

St. John's Reformed Church
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026

(Please join responsively by speaking aloud the **bold** sections)

Pre-Prelude

Announcements & Hospitality

Our Approach to God

Prelude

Votum: The Spirit is a deep impulse breathing life into creation, suffering with creation and renewing all creation.

*Call to Worship:

We invite the countryside to worship with us:

wildflowers and mushrooms, swirling grasses and goldenrods.

We invite the farmlands to sing with us:

wheat fields, orchards, vineyards; hayfields, gardens, and wetlands.

We join with all the fauna of the fields in praising God:

horses, sheep, and cattle, grass snakes and grasshoppers, eagles and crows.

We invite the ground to stir deep below:

life-giving microbes restoring the soil, beetles and worms preparing our food.

We celebrate the song of the soil.

Sing, forest, sing!

*Hymn: **#20 All Things Bright and Beautiful v.1-4**

Salutation & Prayer of Invocation

Call and Prayer of Confession

O God, we thank you for the wonder of creation and the gift of land. We remember and confess how we have poisoned and polluted the soils in our garden planet. Christ, once buried in Earth, hear our cry. We regret that we have forgotten Earth and treated this garden planet as a beast to be tamed and as a place to be ruled. Christ, the hope of all creation, we lament our failings. We have killed living soils with excessive chemicals, turned fertile fields into lifeless plains, and cleared rich lands of wildlife. Christ, the source of all life, we are sorry.

Moment of Silence

Kyrie Eleison ***“Lord have mercy upon us: Christ have mercy upon us; Lord have mercy upon us”***

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law: 1st Chronicles 16:29b, 31-33: “Worship the Lord in holy splendor: tremble before him, all the earth...let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, “The Lord is king.” Let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the field exalt and everything in it. Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord.”

May the Spirit guide us to be obedient to this Word. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

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.

Musical Meditation

The Word of God In Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson from Old Testament: Genesis 3:14-19, 4:8-16

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Lesson from the Psalms: Psalm 139:7-12

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn: **#618 Spirit of God, Who Dwells Within My Heart v.1-3**

*Lesson from the Gospel: Matthew 12:38-40

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Prayer for Blessing

Our Response to God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith:

God creates all things,
renews all things and celebrates all things.

This we believe.

Earth is a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with all creatures.

This we believe.

God became incarnate,
a part of Earth, like Adam, a human being called Jesus Christ,
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,
suffered and died on a cross
for all human beings and for all creation.

This we believe.

The risen Jesus is the Christ
at the center of creation
reconciling all things to God,
renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

This we believe.

The Spirit renews life in creation,
groans in empathy with a suffering creation,
and waits with us for the rebirth of all creation.

**This we believe. We believe that with Christ we will rise
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.**

*The Peace The peace of Christ be with you. **And also, with you.**

The Offering

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye Heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of dedication

**God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to
share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our thanksgiving and as a
sign of our concern for those in need, including all our fellow creatures
on planet Earth.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response *Threefold Amen Amen, Amen, Amen.*

***Hymn: #925 Go to the World v.1-4**

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen **"Go Now in Peace"**

*Postlude *Indicates congregation to stand if able.

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Upper Red Hook, New York

