Vivaldi, ed. arr. S. Drummond Wolff
Tom Parker, organist

Opening Hymn 398 "I sing the almighty power of God" vv. 1&4

Forest Green

1 I sing the al-might - y power of God, that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, but makes thy glo - ries known;

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the lof - ty skies.
he formed the crea-tures with his Word, and then pro-nounced them good;
and clouds a - rise, and tem - pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
Lord, how thy won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,
while all that bor - rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,

the moon shines full at his com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
and ev - ery - where that I - could be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

Opening Sentence

I arise today through the strength of heaven; light of the sun, radiance of moon, splendor of fire, speed of lightning, swiftness of wind, depth of sea, stability of earth, firmness of rock. I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity, the belief in the threeness, through confession of oneness of the Creator of creation. – St. Patrick

The people standing, the Officiant says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People ***The Lord is risen indeed. Amen.***

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God's creation.

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of the cosmos, its myriad of wonders, and this fragile Earth, our island home: you gave the Earth's care into our hands, and we have failed to be wise stewards of its bounty.

We confess to you, Lord.

You gave us clean air to breathe to sustain all life on Earth. Yet we have taken your air fresh with the fragrance of green and growing things, and have polluted it needlessly with the exhaust from our generators, automobiles, factories, farms and homes in which we live and work.

We confess to you, Lord.

You gave us the Earth's fertile soil and minerals, the trees and other plant and animal life to nourish and sustain your countless creatures with its bounty. Yet in our greed, we have wastefully extracted its ores and energy sources. We have abused the land, losing its fertile topsoil and destroying its beauty.

We confess to you, Lord.

You gave us sparkling water sustain us in our springs, ponds, lakes, and rivers. You gave us the marshes, estuaries and mighty oceans teeming with life to supply our needs. Yet, our lives of conspicuous consumption filled them with chemical waste, sewage and plastic, diminishing their bounty and beauty.

We confess to you, Lord.

You enfolded us in a web of life: from mosses and ferns, flowers and shrubs, the forests and towering trees; from the tiniest one celled organisms to huge elephants, from plankton to gigantic blue whales we are intertwined in a wondrous web of existence. These creatures nourish, sustain and heal us, and they astonish us with their beauty, diversity, and splendor. And yet we destroy their habitat, crush their diversity, and savage them for our amusement, profit and gain.

We confess to you, Lord.

Loving God, you created humankind in all its diversity that we might learn to live in harmony on Earth as you created it. Yet we fear, we cheat, we blame and kill each other as we seek to dominate rather than to live in concert with your creation.

We confess to you, Lord.

The Officiant then says,

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on Earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Forgive us our sins and give us wisdom and reverence so to live in peace and goodwill

with all your creatures and to use the resources of your creation so that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People ***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

Officiant and People

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. Alleluia.

Officiant The earth is the Lord's, for he made it:

People ***Come let us adore him.***

The Canticle of All Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
All praise is Yours, all glory, all honor and all blessings.

To you alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.

Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures, especially Brother Sun,
Who is the day through whom You give us light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor,
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
both fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water,
So useful, humble, precious and pure.

Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You my Lord through our Sister,
***Mother Earth who sustains and governs us,
producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.***

Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon
for love of You and bear sickness and trial.
Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks,
And serve Him with great humility.

Officiant and People

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. Alleluia.

Officiant The earth is the Lord's, for he made it:

People ***Come let us adore him.***

The psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 104 *Benedic, anima mea*

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul; *

***O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
You are clothed with majesty and splendor.***

2 You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak *

and spread out the heavens like a curtain.

3 You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters above; *

you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind.

4 You make the winds your messengers *

and flames of fire your servants.

5 You have set the earth upon its foundations, *

so that it never shall move at any time.

6 You covered it with the Deep as with a mantle; *

the waters stood higher than the mountains.

7 At your rebuke they fled; *

at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.

8 They went up into the hills and down to the valleys beneath, *

to the places you had appointed for them.

9 You set the limits that they should not pass; *

they shall not again cover the earth.

10 You send the springs into the valleys; *

they flow between the mountains.

11 All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, *

and the wild asses quench their thirst.

12 Beside them the birds of the air make their nests *

and sing among the branches.

13 You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; *

the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.

14 You make grass grow for flocks and herds *

and plants to serve mankind;

15 That they may bring forth food from the earth, *

and wine to gladden our hearts,

16 Oil to make a cheerful countenance, *

and bread to strengthen the heart.

17 The trees of the Lord are full of sap, *

the cedars of Lebanon which he planted,

18 In which the birds build their nests, *

and in whose tops the stork makes his dwelling.

19 The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats, *

and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.

20 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, *

and the sun knows the time of its setting.

21 You make darkness that it may be night, *

in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.

22 The lions roar after their prey *

and seek their food from God.

23 The sun rises, and they slip away *

and lay themselves down in their dens.

24 Man goes forth to his work *

and to his labor until the evening.

25 O Lord, how manifold are your works! *

in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, *

creatures both small and great.

27 There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, *

which you have made for the sport of it.

28 All of them look to you *

to give them their food in due season.

29 You give it to them; they gather it; *

you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.

31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.

32 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; *
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.

33 He looks at the earth and it trembles; *
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

34 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; *
I will praise my God while I have my being.

35 May these words of mine please him; *
I will rejoice in the Lord.

36 Let sinners be consumed out of the earth, *
and the wicked be no more.

37 Bless the Lord, O my soul. *
Hallelujah!

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said

***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.***

The First Station: The Blessing of Land

The First Lesson

Deuteronomy 11:10-15

For the land that you are about to enter to occupy is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sow your seed and irrigate by foot like a vegetable garden. But the land that you are crossing over to occupy is a land of hills and valleys, watered by rain from the sky, a land that the Lord your God looks after. The eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. If you will only heed his every commandment that I am commanding you today – loving the Lord your God, and serving him with all your heart and with all your soul – then he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil; and he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you will eat your fill.

Officiant

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reader Listen to what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Hurt No Living Thing by Christina Rossetti

Hurt no living thing:

Ladybird, nor butterfly,

Nor moth with dusty wing,

Nor cricket chirping cheerily,

Nor grasshopper so light of leap,

Nor dancing gnat, nor beetle fat,

Nor harmless worms that creep.

The Second Station: The Blessing of Farm Implements

The Second Lesson

Micah 4:1-5

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

Reader Listen to what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Officiant

Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed for life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable weather: and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

REMEMBER by Joy Harjo

Remember the sky that you were born under, know each of the star's stories.

Remember the moon, know who she is.

Remember the sun's birth at dawn, that is the strongest point of time.

Remember sundown and the giving away to night.

Remember your birth, how your mother struggled to give you form and breath.

You are evidence of her life, and her mother's, and hers.

Remember your father. He is your life, also.

Remember the earth whose skin you are:

red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth, brown earth,

we are earth.

Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them, listen to them.

They are alive poems.

Remember the wind. Remember her voice.

She knows the origin of this universe.

Remember you are all people and all people are you.

Remember you are this universe and this universe is you.

Remember all is in motion, is growing, is you.

Remember language comes from this.

Remember the dance language is, that life is.

Remember.

The Third Station: The Blessing of a Plant

The Third Lesson

2 Corinthians 9:6-10

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his benevolence endures for ever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

Reader Listen to what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Officiant

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Treasure *by Lily Fischer, 12, Rockville, Maryland*

Treasure can be pieces of gold

A fountain that makes you never grow old

It can be achievements, like going to the moon,

It can be knowledge or a
magical rune.

But perhaps the greatest
treasure of all

Is one little sapling, ever so small.

So stop the plastic and the CO2

And find ways to do something new.

Something that treats the earth with care
 That won't clog up oceans or pollute the air.
 Love that sapling, help it grow tall,
 And you'll have saved the greatest treasure of all.

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 12:22-29

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying.

405 "All Things Bright and Beautiful" vv 1 & 4

Royal Oak

Descant



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small,

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all.



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
 4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

Repeat Refrain



he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky,
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

***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.***

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

People and Officiant

***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.***

A Litany for Rogation Day

(based on Genesis and quotations from Chief Seattle)

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song of creation. Your Holy Spirit moved over the waters and gave us light and life.

People: ***God has done marvelous things.***

Leader: We are creatures of God, stewards of God's world.

People: *Formed in your image, male and female.*

Leader: Let us see the earth as children of the earth.

People: *Your breath brought us forth from the dust.*

Leader: Teach us that the ground beneath our feet is the ashes of our ancestors.

People: *Let us honor our mothers and fathers.*

Leader: Teach us that the earth is our mother.

People: *If we spit upon the ground, we spit upon ourselves.*

Leader: If all the animals were gone, humankind would die from a great loneliness of spirit.

People: *Whatever happens to the animals soon happens to us. All things are connected.*

Leader: May we prefer the soft sound of the wind darting over the face of the pond, the smell of the wind itself cleansed by a midday rain, or scented with pine.

People: *All things are the same breath – the animals, the trees, the human being.*

Leader: We do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water.

People: *Every part of the earth is sacred.*

Leader: Help us to not continue contaminating our own bed.

People: *May we not suffocate in our own waste.*

Leader: Earth does not belong to us.

People: *We belong to earth.*

Prayer for Rogation

Lord of the springtime, Father of flower, field and fruit, smile on us in these earnest days when the work is heavy and the toil wearisome. Lift up our hearts, O God to the things worthwhile – sunshine and night, the dripping rain, the song of the birds, books and music, and the voices of our friends. Lift up our hearts to these this day and grant us Thy peace. **Amen.**

(from W.E.B. DuBois)

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for the Renewal of Life

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Guidance

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

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.*

*Creator of a new heaven and a new earth,
make us partners with you as together we recreate our world.
Teach us to till the sacred soil of our ancestors with respect
and treat our farm animals with dignity
because with them we share your breath of life.
Give us your sight to see all creation
as your handiwork and guarded by your love.
Give us wisdom to see ourselves as a single strand
in the web of life you have woven.
Forgive us, we pray, the desecration and desolation,
we have brought on ourselves and our home.
Redeem us from seeing your creation and creatures
as only things to be bought and sold.
May we learn to live:
taking only memories and leaving only footprints;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,*

the first born of the new earth and the way of salvation. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Then may be said

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Officiant may then conclude with the following

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Hymn 416 "For the Beauty of the Earth" vv. 1&4

Alt tune 288 Dix

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu-man love, bro-ther, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
1 for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
2 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
3 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link-ing sense to sound and sight,
4 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.

Music: Dix, melody Conrad Kocher (1786-1872); arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889);
harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Postlude *Allegretto* from *La Primavera, The Four Seasons* Vivaldi, ed. arr. S. Drummond Wolff
Tom Parker, organist

Worship Leaders

The Choir of St. Thomas, Ahoskie

The Rev. Jeff & Beth Douglas, Hugh Davis, Jonathan Johnston, Musician

The Opening Sentences, Absolution & 2nd Lesson Collect

The Rev. Bonnie Smith

The Confession

Briley Rascoe, with Briar and Charlie

The Canticle of All Creatures & Lord's Prayer

The Rev. Jeff & Beth Douglas

Psalm 104

Johnna R.B. Lewis & Logan Chapman

The First Lesson

Robert Chapman

Collect

Johnna R.B. Lewis

Hurt No Living Thing by Christina Rossetti

Marites Browne

Second Lesson

Clara Blanchard, with Emily and Ava

"Remember" by Joy Harjo

Isabella, Lucy, Sally, and Sarah Hunter Spruill

The Third Lesson & Collect

Claudia & Johnny Griffin

Treasure by Lily Fischer

Gates Vaughan

The Fourth Lesson & Apostles' Creed

Dr. John Davis

Litany for Rogation

Emily Wilson & John Tyler

Prayer for Rogation (W. E. B. Dubois)

Bond Wilson

Prayer for Rogation

Hosea Wilson

Collect for Sundays

Mike Spruill

Collects for Renewal of Life & Peace

Johnna R.B. Lewis

Collects for Grace, Guidance & Mission

Robert Chapman

Creator of a New Heaven & Earth

Priya Ramento

Prayer of St. Chrysostom & Dismissal

The Rev. Jeff Douglas & Hugh Davis