

Uniting Earth

May 10 Climate Worship
Liturgy



Acknowledgement of Country

Call to Worship

As we begin our worship today let us
invite all of creation to join us in praising our God.

We bring water,
God's gift.
We bring earth,
God's gift.
We bring air,
God's gift.
We bring fire,
God's gift.
And we bring the Holy Scriptures,
God's gift.

Holy God we thank you for your many gifts, both big and small
And for all parts of creation.
Amen

Song: How Great Thou Art

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

Loving Creator God,
We give thanks that from the very beginning you took time to pause,
To look around at all you had created and to name it very good.
We take time to do that now.
We give thanks for animals in the sky, in the sea and on the land
We give thanks for the wonder of the platypus,
the power of the lion,
the industry of the ant,
the beauty of a butterfly
and the beautiful ugliness of the hippopotamus
We give thanks for the wind and for the rain,
for seasons that come and go,
for mountains and valleys,
and vast deserts of warm sand.
For coral reef and deep blue oceans filled with all forms of life-

from tiny plankton to the magnificence of the blue whale.

We give thanks for ourselves, God.
For humanity in all its wonder.
for creativity, for ingenuity,
for humour , for fun,
for wisdom that is passed from generation to generation,
from culture to culture,
across the barriers of time and space.
We give thanks for curiosity that challenges the status quo,
and helps us to wonder what is right.
In particular today we give thanks for the wisdom of our children,
the young of the world who have made all of us stand up and take notice,
and even more to act.
To act for our world,
to act for your creation,
because they,
-our children
have reminded us that it is our responsibility,
to make sure that this world is there,
not just for ourselves but for future generations.
For their children and their children's children.
Because though it is true that each of us will leave this earth through death,
Your creation that is the earth and all it contains should not.

We give thanks for the lessons of science, of history
and for plain commons sense,
for these are the things that will help us to know the way forward.
The way to act, the way to change,
the way to heal the damage that we as humanity have done.
The way to return your creation to how you intended when you imagined it
into being.
Creator God, Holy Spirit, Christ Jesus,
We give thanks that from the very beginning you took time to pause, to look
around at all you had created and name it very good.
May our worship together today help us to do that and so much more.
We pray in Christs name
Amen

Prayer of Confession-

Creator God we acknowledge our complicity in climate change and our sadness
at our shared responsibility.

I confess that I have sought convenience rather than care- short car rides,
disposable coffee cups, lights on in the daytime.

Creator God, with a heart of sadness
I bring my confession to you
Help us to bring healing to your creation

I confess that every week heaps of food in the fridge and pantry goes to waste and is left uneaten.

Creator God, with a heart of sadness
I bring my confession to you
Help us to bring healing to your creation

I confess my use of household gadgets tend to get the better, instead of your natural environment

Creator God, with a heart of sadness
I bring my confession to you
Help us to bring healing to your creation

I confess that as a mum I have relied on and used disposable nappies more than I planned to, more than I would have wanted to

Creator God, with a heart of sadness
I bring my confession to you
Help us to bring healing to your creation

I confess that even as I live here in the forest surrounded by the glory and intricacy of God's creation so often I let the little things crowd that our and barely appreciate with is going on around me

I confess that I do not yet have solar panels on my house my worm farm is in desperate need of restarting

Creator God, with a heart of sadness
I bring my confession to you
Help us to bring healing to your creation

Creator God we bring these confessions to you.
Thank you for loving us,
for helping us to find hope,
and for gifting us with the privilege of being your hands and feet in healing creation,

Amen

Words of Assurance

The scriptures assure us that God is constantly creating and God always wants to give us a second chance to try again
May we through these confessions commit to act for change

Song: All Creation Groans -Helen Wright

Scripture readings: -

Psalms 104. 10-24

10 You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,
11 giving drink to every wild animal;
the wild asses quench their thirst.

12 By the streams[a] the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches.
13 From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
14 You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,[b]
to bring forth food from the earth,
15 and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
16 The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
17 In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.
18 The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the coney.
19 You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.
20 You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.
21 The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.
22 When the sun rises, they withdraw
and lie down in their dens.
23 People go out to their work
and to their labor until the evening.
24 O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

Job 12.7-10

7 "But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
8 ask the plants of the earth,[a] and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
9 Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
10 In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

John 3.9-16

9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him,
"Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?
11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have
seen; yet you[a] do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly
things and you do not believe; how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly
things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from
heaven, the Son of Man.[b] 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the
wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him
may have eternal life.[c]
16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone 4
who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Reflections

- A reflection on Psalm 104.10-24 Maya aged 6
- A series of short reflection Psalm 104.10-24, Job 12.7-10, John 12.7-10 Lars aged 8
- A reflection on Psalm 104.10-24 Sioeli aged 8
- A reflection on John 12.7-10 Fepaki aged 10
- A reflection on Job 12.7-10 Latu aged 14
- A reflection on Job 12.7-10 Isaac aged 14
- A reflection on Job 12.7-10 Ian aged 16

Song: Cherish delicate earth -Paul Somerville

Blessed be the peaks, blessed be the plains
Blessed be the rocks, blessed be the rains
Blessed be the trees, giving out fresh air
Blessed be the God who placed them in our care

Cherish delicate earth
Treasure vulnerable sky
Cherish delicate earth
Sharing all it provides

Blessed be the oak, sheltering the snake
Blessed be the fish, teeming in the lake
Blessed be the birds, stretching out their wings
Blessed be the links between all living things

[chorus repeats]

Blessings from the sun, bringing warmth and light
Blessings from the stars, astonishing our minds
Universe that grows, systems big and small
Blessings from our God, the centre of it all

[chorus repeats]

Blessings on the beasts, the species under threat
Bless the polar caps, the sheets of ice still left
Heed the rising seas, breathe the tainted air
Blessings on the God, coaxing us to care

[chorus repeats]

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Communion for a Hurting Planet- a liturgy of empty hands

May the God of all creation be with you.

And also with you.

Friends of all that is and all that will be, lift up your hearts.

We lift them to Christ.

Sing within you hearts silent songs of thanksgiving to the God who is faithful in keeping promises.

We silently offer glad anthems of joy to the One who calls us by name.

Set the table with an empty plate and empty cup

Let us Pray

Creator God, in the beginning you lifted the dust
and breathed your life into it,
creating all that was from all that is and all that will be.
From the very first moment an eternal dance-
life from death
new creation from what once was something else.

And in that eternal moment
From the dust of what was
you formed the universe and all that is-
plant, animals, flowers and trees,
the deepest valleys, and widest of oceans
all of it made in your image
unique and connected,
independent -yet co-existent and co-dependent.
Chaos to order and order to chaos.

And together with everything else
You also created us.
Humanity in all its wonder, and glory
With hearts to love, creativity to share
Ingenuity to think and to imagine
things beyond that which we see.

And so we join with all of creation in the eternal hymn

**Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest,**

But from the beginning God
Instead of seeking co-dependence and co-existence
W sought independence and solo existence.
Instead of relying on you- we sought to find our own way.
Rather than seeing creation as a gift for all that is-
We took it for our own.

And even though you sent your very self to us
to show us the way
to remind us of the covenant promise between you and all of us
to care for all,
and to love without bounds and without end,

Still we continue-
To love ourselves and our humanity more than the rest.
Forgetting that we are just one part
Of a much bigger whole
Of all that you created
And all that you love and treasure.

Amen

On the night before his arrest
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God
Broke it and said
'This is my body, broken for you;
each time you break bread and eat it in this way,
remember me.'

And in the same way
he took the cup, gave thanks to God
and then gave it to all who ate with him and said
'This cup is the new covenant-
sealed with my blood that is spilt for you;
each time you drink in this way,
remember me.'

And so we do as our Lord commanded

In this empty plate we act in solidarity with our earth,
As we remember that the bread that we lack today comes from the bounty of our
broken world.
We take time to acknowledge the effects of our overcultivation,
rainforests cleared for farmland,
and forests for housing
destruction of food sources and habitats for animals,
oceans devastated as they are plundered for food and resources.
Hills and valleys mined and left bare.

God may you meet us in this empty plate,
and help us to bring healing to your starving creation

In this empty cup we seek to remember
and reaffirm our covenant promise to care for God's creation
We acknowledge our complicity in the melting ice caps,
the rising seas, bushfires, floods, and drought-
your creation that is crying out in thirst and hunger
for the simple right to live as whole beauty and wonder.

God may you meet us in this empty cup,
and help us to bring living water to a thirsty world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this empty plate and this empty cup
Make them for us the body and blood of Christ
Through them make us one with each other
And one with all of creation
One in ministry in a world where everything

is co-existed and co-dependent though you
Through the sharing of this empty plate and empty cup
May we become your living body in the world
A living body that brings hope and healing
To all of creation.

The minister mimes taking bread and breaking it, in full view of the people, in silence or saying any suitable sentence,

Christ is the bread of life bringing wholeness to a starving creation.

The minister mimes pouring wine from jug to cup, or simply lifts the cup, in silence or saying any suitable sentence,

Christ is the cup of hope bring living water to a thirsty world

The empty plate and cup are held out to each person who comes forward,

Receive what all of creation hunger's for.

Receive what all of creation thirst's for.

People may mime taking and eating/drinking – or may simply pause in reflection.

Prayer After communion

Creator God,
We give thanks for this holy meal
May the emptiness we feel
Inspire us as your church
to bring nourishment and living water
Into our broken world.

Prayers of Intercession

Creator God, amidst the health crisis we find ourselves, we pray that you will help us to stay energised and focussed in our fight for climate justice
We remember that as people of God, we are called to care for the earth. We pray that we won't lose sight of this calling amidst the pressures on our economy due to COVID 19.

We pray for people who are currently suffering from the effects of climate change, particularly communities who are still rebuilding after the bushfires and people in the Pacific recovering from Cyclone Harold. As we regain some sense of normalcy after isolation, we acknowledge those victims of climate change whose lives will never be the same, whether it be lost homes, or loved ones.

We thank you that despite health and economic crises that birds continue to sing, mountains continue to stand and rivers continue to run. We eagerly await a time when we can return to wild spaces and reconnect with your face in the non-human world.

Finally, we pray for the climate movement in our homes, in our churches and internationally. Though it is quietened, we ask for strength to sustain our campaign during this time, so that when we can be together again, we come with refreshed hearts and spirits.

Amen

Song: This Beautiful Earth -John Coleman

Blessing

A great cloud of witnesses surrounds us singing their praises to God.

And so, we go forth,
preparing on May 15th to support our students as the call for a safe climate
future for everybody,

We go knowing that the love of God and the kindness of Jesus and the
communion of the Holy Spirit goes with us all,
as we walk the way of Jesus today and every day.

Amen