

St. John's Reformed Church
15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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 forests to worship with us:

mountain ash and vibrant maples, quivering ferns and glistening moss!

We invite tall trees to celebrate life:

jackpines and oaks, tall trees where lizards and lichen find their home!

We invite the forest to sing in the night:

green tree frogs and timid moths, owls and swirling bats!

We join with the fauna of the forest in praising God:

redwinged blackbirds and hummingbirds, creeping things and butterflies.

We celebrate the song of the forest!

Sing, forest, sing!

*Hymn: *#19 For the Beauty of the Earth v. 1-5*

Salutation & Prayer of Invocation

Call and Prayer of Confession

We remember the first garden, where God planted a forest of trees. We remember with awe and wonder the gift of this planet blessed with trees. We remember the gardens and the forests of our childhood, the places where we played in the past when we felt close to Earth, to trees and to our kin born of Earth.

Christ, crucified on a tree, hear our cry.

We regret that we have become alienated from Earth and have treated this garden as a beast to be tamed, as a domain to be dominated, and as a place to be ruled for our gain. We have ignored the distant sounds in the forest, the sound of chainsaws clearing for greed and gain, the sound of those old forest giants falling forever,

the sound of rare species breathing their last. 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 2:4b-22

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

Lesson from the Psalms: Psalm 139:13-16

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

*Hymn: *#749 Spirit of the Living God v.1-2*

*Lesson from the Gospel: John 3:1-16

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
is 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.**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper (*outer rings wine / inner rings juice*)

Introduction to Communion

Communion Hymn: **#837 Let Us Break Bread Together**

(Use "to the rising sun")

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 2 **#811**

Thanksgiving After Communion

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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

*Hymn: **#832 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing v. 1-3**

*Benediction

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

*Postlude *Indicates congregation to stand if able.

St. John's Reformed Church

Upper Red Hook, New York

