



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST ANDREW, EPSOM

A Service of Sunday Morning Prayer Season of Creation September 13, 2020 Land and Earth 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 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.

Hymn

1. For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.*

2. For the beauty of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all...

3. For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and brain's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.*

5. For each perfect gift of thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all ...

4. For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all ...

6. For thy Church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
This pure sacrifice of love:
Lord of all ...

*Words: F. Pierpoint Music: trad. English folk tune, arr. G. Shaw ('England's Lane')
The Choir of Manchester Cathedral, with Jeffrey Makinson (Organ), directed by Christopher Stokes, recorded in
Oct 2003. Released (2003) by Priory Records on CD 'The Complete New English Hymnal – Volume 18'*

Song of Praise

John Langley

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

Rub some soil or earth between your fingers or imagine a time when you have done so. Breathe deeply. Notice what the aroma evokes from your memory of the land, soil and earth. We take a moment in silence to reflect and give thanks.

As we rub this fragrant symbol in our hands
we remember the countryside where we have worked and played.

O God, we thank you for the beauty 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 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 salt plains and cleared rich lands of wildlife.

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

The Absolution

Christ hears your confession from the tomb
and forgives your sins against the land.

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 land.

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.

Readings: Genesis 2: 4b-22

Dianne Kenderdine

Reflection – The Reverend Sarah Stevens-Cross

Anthem and Images for Reflection

God in such love for us lent us this planet,
Gave it a purpose in time and in space;
Small as a spark from the fire of creation,
Cradle of life and the home of our race.

*Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty,
Life that sustains us in body and mind:
Plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,
Riches undreamed of to fathom and find.*

Long have our human wars ruined its harvest;
Long has earth bowed to the terror of force;
Long have we wasted what others have need of,
Poisoned the fountain of life at its source.

Thanks be to God ...

Earth is the Lord's; it is ours to enjoy it,
Ours, as God's stewards, to farm and defend.
From its pollution, misuse, and destruction,
Good Lord, deliver us, world without end!

Thanks be to God ...

Words: Fred Pratt Green. Music: Malcolm Archer

Recorded by the Convivium Singers, with David Price (Organ), conducted by Malcolm Archer, in Portsmouth Cathedral, UK (2012).

An Affirmation of Faith

Robyn Hamilton

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.**

Sentence of the Day

“Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them.” *Psalm 96: 12*

Collect of the Day

**God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet,
help us to discern your vibrant presence among us,
especially in the wonders of the land.
Help us empathise with your land creatures who are suffering.
Lift our spirits to rejoice with the land,
the flowers of the field and the creatures of the countryside.
We ask this in the name of Christ,
who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Prepared by Lesley Anderson

Let us sit among the pain of the world
Remembering all of those whose lives have been changed by Covid 19

Silence

As we see urban abuse around us
we pray for a live conscience,
May we create clean hearts in our cities.

As we hear of raped forests and stripped mountains,
We pray for an understanding of the delicacy of nature.
**Put a new right spirit in us
that we may restore and recover.**

As we experience global oil spills and pollution
and mourn marine life lost and birds maimed,
we pray for enlightenment in our policies.

**Break down our angry destruction
that our beaches and rivers may speak again of your wonders.**

Beside each other within the earth,
we are in her and of her,
we are vulnerable with her.
We are her people.

People of pain and fear,
People of anger and joy,
People of compassion and grace.

**We are each of us this,
We are all of us this,
We are one.**

In all of us is a longing
for a life that has not yet come,
for a world that is free and just,
a dream of hope for all people.
**Together with God
we will create that possibility.
For the earth is the Lord's
and we shall be glad in it. 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.**

Morning Collect

God our creator,
yours is the morning and yours is the evening.
Let Christ the sun of righteousness
shine for ever in our hearts and draw us to that light
where you live in radiant glory.
We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Hymn

Lord of beauty, thine the splendour
Shown in earth and sky and sea,
Burning sun and moonlight tender,
Hill and river, flower and tree:
Lest we fail our praise to render
Touch our eyes that they may see.

Lord of wisdom, whom obeying
Mighty waters ebb and flow,
While unhasting, undelaying,
Planets on their courses go:
In thy laws thyself displaying,
Teach our minds thyself to know.

Lord of life, alone sustaining
All below and all above,
Lord of love, by whose ordaining
Sun and stars sublimely move:
In our earthly spirits reigning,
Lift our hearts that we may love.

Lord of beauty, bid us own thee,
Lord of truth, our footsteps guide,
Till as Love our hearts enthrone thee,
And, with vision purified,
Lord of all, when all have known thee,
Thou in all art glorified.

Words: C Alington Music: H. Smart ('Regent Square')

The Choir of Norwich Cathedral, directed by David Dunnett, recorded in May 2000

Released (2000) by Priory Records on CD 'The Complete New English Hymnal – Volume 5'

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.

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

With thanks to:

Zoom Host: Simon Smith

Music Technician: Stephen Hamilton

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