

September 2024

52 Ways to Care for Creation

Week 35

Season of Creation

September begins the "Season of Creation!" Celebrate in your church community. Find theological reflections and liturgical resources at creationjustice.org/blog.

Week 37

Local Food Systems

Where does your food come from? What native plants/crops grow in your neighborhood? How is your community affected by food insecurity? Find out if there is a farmer's market in your area!

Week 39

Rest and Reflect

As Wendell Berry writes, "There are no unsacred places. There are only sacred places and desecrated places." Identify a place that is sacred to you. What makes it so? How can you care for that place?

Week 36

Learn About a Local Plant/Animal

Pick a native species. Observe it and learn how to identify it. Fall in love with it! A heart connection with the life around us is the root of conservation. Tell someone about your findings and connection to this new species.

Week 38

Natural Protected Areas

Learn about the state parks, city parks, and/or national parks closest to you. Is there a protected beach? A marine sanctuary? A protected forest?



Find more theological & educational resources at creationjustice.org/blog

CreationJustice.org



@CreationJustice

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“My Boyfriend is On His Way Over. He’s Leaping Upon the Mountains as We Speak.”



Pastor Steven Clark
Sunday, September 1, 2024
10:30 AM Divine Worship

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*is the invitation for worshipers to rise in body or in spirit.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements and Stilling Silence

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

***Call to Worship**

Creator of the cosmos, of eternity and time:
Be with us in this time.

Savior of the world, healer of the nations:
Be with us in this place.

Breath of all that lives, of people near and far
Stir within our lives.

Maker-Spirit-Son,
God of here and now:

**Be present in our worship,
that we may find new ways to be present in Your world.**

***Opening Hymn:** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

RED #351

**Song of Solomon 2:8-13
(NRSVUE)**

8 The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills.

9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

10 My beloved speaks and says to me: “Arise, my love, my fair one, and come way,

11 for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

12 The flowers appear on the earth; and the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

13 The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

DO YOU KNOW THE STORY?

Come meet Professor Bill Fernekes as he talks about his important new book on Senator Clifford Case who played the organ here and whose father was one of SMR's pastors. Come and hear the remarks the Senator made at the Church's 250th anniversary. Saturday, September 7, 2004 at 10:30 am. Please RSVP to the church office, or RSVP on the event page of our website.

CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK & ART SHOW ON SEPT. 8th

To coincide with our Fall Back in Love with Church Sunday we are inviting everyone to bring any pieces of visual art they've created to display for all to see! In addition, please see the sign-up board up front to list your contribution to the potluck! All food dishes must be **ready to serve** Thank you!

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP STIGMA-FREE COUNCIL

Franklin Township is seeking residents interested in joining the newly formed Stigma-Free Council. Together, we can fight mental health stigma and substance use disorder stigma by promoting public awareness, education, advocacy, and more. The next meeting is Sept 18. RSVP to the church office..

DEACONS FUND

Our monthly Deacon's Fund offering will be September 15, 2024. This offering helps our church serve the needs of our community in times of crisis. Please consider giving to this important fund.

JESUS AND JUSTICE

The Classis of New Brunswick is hosting a Summit on Environmental and Social Justice on Saturday, Sept 28, at 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at Trinity Collegiate Church. Itinerary: registration, worship service, keynote address, breakfast session, lunch, panel discussion and closing prayer. Please contact Pastor Steven for additional information.

Call to Remember and Confess

Unison Prayer of Confession:

For our unwillingness to feel the suffering of others, and our readiness to live comfortably with injustice: Forgive us, O God. For our self-righteousness that denies guilt, and our self-interest that strangles compassion: Forgive us, O God. For our abuse of this planet and our exploitation of its resources: Forgive us, O God. For our failings in community and our resistance to become involved: Forgive us, O God. For the times we were too eager to be better than others, when we were too rushed to care, when we were too tired to bother, when we were too preoccupied to listen, when we were too quick to act out of motives other than love. Forgive us in Christ, and renew us by Your Spirit. Amen.

Personal Silent Confession

Words of Assurance:

Gloria: "Glory Be to the Father" RED #961

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

***Passing of The Peace** L: The peace of Christ be with you!
P: And also with you!
L: Share the peace of Christ with your neighbor!

***Hymn of Peace:** "You Shall Love the Lord"

We shall love the Lord, Our God with all our heart, with all our heart.
We shall love the Lord, Our God with all our heart, soul, and mind.
We shall love our neighbor as we love ourselves.
We shall love the Lord, Our God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

THE WORD OF GOD

Let us prepare for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of the Holy Scriptures. **Speak Lord, for Your servants are listening.**

Scriptures: Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (Page 7)

Sermon: *“My Boyfriend is On His Way Over. He’s Leaping Upon the Mountains as We Speak.”*

Hymn of Meditation: *“What Wonderful Love“* RED #164

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Call to Self– Offering

Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory0

*Doxology:

*Praise God from whom all blessing flow,
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

*Prayer of Dedication

Gathering of Joys & Concerns

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** *“Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer”* RED #660

*Benediction

Postlude

Today’s liturgical color is **Green** for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be so filled by the spirit of God that we obey God’s revealed will in the Holy Scriptures, especially in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; loving one another, stewarding the resources God has given us and seeking to be transformed into the likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ, being his hands, feet and voice in the communities in which we live and work.