

Before the service – Meditation

Human Nature

What is our Nature as human beings ?

We are part of God's creation, made in God's image male and female we are created

What does it mean to be made in the image of God ?

We are free to reflect God's own nature, to make choices : to love, to create, to reason, and to live in harmony with God and all creation. However we are also free to disobey, or deny the reality of God.

Why is there so much disharmony in our world and in human lives?

From the beginning we have misused our freedom. We work against God and put ourselves in the place of God. We sin, we fall.

What help is there?

God has acted in Jesus to bring us back to a loving and forgiven relationship. In that action all humanity is offered re-creation and wholeness.

God

How do we become aware of God?

By God 's initiative In our thinking and understanding : by experiencing and reflecting on the wonder and mystery of creation, birth and death, love, guilt and the need to find meaning and worth beyond ourselves.

Where do we learn about God?

Christians learn about God In the Bible, in the teaching of the church summed up in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, and through sharing in the living community of faith.

What do we learn about God?

God is eternal, earth maker, pain bearer, life giver source of all that is and shall be; Father and Mother of us all.

We learn that God is one , yet revealed as Father, Son , and Holy Spirit - a Holy Trinity

What is our place in the universe?

It means that the world belongs to its creator, and that we are called to enjoy it and to care for it , in accordance with words purposes .

What does this mean about human life ?

It means that all people are worthy of respect and honour because all are created in the image of God, and all can respond to the love of God.

Prayer

Holy God, Creator and Lover of all that is,

We confess to you that we have sinned.

We have failed in our care for the land and it's creatures,

We have been greedy destructive and wasteful

of the resources you entrusted to us

For give us, we pray have mercy.

Amen

The Seed, The Shade, The Stewardship

Welcome!

We worship this Sunday with planet Earth. We join the Psalmists and rejoice with Earth. We sing with Earth, our planet home spinning through space. We celebrate Earth as a sacred place, a sanctuary filled with God's presence.

Earth

Refers to the fragile green blue planet, that piece of stardust in the solar system we now call home. Earth is also the domain that is filled with God's glory, the living presence of God that appeared on Sinai, in the tabernacle and now permeates Earth itself (Isa. 6.3). That same glory is revealed in the Word made flesh from Earth and born on planet Earth (John 1.14).

Special Focus

A special focus for this service is the unique nature of our planet, the amazing mystery of life on our planet through the seed and the shade. And the bond we have with Earth as our precious home.

Themes

In our call to worship we invite all the domains of Earth to worship with us. In our confession to recall how we have become alienated from Earth and treated it as an endless resource to be exploited. In the readings we discover how the Word continues to be the impulse that creates in Earth and the amazing truth that the Word is born of flesh and blood on Earth. Earth is where God is born, made of the stuff of Earth, a message reflected in the Affirmation of Faith.

The Holy Eucharist

Opening Hymn 1

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
now to His temple draw near;
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so
wondrously reigneth,
Shieldeth thee gently from harm or when
fainting sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen
how thy heart's wishes have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy
work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily
attend thee:
Ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
If to the end He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, oh, let all that is in me
adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with
praises before Him;
Let the Amen
sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Call to Worship (*Kneel*)

Leader : Sisters and brothers, rejoice.
We are sustained and nourished by God's presence
and love.

All : **Thanks be to God.**

As we mourn the distress and wounds of God's
creation,

God weeps with us.

As we face rising waters, hunger and displacement.

God suffers with us.

As we struggle for justice,

God struggles with us.

As we expose and challenge climate justice

God empowers us.

As we strive to build alternative communities,

God works with us.

As we offer our gifts to all,

God blesses us.

Sisters and brothers, rejoice,

**Sustained by God's presence and love we
worship God.**

Prayer of Confession – (All together)

We Confess,

That we have considered the earth to be our own, Believing God gave us dominion and thus absolute control over it.

We affirm,

“..... that the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it:
For, he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.” *(Psalm 24. 1-2)*

We repent,

We know we need to change our understanding of creation, taking our share of responsibility for its care and protection.

We believe,

That the spirit, God's recreating power is active in us: and in the world.

Absolution

God creator of all, May humankind be freed from the greed which is destroying the earth: and may your churches be courageous in taking up causes against the forces that threaten life. **Amen**

The Kyries

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.
Lord Have mercy, Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Prayer for Planet Earth

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mystery of our fragile planet, we celebrate the wonders of the Earth as our home. Help us to discern how we have polluted our planet and to empathise with the groaning of creation beneath us. Teach us to sense the presence of God pulsing through Earth as a living green blue sanctuary. Teach us to love the Earth as our home. In the name of Christ, the Word of God, who is the creative impulse in all creation. Amen

First Reading

Psalm 150 - Responsive Reading

1. Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
Praise him in his mighty Firmament!
2. **Praise him for his mighty deeds;
Praise according to his surpassing greatness!**
3. Praise him with trumpet sound;
Praise him with lute and harp!
4. **Praise him with tambourine and dance;
Praise him with strings and pipe!**
5. Praise him with loud clashing cymbals !
6. **Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord !**

Second Reading

Colossians 1: 15-20

The Supremacy of Christ

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation ; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the Church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, So that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Hymn 2

Morning has broken – like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken – like the first bird
Praise for the singing! – Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing – fresh from the word!

Sweet the rain's new fall – Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall – on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness – of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness – where his feet pass.

Mine is the Sunlight – Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light – Eden saw play!
Praise with elation -, praise every morning,
God's re -creation – of the new day!

The Holy Gospel - St. Mark chapter 4 - 1-9

The Parable of the Sower

Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them : "Listen! a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed , some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched ; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell in to good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundred fold. " And he said "Let anyone with ears to hear listen".

The Creed (*page 3 in the order of service*)

Notices and Sermon

The Offertory Hymn 3

(The offertory procession with gifts of the earth proceeds to the altar)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God; to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God; to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die-I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, our burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away our sin;

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home-what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim: My God, how great thou art!

The Offertory Prayer (*Page 4 in the order of service*)

Intercessions

Holy Eucharist (*page 6 in the order of service*)

The Lord's Prayer

(An environmental responsive Lord's Prayer)

Leader : Our father who art in heaven

People : You are also at home in the air, soil forests and oceans

Leader : Hallowed be your name

People : By the care we take of your creation

Leader : Your kingdom come

People : All that you see is good

Leader : Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

People : Your will to till and care

Leader : Give us this day our daily bread

People : That all may have sufficient to live life in fullness.

Leader : Forgive us our trespasses

People : Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations

Leader : As we forgive those who trespass against us

People : By reconciliation with justice and peace

Leader : Lead us not into temptation

People : The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation

Leader : And deliver us from evil

People : The evil of destroying your gift of creation

Leader : For yours is the kingdom

People : Yours, Lord, not ours

Leader : The power and the glory

People : In the cross and resurrection

Leader : For ever and ever

People : You are the beginning and you are the end.

Amen. (So be it)

Communion Hymns

Hymn 4

All things bright and beautiful

*All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

The purple headed mountain,
the river running by,
The Sunset, and the morning,
that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them everyone.

The tall trees in the green wood,
the meadows where we play,
The rushes, by the water,
we gather every day.

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell,
How great is God almighty,
who has made all things well.

Hymn 5

Great is thy faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not; Thy compassion they fail not,
As thou hast been, Thou for ever will be.

*Great is thy faithfulness,
Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided -
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter, and spring – time and harvest;
Sun moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness.....

Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

Thanksgiving *(Page 9 in the order of service)*

Gloria *(Page 10 in the order of service)*

Please remain standing



We commit ourselves to join with you, O God
 The plants and the animals,
 The elements, the sacred womb of sea and soil.
 We offer you our ability to create and
 our potential to release,
 people's loving energies, for the benefit of all creation.
 We sing with you the song of universe!
 We dance with you the dance of life!
 We are yours, and you in us are the hope,
 for the renewing of nature
 through the healing of nations.

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The Blessing

Hymn 6

Jehovah, Thou hast promised

Jehovah, Thou hast promised
The isles shall wait for Thee;
The joyous isles of Ocean,
The jewels of the sea ;
Lo ! we, this island's watchmen,
Would give and take no rest,
(For thus hast Thou commanded,)
Till our dear land be blessed.

Then bless her, mighty Father,
With blessings needed most,
In every verdant village,
By every palmy coast ;
On every soaring mountain
O'er every spreading plain.
May all her sons and daughters
Thy righteousness attain.

Give peace within her borders,
Twixt man and man goodwill,
The love all unsuspecting,
The love that works no ill;

In loyal, lowly service

Let each from other learn,
The guardian and the guarded,
Till Christ Himself return.

To Him our land shall listen,
To Him our land shall kneel,
All rule be on His shoulder.
All wrong beneath His heel;
Oh consummation glorious,
Which now by faith we sing;
Come, cast we up the highway
That brings us back the King.

Dismissal.