



# THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST ANDREW, EPSOM

A Eucharist Service

Season of Creation September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

River and Sea Sunday

*This liturgy draws on resources from the Uniting Church of Australia  
and A New Zealand Prayer Book/He Karakia Mihinare O Aotearoa.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

E te whanau a te Karaiti, in the name of the Creator, the fountain of life,

the name of Christ, the pulse of life,

and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

**Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.**

The Lord of life be with you.

**And also with you.**

Christ, we delight in the opportunity to gather in your name,

to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

a planet filled with your presence,

**quivering in the forests,**

**vibrating in the land,**

**pulsating in the wilderness,**

**shimmering in the rivers.**

God, reveal yourself to us this morning

and show us your face in all creation.

**Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.**

## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way

O sisters/brothers/fathers/mothers/sinners, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O sisters/brothers/fathers/mothers/sinners let's go down  
Down in the river to pray.

*The King's Singers. Traditional. Arr. Philip Lawson. Recorded from their homes in isolation, 2020. (Note: NZ connection: One of the King's Singers is Christopher Bruerton, a former Cathedral chorister from Christchurch NZ. He is the third to appear, with the beard.)*

## SONG OF PRAISE

Christ is the living water  
cleansing, refreshing, making all things new.  
Christ is the living bread;  
food for the hungry,  
strength for the pilgrim and the labourer.

**So now we offer our thanks**

**for the beauty of these islands;  
for the wild places and the bush,  
for the mountains, the coast and the sea.**

**We offer thanks and praise to God for this good land;**

**for its trees and pastures,  
for its plentiful crops  
and the skills we have learned to grow them.**

**Our thanks for marae and the cities we have built;**

**for science and discoveries,  
for our life together,  
for Aotearoa, New Zealand.**

## FORGIVENESS

We remember the rivers and seas where we have swam and played.

**O God, we thank you for the splendor of creation and the gift of rivers and seas.**

We remember and confess how we have poisoned and polluted the rivers in our garden planet.

**Christ, crucified on a tree, hear our cry.**

We regret that we have forgotten Earth and treated this garden planet as a beast to be tamed and a place to be ruled.

**Christ, the hope of all creation, we lament our failings.**

We have polluted our rivers with poisons, treated our streams as waste dumps, drained our wetlands of life, turned living waters into deathtraps and wasted precious waters in luxury living.

**Christ, the source of all life, we are sorry. We are sorry.**

## THE ABSOLUTION

Christ hears your confession from the cross and forgives your sins against the rivers and seas.

**Christ, teach us to love Earth and return to Earth as our home.**

I speak for Christ: I invite you to come home to Earth by rejoicing in the wilderness.

**Shalom! Shalom! We are coming home!**

As we come home to Earth,

**Christ, have mercy.**

As we seek to love our home,

**Christ, have mercy.**

As we seek to care for our planet,

**Christ, have mercy.**

## SENTENCE OF THE DAY

“O Lord how manifold are your works. There is the great and mighty sea: which teems with living things both great and small.” *Psalm 104: 25, 26*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

**God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet,  
help us to discern your vibrant presence among us,  
especially in the riches of our rivers and seas.**

**Help us empathise with your river and ocean creatures who are  
suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the vibrant world of the  
waters.**

**We ask this in the name of Christ,  
who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.**

**READING:** Revelation 22: 1-5

## PSALM 104: 1-6, 9-14, 24-31

1 Praise the Lord, O my soul:

O Lord my God, thou art become exceeding glorious;  
thou art clothed with majesty and honour.

2 Thou deckest thyself with light as it were with a garment:  
and spreadest out the heavens like a curtain.

3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters:  
and maketh the clouds his chariot,  
and walketh upon the wings of the wind.

4 He maketh his angels spirits:  
and his ministers a flaming fire.

5 He laid the foundations of the earth:  
that it never should move at any time.

6 Thou coveredst it with the deep like as with a garment:  
the waters stand in the hills.

9 Thou hast set them their bounds which they shall not pass:  
neither turn again to cover the earth.

10 He sendeth the springs into the rivers:  
which run among the hills.

11 All beasts of the field drink thereof:  
and the wild asses quench their thirst.

12 Beside them shall the fowls of the air have their habitation:  
and sing among the branches.

13 He watereth the hills from above:  
the earth is filled with the fruit of thy works.

14 He bringeth forth grass for the cattle:  
and green herb for the service of men;

24 O Lord, how manifold are thy works:  
in wisdom hast thou made them all;  
the earth is full of thy riches.

25 So is the great and wide sea also:  
wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.

26 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan:  
whom thou hast made to take his pastime therein.

27 These wait all upon thee:  
that thou mayest give them meat in due season.

28 When thou givest it them they gather it:  
and when thou openest thy hand they are filled with good.

29 When thou hidest thy face they are troubled:  
when thou takest away their breath they die,  
and are turned again to their dust.

30 When thou lettest thy breath go forth they shall be made:  
and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

31 The glorious majesty of the Lord shall endure for ever:  
the Lord shall rejoice in his works.

Glory 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.

*Chants: Crotch, Longhurst. Choir of King's College, Cambridge. David Willcocks (Organist on this recording, and Director of Music) Recorded (1968) in the Chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge. Released by EMI Records (1969) on LP "The Psalms of David"*

*(Background note: It is unusual for Willcocks to be playing the organ on this recording, and to be recorded not in King's Chapel; without preparation after making another recording in shorter time than planned; the King's organ scholar at the time was John Wells, now of Auckland NZ, former Auckland City Organist. John was not playing in this piece because of the impromptu circumstances of the recording)*

**GOSPEL:** John 7: 37-39

**REFLECTION** The Reverend Sarah Stevens-Cross

**ANTHEM AND IMAGES FOR REFLECTION**

I saw the river of the water of life, bright as a crystal,  
Flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb  
Through the middle of the street of the city, alleluia.

Let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. Alleluia.

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,  
And let the one who believes in me drink.

Out of the believer's heart shall flow  
Rivers of living water.

I saw the river of the water of life, bright as a crystal,  
Flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb  
Through the middle of the street of the city, alleluia.

*Music: Malcolm Archer. The words are from Revelation 22: 1, 17 and John 7: 37-8.  
Recorded at St Martin in the Fields, London.*

## **AN 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 our kin.**

**This we believe.**

**God became flesh and blood,  
a piece of Earth,  
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 centre of creation,  
reconciling all things to God,  
renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.**

**This we believe.**

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

**This we believe.**

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

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

*Prepared by Lesley Anderson*

Blessed are you Lord God of all creation,  
through your goodness  
we live in a rich and wonderful country.  
You have given us the stewardship of your creation.  
Let us work together for the benefit of the world.

*The prayer of ducks*

Dear God - Give us a flood of water.  
Let it rain tomorrow and always.  
Give us plenty of little slugs  
and other luscious things to eat.  
Protect all folk who quack and everyone who knows how to swim.  
Lord in your love and goodness,  
**Hear our prayer.**

God our Creator, we give thanks  
for the mystery of life and the beauty of the earth,  
For the rushing rivers and the gentle streams,  
For the plants which are nourished by the waterways.  
We remember in your presence all who strive to reveal your glory.  
We ask your blessing on all work to help  
in the care and protection of the environment.

*Silence*

Lord in your love and goodness,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Your first disciples were men of the sea.  
We give thanks for all sailors, fishermen and pilots of our ports  
Be near to guard them  
in every danger, in every need  
and bring them to their haven in peace.

*Silence*



Lord in your love and goodness,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for our homes, our talents  
and all you have given to us.

May we use our resources for the benefit of those in need  
and for the improvement of the world around us.

*Silence*

Lord in your love and goodness,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, giver of life and health  
we come in our weakness to your strength  
in our troubles to your peace.

We ask your blessing on all who are ill at home,  
in quarantine or in hospital.

We give thanks for the talent and attention of all healthcare workers.

*Silence*

Lord in your love and goodness,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We ask your blessing upon all saints,  
We remember also all who have enriched us  
by their goodness and care.

We pray for all our loved ones and friends who are departed from us.

*Silence*

**God of tenderness and strength  
you have brought our paths together and led us to this day.**

**Go with us now as we travel through good times  
through trouble or through change.**

**Bless our partings and our meetings  
make us worthy of each others best  
and tender with each others dreams**

**Trusting in your love. Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ teaches us we pray:

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Let us share a sign of Christ's peace.*

## THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

*Music will play as the altar is prepared.*

*Financial offerings are brought forward and blessed.*

God of all creation, you bring forth  
bread from the earth  
and fruit from the vine.

By your Holy Spirit this bread and wine  
will be for us  
the body and blood of Christ.

**All you have made is good.**

**Your love endures for ever.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is right indeed, everliving God,  
to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness;  
through your eternal Word  
you have created all things from the beginning.

When we sinned and turned away  
you called us back to yourself  
and gave your Son to share our human nature.  
He made the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world.

Therefore we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
saying,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night before he died, he took bread;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body  
which is given for you;  
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you,  
for this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this as often as you drink it,  
to remember me.

Therefore loving God,  
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,  
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life  
and this cup of salvation.

Send your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive  
may be to us the body and blood of Christ,  
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,  
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you  
in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, O God,  
in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere  
now and forever. Amen.**

## THE COMMUNION

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

**We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.**

*Communion will be served in one kind (bread only) from the centre of the church in front of the altar. Please come forward via the central aisle and return to your seats via the side aisle, maintaining physical distance as you do. You may prefer to remain in your seat or to come forward for a blessing.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most loving God, creator and redeemer,  
we give you thanks for this foretaste of your glory.

**Through Christ, and with all your saints,  
we offer ourselves**

**and our lives to your service.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit,  
to stand with you in your world.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ, the servant,  
our friend and brother. Amen.**

Christ calls us to be his disciples,  
to serve him with love and compassion,  
to serve Earth by caring for creation,  
especially the rivers God has created  
to provide all creatures with the water of life.

**We will follow our crucified Lord,  
listening for cries of injustice from Earth  
and groaning with creation.**

**We will follow the risen Christ  
to become partners in healing our planet.**

**We will care for creation,  
restoring the rivers, loving our kin  
and celebrating life.**

## BLESSING

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of his hand

and may the blessing of God the Creator, Jesus the Christ and the Holy Spirit be amongst you, today and always. Amen.

## CLOSING MUSIC FOR REFLECTION: LIKE A RIVER GLORIOUS

Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace,

Over all victorious, in its bright increase;

Perfect, yet it floweth, fuller every day,

Perfect, yet it growth, deeper all the way.

*Refrain:*

*Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest*

*Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest.*

Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,

Never foe can follow, never traitor stand;

Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,

Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there. *Refrain:*

Every joy or trial falleth from above,

Traced upon our dial by the Son of Love;

We may trust Him fully, all for us to do;

They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true. *Refrain:*

*Words: Frances R Havergal. Music: James Mountain. 1876. Performed by the Celebration Singers, Christchurch, 1978, for the LP recording of "Like a River Glorious" including 17-year-old Stephen Hamilton!*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in strong and growing faith.  
Trust in the tenderness of Christ  
to heal a bruised and broken world.

**Thanks be to God.**

Go in eager and refreshing hope.  
Work with Christ risen from the dead,  
to fulfil the promise of a new creation.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Let us go in peace,  
to treasure and to tend the world God made and loves.  
In the name of Christ. Amen**

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