



St James's
PICCADILLY

The Eucharist for the Feast of Creation in Christ

**Sunday 6th September 2026
at 11am**

With a congregation in the church
and live on YouTube



Welcome to St James's Church. Whether you are with us in person or joining us online, you are very welcome.

Everyone is warmly invited to receive communion or a blessing so please do come forward at the appropriate time.

Today we celebrate the Feast of Creation in Christ and the beginning of the international Season of Creation with a special sound and video installation by Sze Ying Chan and Sara Mark called 'Ten Wells'. Please see the separate insert for more information about this. Prayers for this service have been written by the St James's Earth Justice Group.

ORDER OF SERVICE

INTROIT

Ten Wells

OPENING HYMN

[Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen; Words: William Henry Draper (1855-1933); based on Cantico di Frate Sole by Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)]

**All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:**

Refrain:

***O praise God, O praise God,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise God, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice:

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise God, alleluia!
The flow'rs and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them his glory also show:

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness;
O praise God, alleluia!
Praise, the Creator, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:

OPENING RESPONSES

The priest says

Grace, mercy and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

And also with you.

*The priest welcomes everyone and Deborah Colvin from the
Earth Justice Group introduces the service.*

**Eternal God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom 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.**

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

The deacon says

Let us call to mind the fractured relationships and injustices of our world;
Let us remember our own part in this and make our confession in penitence and faith.

KYRIE *(Ghanaian)*

The cantor sings

Kyrie eleison.
(Lord, have mercy.)

All sing

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

After a short silence, the deacon leads the confession ...

Living God, we confess that we have not loved you with all our whole heart, nor lived in right relationship with Creation.

In sorrow and repentance, we acknowledge our complicity in the earth's desecration, our indifference to the cries of its beings and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

In your mercy, may we be forgiven.

May we find the hope and courage to renew our relationship with you and serve the healing of your Creation.

Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

The priest says

May the God who is both power and love forgive you
and set you free; give you healing and strength,
and raise you to new life in Christ.

Amen.

THE GLORIA

The Gloria is spoken by humans, humbly, joining in the praise of all creation signified by the soundscape playing throughout.

The cantor says

Glory to God in the highest

All say

God of all the universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

At your command all things come to be,

the vastness of interstellar space,

the galaxies and stars,

the planets in their courses,

and this fragile earth our home.

**From the primal elements you brought forth
the human race and blessed us.
Fountain of life and source of all goodness,
you call upon us to return and walk in your ways.
Fill us now with your blessing.
Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Collect

The priest says

Let us pray

O God, in whom Creation was brought into being before the beginning of time, and through whom in Christ all life is sustained; may we so honour your Creation that we turn away from all that lays waste to it, and come instead to live in creative harmony with you in the service of its healing and renewal.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 47.1-12

(This is the text for this year's Season of Creation, portraying God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God).

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the

outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and the water was coming out on the south side. Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?" Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to Engelaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

from **PSALM 148**

Today the psalm is spoken not sung, joining in the soundscape of creation. Please join in after the opening line spoken by the cantor ...

The cantor says

O praise the name of the Lord!

All say

O praise the name of the Lord.

**Praise God from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and mist,
tempestuous wind fulfilling God's word;
mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and winged birds.**

O praise the name of the Lord.

The Gospel is taken to the centre of the church in procession, accompanied by the sounds of Creation. Please turn and face the gospel as it passes.

THE GOSPEL

The cantor sings

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All sing

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The cantor sings

Glory to you O Lord.

Glory to you O Lord.

Matthew 18.15-20

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The cantor sings

Praise to you O Christ

Praise to you O Christ.

The cantor sings

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All sing

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Please sit.

SERMON

The Revd Joan Ishibashi

A period of silence is kept for personal reflection.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.**

**We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, seen in the suffering one,
the poor one, the malnourished one,
the climate refugee - who loves and cares for this world
and suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God,
and who moves among and with us today.**

We believe in everlasting life in God.

And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

Amen.

Lutheran Theological College, South India, adapted for the Season of Creation 2026.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The deacon says

Let us pray for the world, for the church,
for all in need and for those who have asked for our prayers.

*Please kneel or sit for prayers led by a member of the congregation. After the bidding 'For where the river flows', please respond with '**everything will live**'.*

THE PEACE

The priest says

Peace to you from God, eternal Creator:
Peace to you from Christ, who is our peace:
Peace to you from the Holy Spirit,
the giver and sustainer of all life.

The deacon says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The priest says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please share the Peace with your neighbours if you are in the building, and in the YouTube chat box if you are online.

During the offertory hymn, a collection will be taken. If you have cash, please fill in the Gift Aid envelopes in the pews with the pens available.

If you don't have cash, please use the tap donate device in the collection plate, which is set to £10, or the QR code on page 19.

OFFERTORY HYMN

[Tune: Converse; Words: Living Water by Jan Berry (b. 1941)]

**In the questions without answers
in the truth we seek to find,
God is calling us to journey,
leaving certainty behind.
In the thirst for peace and justice,
in the struggle to be free,
God is off'ring living water,
freshly poured for you and me.**

**In the energy of loving,
breaking bounds of church and place,
God is naming all things holy,
making earth a sacred space.
In the shaping and the sharing,
in the finding common ground,
God is off'ring living water,
flowing out to all around.**

**In the cross of loving myst'ry,
in the mix of tears and joy,**

**God embraces and enfolds us,
with a hope death can't destroy.
In the silence and the waiting,
in the anger and the prayer,
God is in the living water,
depth of life for all to share.**

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

We gather round this table now as fellow creatures,
drawn together in this holy place to receive our name,
as strangers become pilgrims at this altar on earth.
As we do not own the Earth, we do not own Christ's table at
which we are fed and sustained by God.
Like our common home, it's ours only when we share it.
Eternal God, give us open hearts and open hands to be fed at
your table.

Amen.

GATHERING

*All are invited to gather round the altar. Should you need to sit,
please use any of the benches or seats around the altar at the
front of the church.*

While moving to the altar, please join in singing ...

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.**

The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...

SANCTUS and **BENEDICTUS** (HEW)

The cantor sings

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

All sing

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

The cantor sings

Blessed is the one.

All sing

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with:
"... as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"

THE ACCLAMATIONS *(Haugen)*

The cantor sings

Great is the mystery of faith.

All sing after the cantor

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The prayer continues ...

At the end of the prayer, sing after the cantor

**Blessing and honour and glory and power,
be yours for ever.**

Amen.

Silence is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in your own language.

The priest says

Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Bread is broken and the priest says

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The priest says

This is the table of Christ.

It has been made ready for those who love God,
and those who want to love more.

So come; you who have much faith and you who have little.

You who have been to this sacrament often
and you who have not been for some time.

You who have tried to follow Christ and you who have failed.

Come. It is Christ who asks us to meet him here.

THE COMMUNION

*During Communion, the Lay Singers will sing **Be Still, My Soul**,
music by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957).*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Source of all Life,
we thank you for the gifts of Creation:
the deep wells of salvation that sustain our bodies and souls.
We offer ourselves to tend and care for your world.
Guide us and keep us:
renew us, that we may work for the coming of your kin-dom.
Through Jesus, the One who brings all things together in love.
Amen.

Notices are given by the congregation, wardens and clergy.

During the final hymn, please follow the servers and clergy in procession outside to the courtyard under the magnolia tree.

HYMN

[Tune: Slane; Words: June Boyce-Tillman (b.1943)]

Walk on the long road, the long suff'ring road.
A man goes before us; he carries a load;
thorns cut his forehead; the Sun burns the sky;
a child watches closely and is still asking why.

Circle me gently with love's flutt'ring wings;
enfold me in glory until my heart sings.
Nurturing beauty, you hold me secure,
and drench me with water until I am pure.

Bird song at daybreak and night clouds at dusk,
the moon's gentle glistening, the scent of sweet musk
remind us that your care cannot let us go;
we sail in our small boats along with your flow.

Christ at the centre and going before,
that Christ in confusion will open a door;
Christ in the present and Christ in the past,
and Christ underpinning the course of life's path.

This is a tale of a love without end,
traversing the pleasures and pains that life sends;
you live within us; we can feel that power
which binds up our wounding and makes our lives flower.

When all are gathered, the priest says

THE BLESSING

In the name of Christ, our fountain of living water,
remember the sacred, living waters that connect us to the soil
and all that grows therein, to all the waters of the earth,
and all living creatures.

Remember the sacred, living waters.

*At this point, the clergy, deacon and members of the Earth
Justice group will sprinkle the congregation with water from
the River Chess, using sprigs of rosemary for remembrance of
our connection to the earth.*

The priest continues ...

Go out as transformed people, refreshed and deeply rooted,
to bring justice and healing to all the earth.

And the blessing of God; Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you on this day and for ever.

Amen.

The deacon says

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.



If you would like to support the ministry of St James's, please scan this QR code to make a one-off or regular donation.

Alternatively, please visit sjp.org.uk/donate, or use one of the tap donation points in the church. Donations will appear on your bank statement as 'Supported Business'.

For your prayers this week

Parish life and events

All members of our online community.

Felix and Rachel, whose wedding is on Saturday (12th September).

The annual Fleur de Lys service here on Saturday (12th September).

Our partnership with St Bart's New York and our musicians, clergy, PCC and fundraisers who are visiting them this month.

Those who have asked for our prayers

[Matthew](#), [Laura](#).

Those who are ill

[Catherine Gregory](#), [Ashelyne](#), [Christine](#).

Recently departed

[Becca](#), and for her family and all who mourn her.

May she rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Soul at Saint James

TODAY - Sunday 6th September at 5pm

Come and experience the uplifting power of gospel music at *Soul at Saint James*, an inclusive evening of music, reflection, poetry and community, created in collaboration with the incredible Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir.



Part workshop, part concert and part social gathering, *Soul at Saint James* invites everyone to join in, whether you regularly attend church, are exploring spirituality, or simply love music.

Sing along with friends and new faces, or sit back and soak up the sound. Expect an energising and restorative evening that brings people together through the joy of gospel music.

Choral Evensong with The Sixteen

Tuesday 8th September at 6pm

Experience the beauty and stillness of choral music as *The Sixteen* return to St James's for a special Choral Evensong.



As part of their new residency at St James's, the renowned choir will perform music by Lassus, Sheppard and Victoria, bringing centuries of choral tradition to our Wren church.

A chance to pause, listen and reflect, this atmospheric service is open to all. Please note: this service takes place in person only and will not be livestreamed.