

St. John's Anglican Church, Ida
Parish of Ida and Omemee



Communion Forest Sunday

In the Season of Creation

Service of Holy Communion

September 20, 2026

Welcome to this service of celebration.

The Communion Forest is a world-wide Anglican movement to reforest, restore and protect trees. St. John's is participating in this movement. Today we will plant a tree in loving memory of The Rev. William (Bill) Montgomery, whose faith in God and dedication to this church is held with deep gratitude in all our hearts. We will process out into the cemetery to plant this tree. Everyone is encouraged to be part of this planting activity and dedication. If you are not able to manage the terrain of the cemetery, please proceed to the parish hall where we will gather for refreshments following the service.

Children are welcome to attend our Children's Program or to remain with their families. There is a special area in the sanctuary for them to use at any time.

As we worship, at any time during the service, please assume whatever physical position is best for you.

The Gathering of the Community

On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (Revelation 21:2)

You are invited to stand for the first hymn as you are able.

Opening Hymn CP 423 How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain:

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain:

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
and claim his own, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
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.

Kyrie Eleison (Sung)

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

The Creation Collect of the Day

Grant us, Lord,
your vision of a renewed earth in which heaven comes to rest; and even now, while we too often
despair of healing and wholeness, to hold fast to your promise and commit again to active
hope; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading

A reading from Ezekiel (47:1-12)

The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Fishermen will stand along the shore; from *En Gedi* to *En Eglaim* there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt.

Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm (148)

**Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.
Praise the Lord all you angels;
sing praises, all you heavenly host.
Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praises, all you shining stars.
Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
sing praises, you waters above the heavens.
Let them praise the name of the Lord;
who gave the command and they were created,
who made them stand fast for ever and ever,
who gave them a law which shall not pass away.
Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and wingèd birds;
sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
young men and young women,
old and young together.
Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendour is over earth and heaven.
The Lord has raised up strength for this people
and praise for all loyal servants, the children of Israel,
a people who are near to the Lord.
Hallelujah!**

Psalm Prayer

Blessed are you,

Lord our God, creator of heaven and earth; you open our eyes to see the wonders around us, and our hearts and mouths to praise you. Now give us strength for loving service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Second Reading

A reading from the Revelation of John (22:1-5)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Proclamation of the Gospel

Gospel Hymn Every Promise

**From the breaking of the dawn
to the setting of the sun,
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
Words of power, strong to save,
that will never pass away;
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
For Your covenant is sure,
and on this I am secure:
I can stand on ev'ry promise from Your word.**

**When I stumble and I sin,
condemnation pressing in,
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
You are faithful to forgive,
that in freedom I might live.
So I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
Guilt to innocence restored,
You remember sins no more.
So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.**

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew (20:1-16)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

"'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

"The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

"But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We sing

**When I'm faced with anguished choice,
I will listen for Your voice,
and I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
Through this dark and troubled land,
You will guide me with Your hand,
as I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
And You've promised to complete ev'ry work begun in me.
So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.**

**Hope that lifts me from despair;
Love that casts out ev'ry fear,
as I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
Not forsaken, not alone,
for the Comforter has come;
And I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
Grace sufficient, grace for me;
Grace for all who will believe.
We will stand on ev'ry promise of your word.**

**Grace sufficient, grace for me,
Grace for all who will believe.
We will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.**

The Sermon

(A brief silence for reflection)

An Affirmation of Faith for the Season of Creation

Let us declare our faith:

**We believe in God the Creator,
from whom every creature in heaven and on earth
is named.
We believe in God the Son,**

who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with divine love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Creator, Child and Eternal Spirit. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

We pray for the world, the church and ourselves, assuming whatever physical position helps us to pray (remain standing, kneel, or sit).

The response to the intercessions will be:
Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Invitation to Confession

Let us confess our sins against our Creator and creation.

A brief silence is kept.

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

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Redeemer.
Amen

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.
Please turn to the people near you and offer a sign of God's peace.

The Celebration of Holy Communion

The offering of money is a sign of our gratitude for God's blessing of our lives, collected in the plates placed at the front and back of the church before the service. The offering plates will not be passed during the service.

Offertory Hymn Magnificent, Marvelous Matchless Love

**Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love;
too vast and astounding to tell.
Forever existing in worlds above,
now offered and given to all.
Oh fountain of beauty eternal;
the Father, the Spirit, the Son.
Sufficient and endlessly generous:
Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.**

**Creation is brimming with thankfulness,
the mountains, exultant they stand;
the seasons rejoice in Your faithfulness,
all life is sustained by Your hand.
You crown every meadow with colour.
You paint every shade in the sky.
Each day the dawn wakes as an encore of:
Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.**

***How great, how sure;
His love endures
forevermore.
Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.***

**What grace, that you entered our brokenness;
You came in the fullness of time.
How far we had fallen from righteousness,
but not from the mercies of Christ.
Your cross is our door to redemption;
Your death is our fullness of life.
That day, how forgiveness flowed as a flood:
Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.**

Refrain:

**United in Your resurrection,
You lift us to infinite heights.
Could anything sever or take us
from magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.**

Refrain:

Repeat Refrain:

The Prayer over the Gifts

Creator God,
**our beginning and our hope. Your wisdom in creation fills us with awe and wonder. May we who
celebrate this eucharist today be strengthened in kinship with maple and heron, trout and linden
that you have created, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your creating Word. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to our Creator.
Let us give thanks to our creating God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is meet and right to give thanks to you always, O God, for you are the source of all life. Since the beginning of time, you have sustained us through the environment you established in creation. You rule the

universe with balance and generosity, for which all creation never ceases to praise you. Joining with the company of heaven and all the creatures of the skies, earth, and seas, we joyfully praise your holy name, singing:

**Holy, most holy all holy the Lord,
in power and wisdom for ever adored.
The earth and the heavens are full of your love;
our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessèd, most blessèd, all blessèd is he
whose life makes us whole,
and whose death sets us free:
who comes in the name of the Father of light,
let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

O God, our creator, you placed us in this world,
but did not leave us to live alone. You surround us with your wondrous creation that we might live in harmony with it,
taking only what is necessary to preserve our common life.
Of the world you made a garden for the flourishing of your people, yet we strayed from your path. We judged ourselves powerful and mighty, planting destruction between us and nature, and creating a world of inequity, imbalance, and injustice. Countless times, your prophets led us to repentance and new life, yet we choose to walk in other ways and persist in our selfish error.

In the fulness of time and in your infinite mercy, you sent us your Son Jesus Christ, the source of new life. He taught us to live in unity with you, opening the doors to a new creation: one reconciled to you and sustained by your love.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread.
Having given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to those who were with him, saying, "Take, eat. This is my Body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, and having given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, "Take, drink. This is my Blood of the new and eternal Covenant which is shed for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the wondrous mystery:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

And, giving thanks to you for restoring us in the ways of your Kingdom, we offer you these gifts of bread and wine:

fruits of the earth and of your own creation.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit, that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Sanctify us also, that in union with Christ

we may fill the world with your love,

renewing it with the gift of your Gospel.

Preserve us in rebuilding the world around us

and restoring the balance of nature.

Grant that we may see in your creation that splendid garden,
worthy of our respect and care.

Evermore strengthen your Church in the struggle

to preserve the environment and the diversity of life within it.

And, at the last day, bring us to your heavenly Kingdom,

where in the company of John all your saints,

we may never cease to glorify you in the new creation of Jesus Christ.

By Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A brief silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
as our Saviour taught us, so we 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

"I am the bread which has come down from heaven,"
says the Lord.

Give us this bread for ever.

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

May we dwell in him, as he lives in us.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei (Sung)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Spiritual Communion

For those who are worshipping with us online, we invite you to make your spiritual communion, by inviting Jesus into your heart, saying "Come, Lord Jesus."

A brief silence is kept.

This is the table, not merely of the church, but of Christ.

*It is made ready for those who love him,
and for those who want to love him more.*

*So come, whether you have much faith or little;
have tried to follow, or are afraid you've failed.*

Come, because it is He who invites us to receive his life.

All are welcome to come to the altar rail. If you are not receiving the bread and wine, please come for a blessing, indicating this by placing a hand on your heart.

After the distribution at the altar rail, communion will be brought to those who wish to receive it at their seats.

Communion Hymns

CP 56 I am the Bread

I am the bread, the bread of Life;
who comes to me will never hunger.
I am the bread, the bread of heaven;
who feeds on me will never die.
And as you eat, remember me,
my body broken on the tree:
my life was given to set you free,
and I'm alive for evermore.

I am the vine, the living vine;
apart from me you can do nothing.
I am the vine, the real vine:
abide in me and I in you.
And as you drink, remember me,
my blood was shed upon the tree:
my life was given to set you free,
and I'm alive for evermore.

So eat this bread and drink this wine,
and as you do, receive this life of mine.
All that I am, I give to you,
that you may live for evermore.

You are the Vine

You are the vine, we are the branches.
Keep us abiding in You.
You are the vine, we are the branches.
Keep us abiding in You.
And we'll go (and we'll go)
in Your love (in Your love).
And we'll go (and we'll go)
in Your name (in Your name).
That the world (that the world)
will surely know (will surely know)
that You have power to heal and to save.

You are the vine, we are the branches.
Keep us abiding in You.

And we'll go (and we'll go)
in Your love (in Your love).
And we'll go (and we'll go)
in Your name (in Your name).
That the world (that the world)
will surely know (will surely know)
that You have power to heal and to save.

You are the vine, we are the branches.
Keep us abiding in You.
You are the vine, we are the branches.
Keep us abiding in You.
Keep us abiding in You.

As the Deer

**As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship You.**

***You alone are my strength, my shield;
to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship You.***

**You're my friend and You are my brother
even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.
*Refrain:***

**I want You more than gold or silver,
only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver
and the apple of my eye.
*Refrain:***

The Prayer after Communion

Creator of all lands and creatures,
**who provides in this meal a foretaste of your coming new creation. May we join with all your
creatures in praise and adoration, until, with Jesus, we are at home in the wilderness, where you
dwell with the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*At this time we bid farewell to our online worshippers. God with our blessing. We are glad you have joined
us today and we look forward to worshipping with you again soon.*

The in-person community will then process outdoors to plant the tree.
Tree Planting

The place in the soil is prepared.

And the Lord God planted a garden. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it
and keep it. *Genesis 2:8,15*

**Give thanks to the Creator, who is good,
And whose steadfast love endures for ever.**

The tree is placed in the soil

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time
to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.
Ecclesiastes (3:1-2)

**God spread out the earth on the waters,
for God's steadfast love endures for ever.**

Earthing-in with soil

Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. Genesis (1:11)

**Give thanks to the Creator, who is good,
And whose steadfast love endures for ever.**

Watering

I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.
Leviticus (26:4)

**Give thanks to the One who formed all things,
for God's steadfast love endures for ever.**

Growing

And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
Revelation (22:2)

**God alone does great wonders,
for God's steadfast love endures for ever. Amen.**

Let us pray:

In the beginning,
God chose to express God's creativity and companionship
God's nurture, harmony, and blessing by creating a garden.

In the end,
When all of God's desires are fully fulfilled, there will be a garden and we will be reunited with our loved ones.

**It is in this promise and grace
that we dedicate this Little Leaf Linden
to the memory of our beloved brother in Christ,
The Rev. William Montgomery.**

May this tree grow strong, as Bill's faith was strong
May it's roots go deep and it's branches reach wide.
May it delight the senses and shelter those who need rest.

**May this tree remind us to root ourselves in Christ
and shelter one another in grace as Bill so wonderfully taught us.**

We now dedicate it to the glory of God and in loving memory, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen

A marker will be placed here commemorating this dedication. It will include the text from Psalm 42:1. As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn CP 416 All Things Bright and Beautiful

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

Each radiant flower that opens,
each vibrant bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their lively wings.

Refrain:

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one.

Refrain:

The rocky mountain splendour,
the loon's wild, haunting call,
the great lakes and prairies,
The forest in the fall.

Refrain:

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is the Creator,
who has made all things well.

Refrain:

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The flowers on the altar are to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bill, given by the Montgomery family.

Our Leaders Today

<i>Celebrant & Preacher</i>	The Rev. Canon Susan Spicer
<i>Pianist & Music Director</i>	Linda Parsons
<i>Organist</i>	Sylvia Amesbury
<i>Crucifer</i>	Hunter Thomas
<i>Reader</i>	Tom Childs
<i>Intercessor</i>	Don Winslow
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	Adrian Olley & Valerie Smith
<i>Technical Team</i>	Ben Conrad & Hayley Bagg
<i>Prayer Ministry Team</i>	Jean Lush & Phil Winslow