



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST ANDREW, EPSOM

A Service of Sunday Morning Prayer Season of Creation September 20th, 2020 Desert and Wilderness 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

Lord of earth and all creation,
let your love possess our land:
health, and freedom, far horizons,
mountain, forest, shining sand:
may we share, in faith and friendship,
gifts unmeasured from your hand.

People of the ancient voyage,
they who found this country first,
ask with those, the later comers,
will our dream be blessed or cursed?
Grant us Lord, new birth, new living,
hope for which our children thirst.

Lord, life giving healing Spirit,
on our hurts your mercy shower;
lead us by your inward dwelling,
guiding, guarding, every hour.
Bless and keep our land New Zealand:
In your will her peace and power.

Words: Michael and Honor Thwaites for Australian bicentennial celebrations (1988) (ed. SH)

Tune: 'Westminster Abbey' (Purcell) Descant: Christopher Gower. Choir of Trinity College, University of Melbourne. Organ: Jonathan Bradley. Director: Michael Leighton Jones (b. Waiouru, New Zealand)

Recorded (Nov 2006) and released by ABC Classics on CD 'Abide with me – A Treasury of Classic Hymns'

Song of Praise

Soojin Morris

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

Holding a stone, or other symbol of the wilderness, or imagining that you are doing so. Breathe deeply. Notice what this object evokes from your memory of the desert, or wilderness or isolated places you have been. We take a moment in silence to reflect and give thanks.

As we hold this wilderness symbol in our hands
we remember the desert, the wilderness or somewhere in the wild which we have
visited or where we have lived.

O God, we thank you for the beauty of creation and the gift of wilderness.

We remember and confess how we have destroyed wild places

Christ, from the wilderness, 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 deserts with radioactive waste, we have torn holes in the ozone layer,
we have desecrated sacred sights, not understanding their importance or sanctity and
we have destroyed the homes of wild creatures.

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

The Absolution

Christ hears your confession out in the wilderness
and forgives your sins against the wilderness.

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.

Reading: Mark 1:9-13

Jane McNamara

Psalm 107: 1-9

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious :
and his mercy endureth for ever.

Let them give thanks whom the Lord hath redeemed :
and delivered from the hand of the enemy;

And gathered them out of the lands, from the east and from the west :
from the north and from the south.

They went astray in the wilderness out of the way :
and found no city to dwell in;

Hungry and thirsty :
their soul fainted in them.

So they cried unto the Lord in their trouble :
and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them forth by the right way :
that they might go to the city where they dwelt.

O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness :
and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men!

For he satisfieth the empty soul :
and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

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.

*Chant: Atkins. Choir of King's College, Cambridge. Francis Grier (Organist) Philip Ledger (Director)
Recorded (December 1974) for LP "The Psalms of David, Volume 3" by EMI Records*

Reading: Romans 8: 18-27

Derek Ion

Reflection Rod Oram

Anthem and Images for Reflection

*Robin Toan's Tu-mata-uenga God of War, Spirit of Man, NZSO, Conducted by Gemma New,
Recorded 29 August 2020, Michael Fowler Center. The full concert can be accessed here:*

<https://live.nzso.co.nz/concerts/podium-series-passion/>

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.**

Sentence of the Day

'Let the wilderness lift up its voice'.

Isaiah 42:11

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 wild in the desert and wilderness.
Help us empathise with your desert creatures who are suffering.
Lift our spirits to rejoice with the wild world of the wilderness.
We ask this in the name of Christ,
who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Prepared and led by Chris Allan

Creator God, you reveal yourself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As we gather together this morning, come amongst us. Help us to discern your Spirit in the world around us. May we find joy in the world that you created. Help us to worship you with all our being, to hear your word and receive your gifts. As we ponder the beauty of the natural world and our place in it, may we respond to you in love for our neighbours and for your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, you formed us from the dust of the earth and placed us in a garden. Remind us of our place as your creatures at home in your creation. Forgive us when we forget our connection to the earth, and our dependence upon the goodness of your world.

Creator God,

Hear our prayer.

We are privileged Lord to live in this beautiful land. We give thanks especially this morning for our wilderness areas, our wild places, and the bush. But we recognise that with privileges come obligations. We pray for the foresight and wisdom to protect the irreplaceable, to support public policies that will ensure that what we have is passed on intact to future generations, and to instil in our children respect for your Creation.

Creator God,

Hear our prayer.

God

Creator

of the Universe

of the earth and sea

of the earth's fruits and flowers

of all humans, habitats and creatures.

Help us to value and care for your world

In all its beauty and fragility

In trust for you

Creator

God.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for your Church throughout the world, thanking you for all who serve Christ and his kingdom. By your Spirit strengthen your people for everything they do in your name. Make us ready to honour the ministry of others and after your example to exercise our own. Unite us in your truth and love, that those who confess your name may reflect your glory.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for one another, for our families and friends, through whom we learn to love and to be loved. Give us the insight to listen to each other and to learn, and grant us the gentle blessings that friends and family can provide. Thank you for all who care for us.

Give us grace to serve Christ by serving our neighbours and our community, loving others as he loves us. Grant that what we do for others this week may be an offering rather than a burden, and for those we serve, may we provide what is truly needed.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We thank you for the unfailing love you hold out to everyone in Jesus Christ.

Help us to forgive as you have forgiven us.

Help us to trust you even when hope is failing.

Help us, if we are called to suffer, to take up your cross, and to follow you.

Comfort and heal those who mourn, those who are sorrowful, those in need, those who are sick, those who are distressed, remembering especially those who we name in our hearts at this moment.

Give them courage and hope, and bless those who minister to them.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Those things, good Lord,
that your servants have prayed for,
give us grace to work for;
and in the purpose of your love
answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes
for Jesus' sake. **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

Father, Lord of all Creation,
Ground of Being, Life and Love;
Height and depth beyond description
Only life in you can prove:
You are mortal life's dependence:
Thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
Yours is every hour's existence,
Sovereign Lord of time and space.
Jesus Christ, the man for others,
We, your children, make our prayer:
Give us grace to love as brothers
All whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together
You, Lord Christ, will surely be;
Where no selfishness can sever
There your love may all men see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
Wind and flame of Pentecost,
Fire our hearts afresh with yearning
To regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action,
Nevermore to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction,
God, through us your love make known.

*Words: Stewart Cross (1964) Music: 'Abbot's Leigh' (Taylor) 2017 RSCM Millennium Youth Choir
Organ: Daniel Cook. Director: Adrian Lucas.
Recorded from live BBC Evensong broadcast from Lincoln Cathedral (16 Aug 2017)*

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:

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