



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST ANDREW, EPSOM

A Service of Sunday Morning Prayer Season of Creation September 6, 2020 Forest and Bush Sunday

This liturgy draws on resources from the Uniting Church of Australia and A New Zealand Prayer Book.

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. All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him, and rejoice.

2. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
without our aid he did us make;
We are the folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

3. O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

4. For why? the Lord our God is good:
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

5. To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
from men and from the Angel-host
be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Tune – 'Old Hundredth' (Genevan Psalter, arr. Dowland, Vaughan Williams); Words – W. Kethe (based on Psalm 100) Brendon Packard (Trumpets); Nicholas Sutcliffe (Organ); Choir of St Andrew's, Epsom (dir. Shroff) Recorded in St Luke's Presbyterian Church, Remuera, for CD recording 'King of glory – Great Hymns for the Seasons of the Church – Volume 2' (2009)

Song of Praise

Sue Shroff

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 rosemary. Lavender, another fragrant plant or dried herb between your fingers, or imagine a time when you have done so. Notice what this evokes from your memory of the forest, bush or special outdoor space. We take a moment in silence to reflect and give thanks.

As we rub this fragrant symbol in our hands we remember the forests, bush and trees where we have worked and played.

O God, we thank you for the majesty of creation and the gift of trees.

We remember and confess how we have violated and polluted the forests and bush 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 allowed disease to infect our ancient Kauri;
ignored the distant sounds in the forest,
the sound of chainsaws clearing for greed and gain,
the sound of old-forest giants falling forever,
the sound of rare species breathing their last.

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 forest.

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 forest and the bush.

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: Matthew 18:15-20

Graeme MacCormick

Reflection – The Reverend Julian Morris

An Affirmation of Faith

Derek Ion

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: then all the tress of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord.” *Psalms 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 mysteries of the forest.

Help us empathise with the creatures
of your forest and bush who are suffering.

Lift our spirits to rejoice with all creation.

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

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Prepared by Simon Smith

This is Christ's commandment: to love one another as he loved us.

With contrite spirits and respect for all humanity, let us pray to God that we may learn to care for not only our brothers and sisters, but for all God's creation shown forth in the wonder of nature that maintains our common life.

We give thanks for the great gifts trees provide – from food, to building materials, even the oxygen we breathe – and recognise how they help our planet by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. We remember that trees are like us – with proper nutrition and sunlight they form communities that last for generations. Help us to care for our trees, recognising that without them we cannot survive.

God, our creator, giver of every gift we have,

Inspire us to love the whole of creation.

Have compassion on all who suffer from trials and pain, especially the victims of natural disasters caused by our own greed and negligence.

Grant them their needed relief and the help of your children in their daily struggles.

God, our creator, giver of every gift we have,

Inspire us to love the whole of creation.

Kindle the hearts of the leaders in your Church; for Bishop Ross, Sarah, Julian and all other ministers. Reveal in them the example of your Christ, who revered and cared for the fullness of your creation.

God, our creator, giver of every gift we have,

Inspire us to love the whole of creation.

Inspire all civil authorities to dedicate their resources and efforts to the building of a better world for all your people. May they govern with respect and balance toward nature through policies that seek to relieve the environmental calamity that surrounds us.

God, our creator, giver of every gift we have,
Inspire us to love the whole of creation.

Have mercy on your children suffering from illness, granting them healing and comfort from their afflictions. Equip us to serve all who are ill as we would serve Christ.

God, our creator, giver of every gift we have,
Inspire us to love the whole of creation.

Bring to your glorious presence all those faithful who have departed this world with faith in Jesus Christ. Grant them eternal rest in the company of all your saints.

God, our creator, giver of every gift we have,
Inspire us to love the whole of creation.

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us, especially in the mysteries of the forest. Help us empathise with your forest creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the forest and all the creatures of the forest. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

The divine Spirit dwells in us.
Kia noho te Wairua o te Runga Rawa ki a tātou.

Thanks be to God.
Whakamoemititia a Ihowā.

Hymn

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The heav'ns are not too high,
God's praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
God's praises there may grow.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The church with psalms must shout:
no door can keep them out.
But, more than all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"

Tune: 'Luckington', arranged by William Mathias (for the RSCM 60th Anniversary concert in London, where Robyn and I were in attendance, along with The Queen!) This recording by St Andrew's Choir on the CD "Tell Out my Soul" (2003) Brendon Packard (Trumpet), Stanley Jackson (Organ)

The Blessing Aotearoa

These words of blessing from Number 6: 24-26 were given to the Israelites, through Moses more than 3000 years ago in the Sinai dessert. In recent months, as the world grapples with the Covid 19 pandemic churches from around the world have been singing these words in a of blessing for their own nations and for our world. Called the blessing, this song was written by Kari Jobe & Cody Carnes. Versions of it can be found from every corner of the globe and in countless languages on YouTube.

This is the Blessing Aotearoa. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZQPifs2kjo>

It concludes with the words of The Grace in Te Reo Maori.