

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

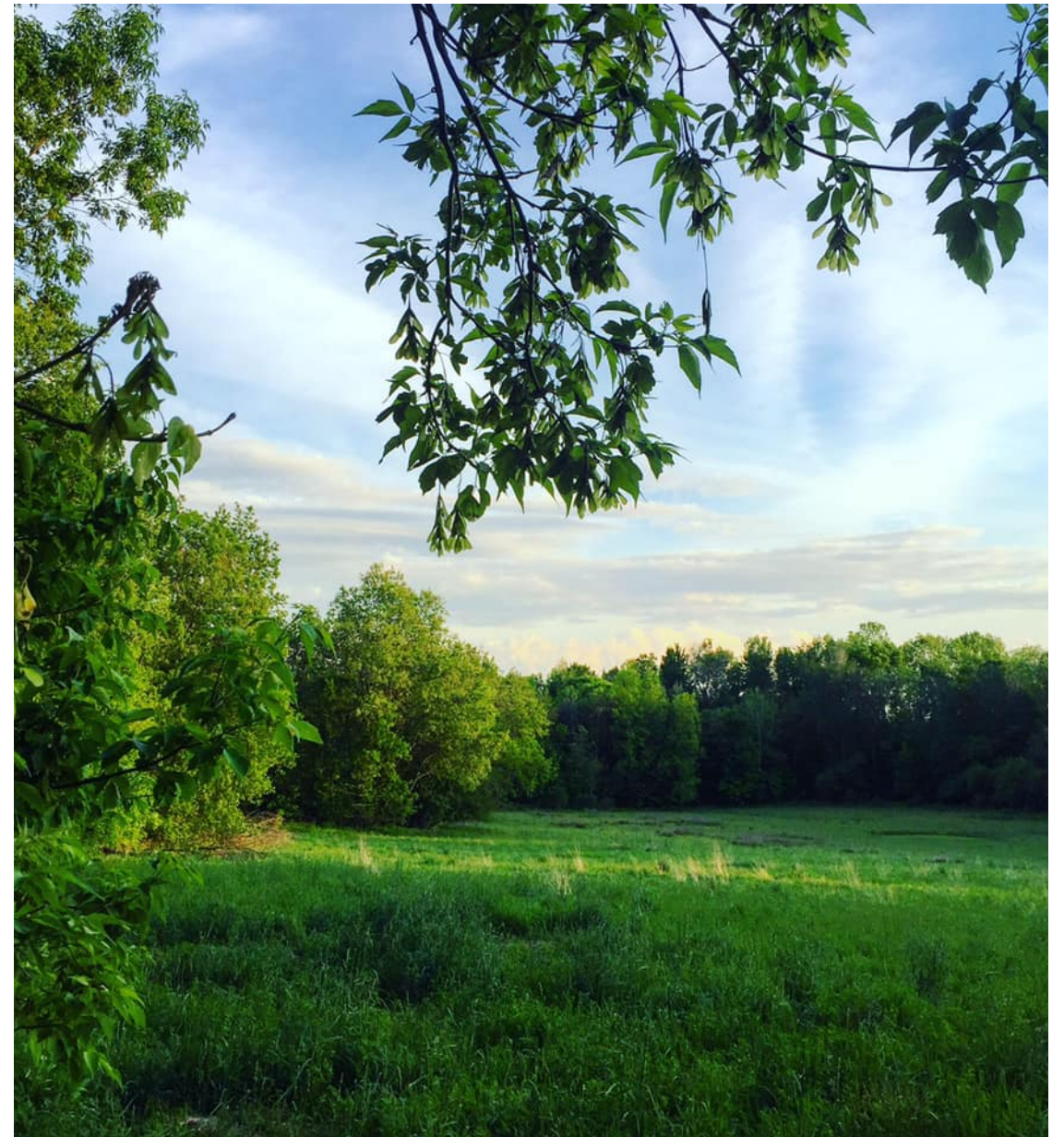


A Service of Morning Prayer for  
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (19 July)



# 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. Christ is present in our midst.



# Be Thou My Vision

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father and I, Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart;  
O King of glory, my treasure Thou art.
4. O King of glory, my victory won;  
Rule and reign in me 'til Thy will be done;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall;  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.



# Territorial Acknowledgment

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

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



*An 18th century watercolour of an Abenaki man and woman*

# 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 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 Lord. **Amen.**



*Confession and Absolution. Woodcut from the 1558 edition of Martin Luther's Small Catechism.*



# Opening Responses

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

Glory to God, Source of all being,  
eternal Word, and Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.**

The earth is the Lord's, for he  
made it:  
**O, come let us worship.**



*Jesus the Architect.  
13th century French manuscript*



# The Venite

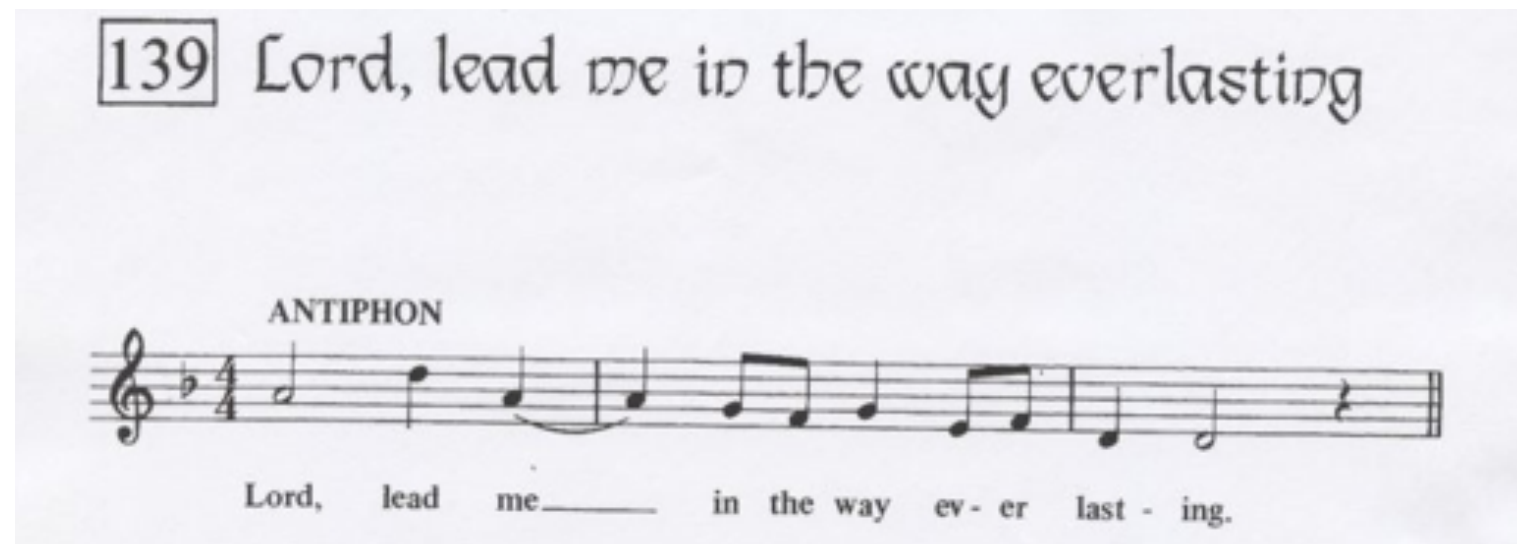
Come, let us sing to God on high,  
The Rock of our salvation praise;  
Come with thanksgiving  
to God's courts  
And joyful psalms before Him raise.

For God is Lord above all gods,  
The heights and depths are  
in His hand;  
God made the sea and it is His,  
God's hands have molded  
the dry land.

Let us bow down and worship God  
Who is our maker and our Lord;  
We are God's people and His sheep;  
Today, then, hearken to God's Word.



# Psalm 139



**Refrain:** Lord, lead me in the way of everlasting.

Lord, you have searched me out and know me:  
You know my thoughts long before.

**You are about my path and about my bed  
And you know all my ways.      *Refrain.***

Your love encircles me behind and before:  
You protect me with your hand.

**For you fashioned me in my mother's  
Womb, and in your book were all my  
Members written.      *Refrain.***

Where can I go then from your Spirit?  
Or find a hiding place from your presence?

**If I climb up to heaven you are there:  
If I rest in the grave you are there also.**

***Refrain.***

How deep are your thoughts to me, o God:  
How great is the sum of them!

**If I could count them they are more in  
Number than the sand.**

**When I awake, I am present with you.**

***Refrain.***

Try me, o God, and examine my thoughts:  
Put me to the test and know my thoughts.

**Look well if there be any wickedness  
In me: and lead me in the way of  
Everlasting.**

***Refrain.***



# Wisdom 12:13 & 16-19

For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people...For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

# A Canticle of Zachariah

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them  
free. You have raised up for us a mighty  
Saviour, born of the house of your servant  
David. Through your holy prophets, you  
promised of old to save us from our  
enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,  
to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant. This  
was the oath you swore to our father  
Abraham: to set us free from the hands of  
our enemies, free to worship you without  
fear, holy and righteous before you, all the  
days of our life. And you, child, shall be  
called the prophet of the Most High, for you  
will go before the Lord to prepare the way,  
to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender  
compassion of our God the dawn from on  
high shall break upon us, to shine on those  
who dwell in darkness and the shadow of  
death, and to guide our feet into the way of  
peace. "



*Zachariah and an angel.  
18th century Ethiopian Bible manuscript.*



# Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh -- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.



# The Wheat and the Tares

1. Growing together, wheat and tares,  
All clustering fair and green,  
Fanned by the gentle summer airs  
Beneath one sky serene; Over them both the  
sunlight falls,  
And over them both the rain,  
Till the angels come when the Master calls  
To gather the golden grain.

2. Growing together side by side,  
And both shall the reapers meet— The tares  
aloft in their scornful pride, And bowing heads  
of wheat.  
Swift and sure o'er the waving plain The sickle  
sharp will fly,  
And the precious when, the abundant grain,  
Be harvested in the sky.

3. But O the tares,—for them the word Of a  
terrible doom is cast;  
“Bind and burn,” is the Lord’s command,  
They shall leave the wheat at last;  
Never again the summer rain,  
And never the sunshine sweet,  
That were lavished freely, all in vain  
On the tares among the wheat.

4. Where shall the reapers look for us  
When that day of days shall come?  
O solemn the thought with grandeur fraught, Of  
that wondrous harvest-home!  
O Saviour grant when Thine Angels come  
To reap the fields for Thee,  
That we may be found with the golden grain  
That garnered in heaven shall be.



# Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Jesus, put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are Angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his Angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

# The Sermon

Father Marc-Philippe Vincent, *Priest-in-charge of Stanbridge East, Frelighsburg, Pigeon Hill, and Stanbury*





# Confession of Faith

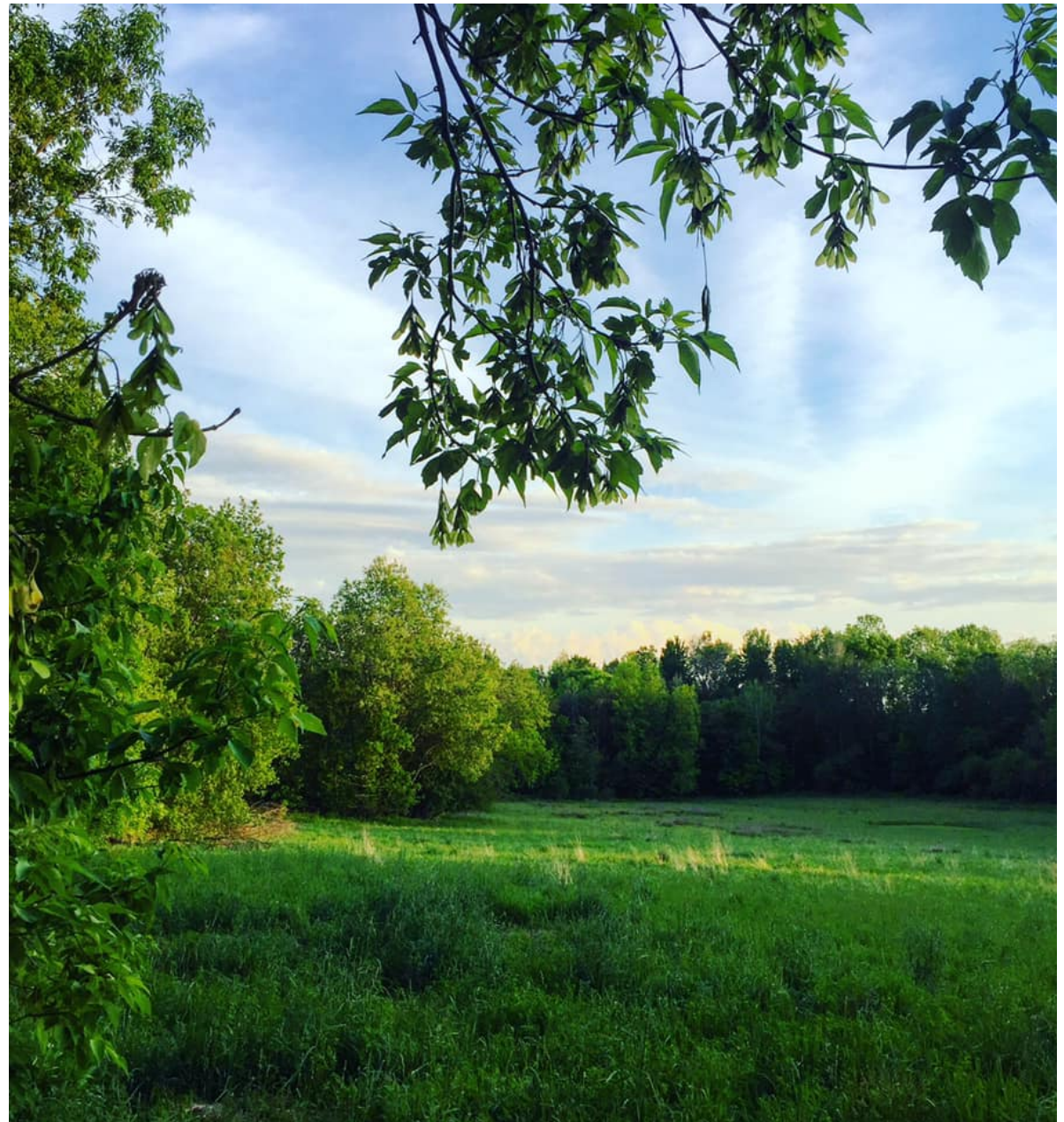
Let us declare our faith in God, *singing*...

1. We believe in God the Father, God Almighty by whose plan,  
earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began.  
We believe in Christ the Saviour, Son of God in human frame,  
virgin-born, the child of Mary, upon whom the Spirit came.
2. Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead.  
We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign,  
to the Father's side ascended 'till as judge he comes again.
3. We believe in God the Spirit; in one Church, below, above:  
Saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love.  
So by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Saviour, Lord, and friend,  
we shall rise with him in glory to the life that knows no end.

# Prayers of the People

Led by Pam Dillon  
(St. James the Apostle,  
Stanbridge East)

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





# The Collect of the Day

God of the earth, all creation  
awaits your gift of new life.  
Prepare our hearts to receive your  
Word, so that it may grow within  
us and yield a hundredfold  
harvest; through Jesus Christ, the  
Sower.

**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.**



# The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy

1. The kingdom of God is justice and joy;  
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy.  
God's power and glory in Jesus we know  
and here and hereafter the kingdom  
shall grow.

2. The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;  
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,  
the outcast are welcomed God's  
banquet to share;  
and hope is awakened in place of despair.

3. The kingdom of God is challenge  
and choice:  
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!  
His love for us sinners brought Christ  
to his cross:  
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

4. God's kingdom is come, the gift and  
the goal;  
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.  
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call  
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.

# Blessing and Dismissal

The God of grace who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen, and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you this Summer day, and always.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

