



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST ANDREW, EPSOM

A Eucharist Service A Celebration of
God's Creatures - St Francis Day
Season of Creation October 4th, 2020

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

LIGHTING OF A MEMORIAL CANDLE FOR BISHOP JIM WHITE

Merciful and compassionate God,
we bring you our grief at the loss of Bishop Jim
and ask for courage to bear it.

We thank you Creator God
for taking Bishop Jim from sickness into health,
and from suffering into joy.

Grant that Jane, Samuel, Sophie and all those whom he has left
may be strengthened by your continuing presence,
and share with him your gift of eternal life.

God of all comfort, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer.
Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them;
and in your loving wisdom and almighty power
work in them the good purpose of your perfect will,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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,
reflected in the wonder of God's creatures.

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

O Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace!
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is discord, harmony.
Where there is doubt, let there be faith.
Where there is despair, let there be hope.
Where there is darkness, let there be light.
Where there is sadness, let there be joy.

*'Prayer of St Francis' Music: H. Litz. Auckland Boys' Choir N. Shroff (Conductor)
L. Lawson (Accompanist) Recorded at St Matthew-in-the-City on 26 April 1988 for CD
'Singing through the years – Celebrating the Choir's 30th Anniversary'*

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.**

THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION

Creator God, for all the animals in the whole wide world,
We thank you!

Creator God, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,
We thank you!

For all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,
We are sorry.

For all the times we have used poisons that have killed animals,
We are sorry.

For all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals
in the forests, oceans or fields,
We are sorry.

THE ABSOLUTION

Christ in all creation, hears your confession
and forgives your sins against the earth and the creature.

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

I speak for Christ: For all your sins against the creatures of Earth,
I forgive you and I call upon you to honour and protect all animals.
May the animals of Earth be your companions in life
and lead you to celebrate your place in the circle of life.

Amen. Amen. Shalom! Shalom!

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

“Let the whole creation bless the Lord; praise and exalt our God for
ever.” *Song of the Three Young Men 35 (adapted)*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Gracious and merciful God,
you kindled in the heart of Francis
such a flame of love that he became wholly yours
in partnership with your creation.
Help us to love all creatures as our kin,
all animals as partners on Earth,
all birds as messengers of praise,
all minute beings as expressions of your mysterious design
and all frogs as voices of hope,
these things we pray through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

READINGS: *Pied Beauty by Gerald Manley Hopkins* *Charline Baker*
 Genesis 2: 18-25 *Dianne Kenderdine*

PSALM 148

1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights.
2 Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host.
3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.
4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
5 Let them praise the Name of the Lord;
 for he commanded, and they were created.
6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever;
 he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;
8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, t empestuous wind, doing his will;
9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
10 Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and wingèd birds;
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers of the world;
12 Young men and maidens, old and young together.
13 Let them praise the Name of the LORD,
 for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.
14 He has raised up strength for his people
 and praise for all his loyal servants,
 the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

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.

Chant: Stanford. Choir of Westminster Abbey. A. Lumsden (Organ) M. Neary (Director)
Recorded (1990) for Virgin Classics CD 'Psalms – Volume 2'

GOSPEL: **Matthew 6: 25-29**

REFLECTION **Lesley Anderson**

ANTHEM AND IMAGES FOR REFLECTION

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
And where there is doubting, let me bring Your faith.
And Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is despairing, let me bring Your hope.
Where there is darkness, Your light.
And where there is sadness, let me bring Your joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I might see,
Not so much to be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
Not so much to be loved, as to love another.
For it is in giving that we now receive,
It is in pardoning that we are now pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are now born again.
And Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love.

Music / performer: John Michael Talbot

Recorded (1979) for LP 'Into the Quiet' released by Birdwing Records (1980)

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 Diana Burslem, led by Diane Kenderdine

Heavenly Father, we come together in thankfulness and adoration.

Your love and care have sustained us
as we have passed through difficult times.

Yet we are surrounded by the beauty of the spring season;
a time of rightening days; of rebirth and growth.

Coming from darkness, we are aware of light,
of birdsong, of waves upon the water,
of blossoms and soft green leaves sprouting;
of lambs and calves, kittens and puppies; chickens and ducklings.

Creator God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Today we remember your servant Francis;
the saint whose life points to the appreciation of your creation;
of the animals who share our lives and the gifts they bring to us;
gifts of companionship, of unconditional love and faithfulness.

Creator God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We confess that we do not always remember to care for your
creation as we should, though so much depends upon us.

The life of St Francis teaches us that it is in giving that we receive;

Guide us to care for our environment and its creatures;

Knowing that in doing this we worship you,

Just as Saint Francis did in Assisi so many centuries ago.

Creator God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Teach us to be faithful to our families, to our pets, to the birds of the air
and the fish of the sea; to appreciate the warmth of the sun by day;

The light of the moon by night;
the rush of the wind and the scurrying of clouds across the rain-washed
skies.

Creator God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We remember the creatures around us in our homes, on our farms and in
the bush;

Grant us gentleness towards nature;

wise planning towards our countryside

And most of all, let us acknowledge with grateful hearts the precious
Gift of our heritage on this planet Earth.

Creator God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We remember with thanksgiving Bishop Jim and all who have died in
Christ. We rejoice at the faithful witness of your saints in every age,
praying that we may enter with them into the unending joy of your
heavenly kingdom.

Creator God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Merciful God,

you look with compassion

on all who turn to you.

Hear the prayers of your people.

Grant that what we have asked

in faith we may

by your grace receive;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Saint Francis talks to the birds.

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 Spirit of God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift your hearts to heaven
where Christ in glory reigns.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed to give you thanks most loving God,
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
the first born from the dead,
the pioneer of our salvation,
who is with us always,
one of us, yet from the heart of God.

For with your whole created universe,
we praise you for your unfailing gift of life.

We thank you that you make us human
and stay with us
even when we turn from you to sin.

**God's love is shown to us:
while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.**

In that love, dear God,
righteous and strong to save,
you came among us in Jesus Christ,
our crucified and living Lord.

You make all things new.

In Christ's suffering and cross
you reveal your glory
and reconcile all peoples to yourself,
their true and living God.

We give you thanks for Bishop Jim,
St Francis and all your saints
who heard your call to holiness
and obeyed the heavenly vision.
We rejoice in their fellowship
with us in our pilgrimage.

In your mercy you are now our God.
Through Christ you gather us,
new-born in your Spirit,
a people after your own heart.
We entrust ourselves to you,
for you alone do justice
to all people, living and departed.

**Now is the acceptable time,
now is the day of salvation.**

Therefore with saints and martyrs,
apostles and prophets,
with all the redeemed,
joyfully we praise you and say:

**Holy, Holy, Holy: God of mercy, giver of life;
earth and sea and sky and all that lives
declare your presence and your glory.**

All glory to you, Giver of life
sufficient and full for all creation.

Accept our praises,
living God, for Jesus Christ,
the one perfect offering for the world,
who in the night that he was betrayed, took bread,
and when he had given thanks,
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;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you, and for many,
to forgive sin. Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

Therefore, God of all creation,
in the suffering and death
of Jesus our redeemer,
we meet you in your glory.

We lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon your name.

Here and now, with this bread and wine,
we celebrate your great acts of liberation,
ever present and living in Jesus Christ,
crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

May Christ ascended in majesty
be our new and living way,
our access to you, Father,
and source of all new life.

In Christ we offer ourselves
to do your will.

Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit,
feed us with your life, fire us with your love,
confront us with your justice,
and make us one in the body of Christ
with all who share your gifts of love.

**Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Creator God. Amen.**

THE COMMUNION

The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.
**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

The cup of blessing
for which we give thanks
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

THE INVITATION

Bread and wine; the gifts of God
for the people of God.

**May we who share these gifts
be found in Christ
and Christ in us.**

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 Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all,
fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth
and the pulsing of Christ within you 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

1. Make me a channel of Your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love,
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.
2. Make me a channel of Your peace,
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.
3. O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

4. Make me a channel of Your peace,
It is pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Repeat verse 3. Repeat verse 2

Music: arr. S. Temple Susan Boyle (Soprano)

Recorded (2010) for CD 'The Gift' released by Sony Music Entertainment (2010)

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:

Technical Support Team: Brian Tracey and Julian Morris

Cover image: Barbara Raudkivi

Image compiler: Rod Oram and all our photographers