

*A Digital Project of the Regional Ministries of Brome-Missisquoi*



A Service of Morning Prayer for  
**Rogation Sunday (17 May)**

# A Prayer for Community

Once again, we enter into a virtual gathering place. We worship together in spirit and in truth, though not in person. We pray, sing, and listen to God's Word despite all the fear and darkness that pervades our world. God is with us. The Holy Spirit is among us, blowing with a wind of hope and renewal. The risen Christ is present in our midst.



# Hymn 258: We Plough the Fields and Scatter

We plow the fields and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand.  
He sends the snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine,  
and soft refreshing rain.

*Refrain*

He only is the Maker  
of all things near and far;  
he paints the wayside flower,  
he lights the evening star;  
the wind and waves obey him,  
by him the birds are fed;  
much more to us, his children,  
he gives our daily bread.

*Refrain*

We thank thee, then, O Father,  
for all things bright and good:  
the seed-time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food;  
accept the gifts we offer  
for all thy love imparts,  
and, what thou most desirest  
our humble, thankful hearts.

*Refrain*

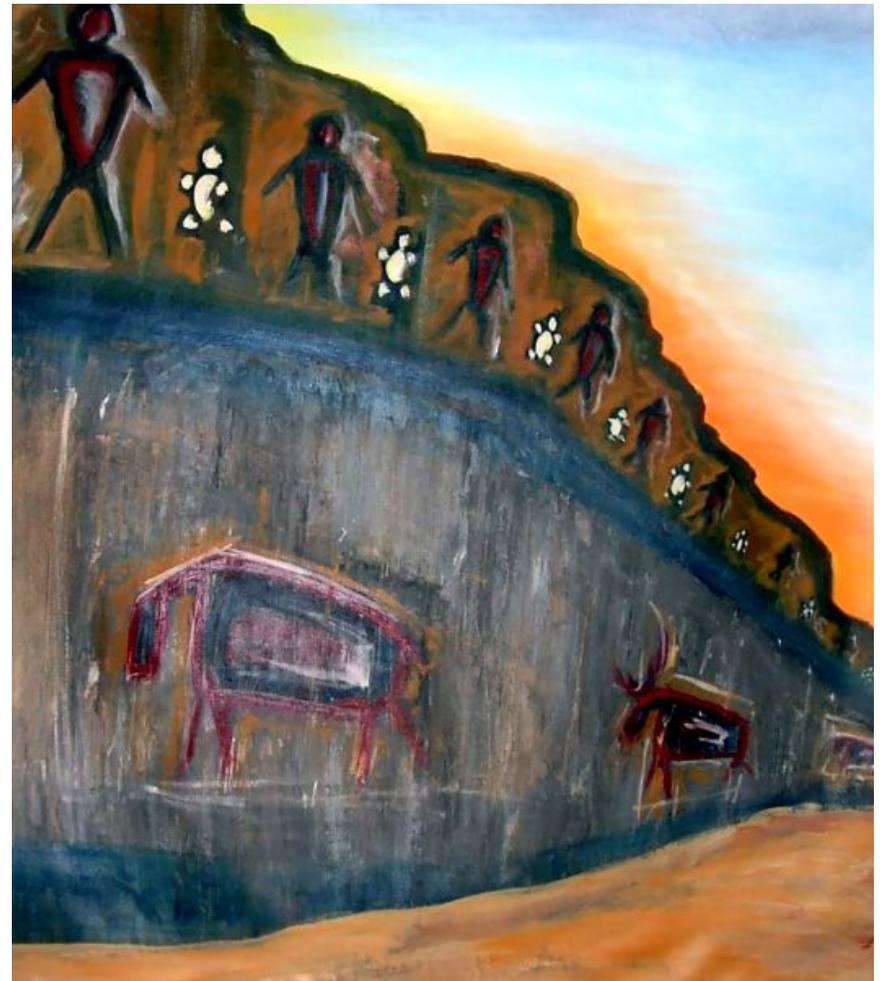
*Refrain:*

All good gifts around us are sent from  
heaven above;  
Then thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord, for  
all his love.

# Territorial Acknowledgment

In this holy time and place, we acknowledge with respect that we gather on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Abanaki and Mohawk first peoples.

**May the living Christ lead us all on pathways of reconciliation and peace.**

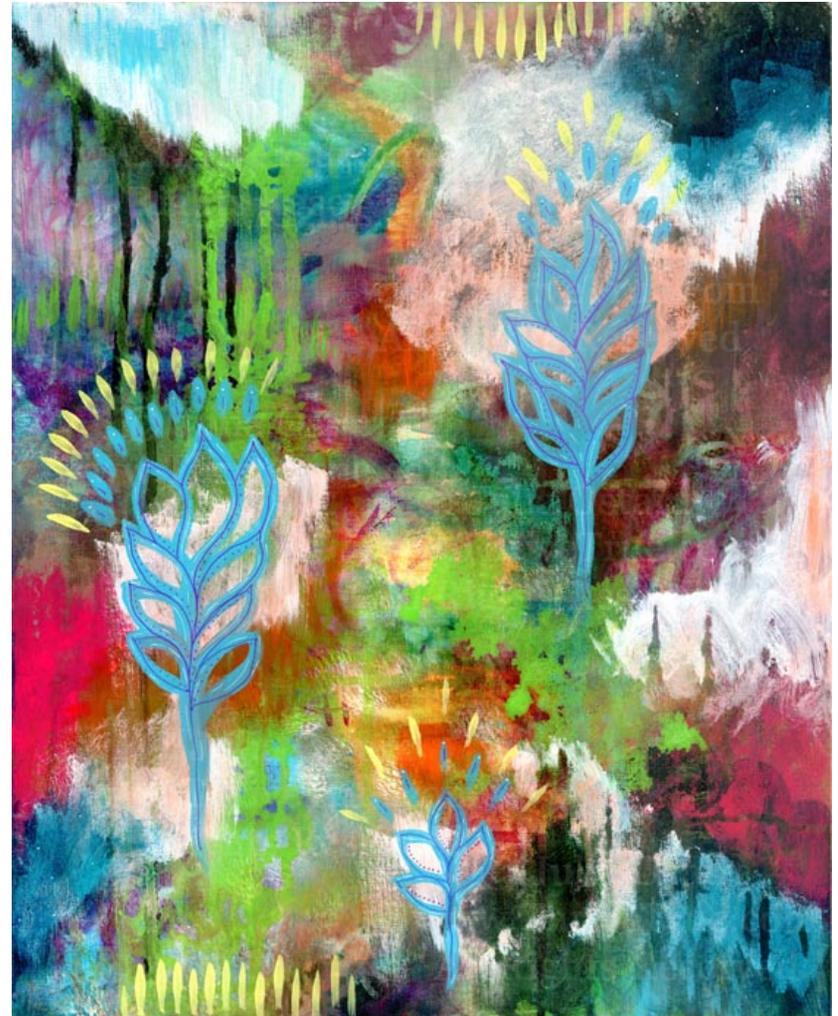


# Confession & Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy:

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



# Opening Responses

Lord, open our lips,  
**And our mouth shall proclaim  
your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be 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! The Lord is risen indeed!  
**O Come, let us worship!  
Alleluia!**



# Christ our Passover

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia!

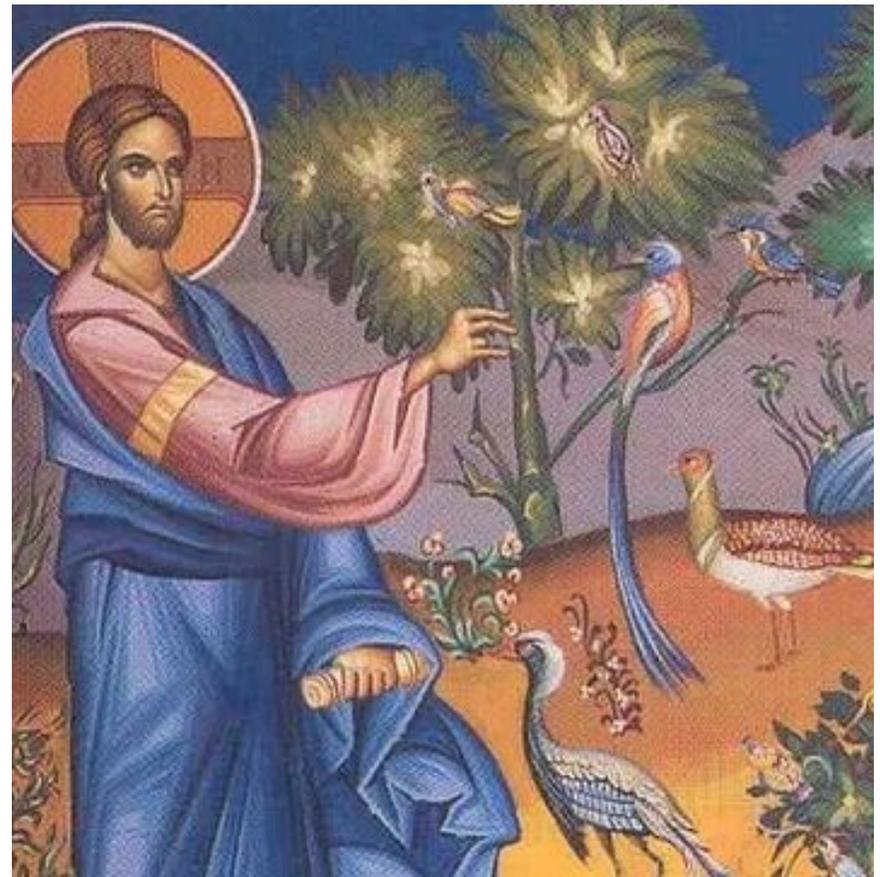
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So also consider yourselves dead to sin, and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



# Psalm 65

Unison

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zi - on.

Praise is due to you, oh God, in Zion; to you shall vows be performed. You give heed to prayer, to you all mortals shall come. The burden of our sins is too great for us, but you will purge them away. *Refrain.*

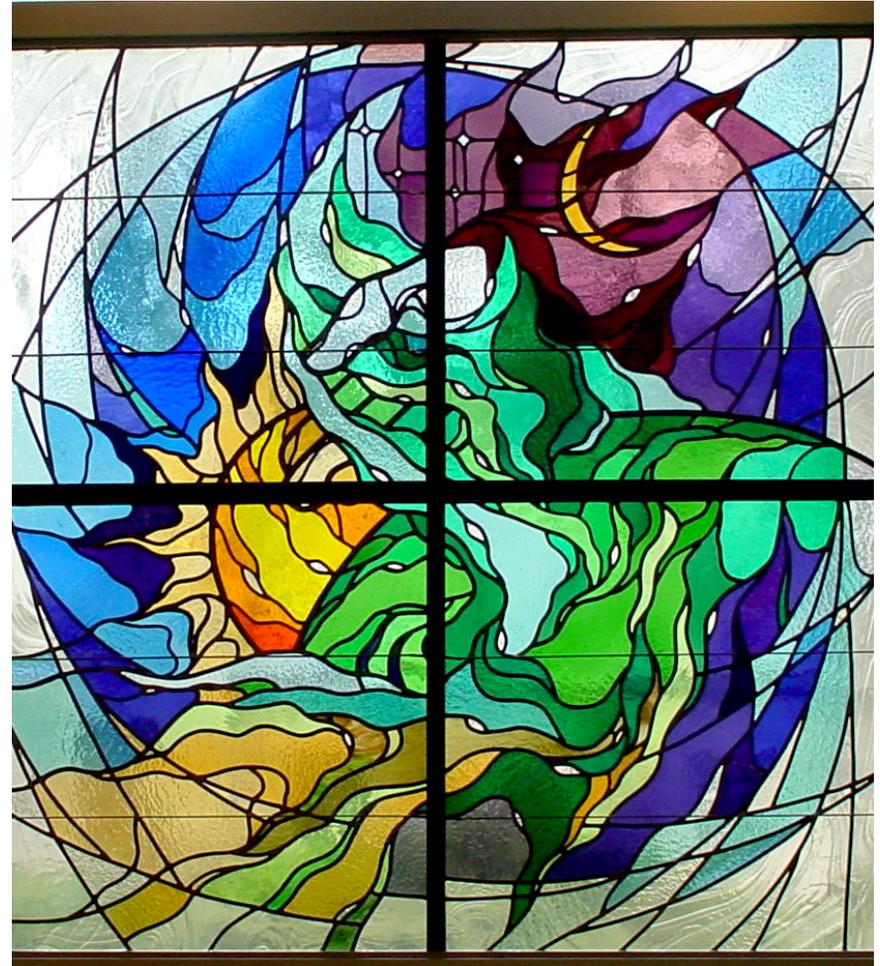
Blessed are the people you choose and bring to dwell in your courts. We shall be filled with the blessings of your house, your holy temple. With awesome deeds you answer our prayers for deliverance, oh God our saviour. You are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the far-off seas. By your strength you make fast the mountains, and gird yourself round with power. You still the raging of the seas, and the roaring of the waves, the tumult of the peoples. Those who dwell at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your wonders; the gateways of both morning and evening shout for joy. *Refrain.*

You visit the earth and water it, you make it very fruitful. The waters of heaven brim over their banks, providing us with grain, for so you have prepared the land, drenching its furrows, settling its ridges, softening it with showers and blessing its growth. You crown the year with goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty. The pastures of the wilderness abound with grass and the hills are girded with joy. The fields are girded with sheep, the valleys are decked with wheat, so that they shout and sing for joy. *Refrain.*

# Genesis 1:26-31

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.



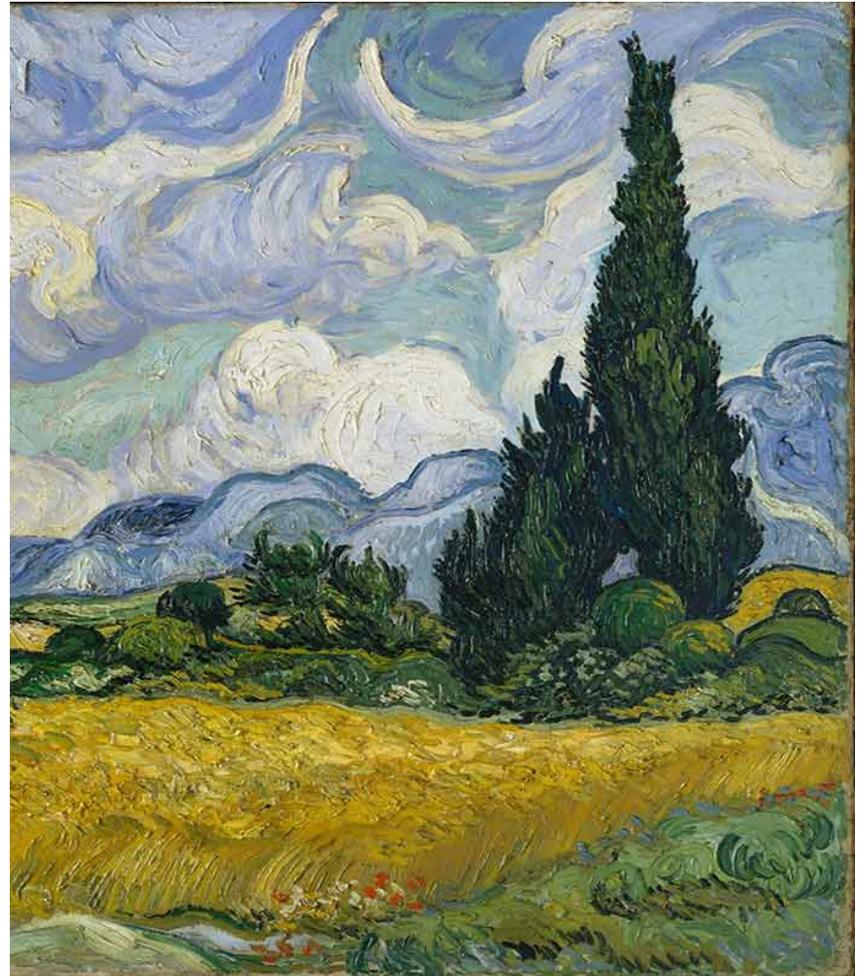
# A Canticle of Praise

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord:

O heavens and all waters above the heavens. Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, all winds and fire and heat. Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, O shining light and enfolding dark. Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.



# 1 Corinthians 9:6-14

The point is this: 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 righteousness endures forever.”

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. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you.



# Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ.

**He gave us new life and hope by  
raising Jesus from the dead.**

Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

**We shall be counted worthy when  
Christ appears.**

God has claimed us as his own.

**He called us from our darkness  
into the light of his day.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



# Mark 4: 26-32

Jesus also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

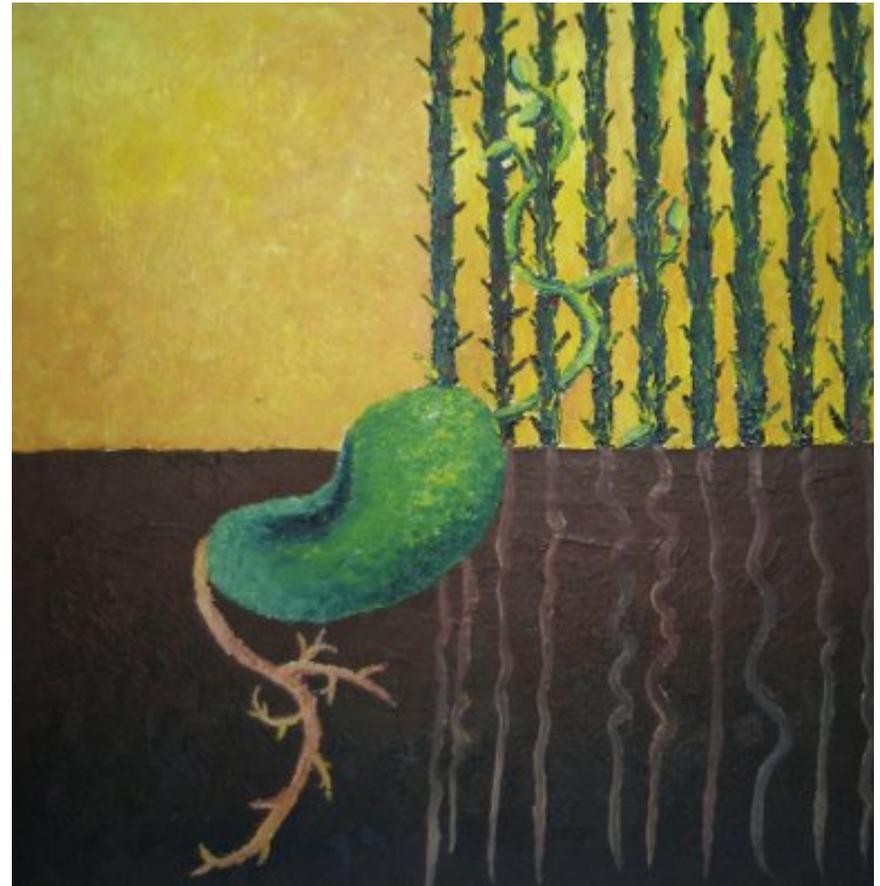
Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”



# The Sermon

Sandy Montgomery, Treasurer and  
Lay Preacher

St. Paul's Church, Philipsburg



# Confession of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in the ancient words of the שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל (Shema Yisrael), as we say:

**Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.**

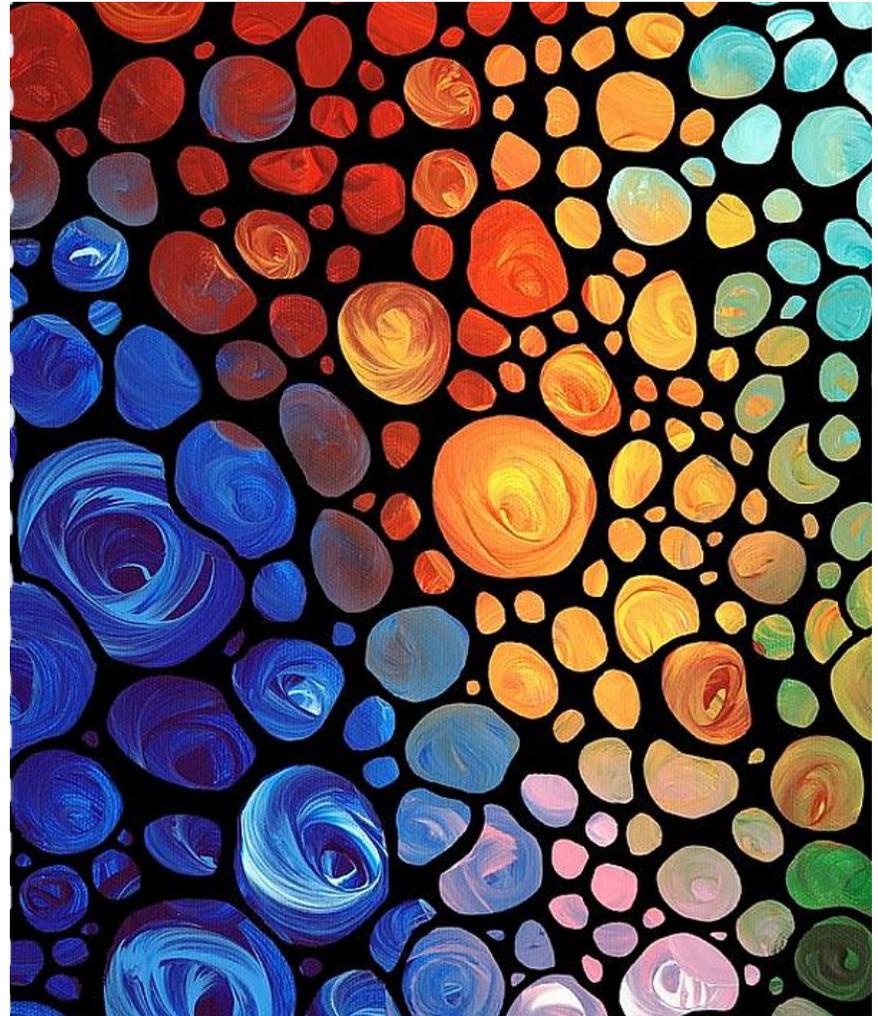


# Prayers of the People

Led by Sandra Fortier, People's  
Warden

St. James the Apostle, Stanbridge  
East

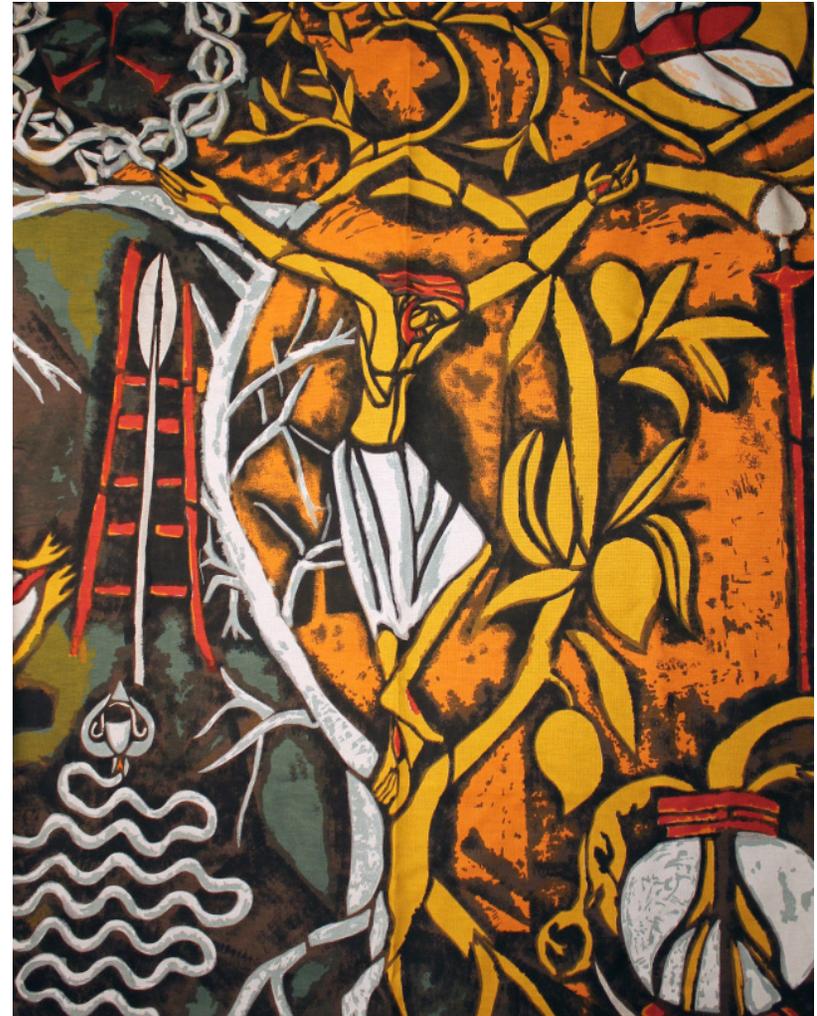
*Response:* Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**



# The Collects

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: we humbly pray that your gracious will may give and preserve to our use the harvests of your creation. Prosper all who work in farming and agriculture, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Almighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness we flee unto you for aid. Deliver us, we pray, from our peril; give strength and skill to those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, as we perceive how frail and uncertain our life is, we may turn our hearts unto the heavenly wisdom which leads to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



# The Blessing of Seeds

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: in your goodness you have given us these seeds to sow. In them we perceive the promise of life, the wonders of your creative love. By your blessing, let these seeds be for us a sign of your creative power, that in sowing and watering, tending and watching, we may see the miracle of growth, and in due course reap a rich harvest. As any seed must die to give life, reveal to us the saving power of your Son, who died that we might live, and plant in us the good seed of your Word. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



# The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Notre Père, qui es aux cieux, que ton nom soit sanctifié, que ton règne vienne, que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel. Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour. Pardonne-nous nos offenses, comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés. Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation mais délivre-nous du mal. Car c'est à Toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire, pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.**

# Hymn 261: God, Whose Farm is All Creation

God, whose farm is all creation,  
take the gratitude we give;  
take the finest of our harvest,  
crops we grow that all may live.

Take our ploughing, seeding, reaping,  
hopes and fears of sun and rain,  
all our thinking, planning, waiting,  
ripening into fruit and grain.

All our labour, all our watching,  
all our calendar of care,  
in these crops of your creation,  
take, O God: they are our prayer.



# Blessing and Dismissal

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon us his children, that we may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all peoples; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you this Easter Day and always. **Amen.**

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

