



Holy Communion

for

Creation Sunday

Sunday 4th October 2026 at 10.00am

SONG

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation;
all ye who hear,
brothers and sisters, draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously
reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
hast thou not seen?
all that is needful hath been
granted in what he ordaineth.**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend
thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before
him.
Let the amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him.**

*Joachim Neander (1650-80)
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-78)*

Come, let us worship God, who gives us life and creation to sustain life.
We praise God for the wondrous creation.

Come, let us follow Lord Jesus Christ, who inspires us to hope and act for justice and righteousness.

We give glory to God, who restores the groaning creation and the vulnerable.

Come let us move with the Holy Spirit, striving to restore justice and produce the first fruits of hope.

We praise God for the abundant life that is assured to all creation.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

God's whole creation groans.

The land produces thorns and thistles and longs to be set free.

Our sin affects all around us.

We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept

Creator God, maker of heaven and earth,

**We acknowledge our failure to live responsibly
as part of your creation.**

**We have taken what we want,
without considering the consequences;
we have wasted and discarded,
without thought for the future.**

**Open our hearts and minds to the signs of our times,
to the groaning of creation,
so that we may turn from our greed and lack of vision
and see a world being made anew in Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed:

forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Glorious God,
the whole of creation proclaims your marvellous work:
increase in us a capacity to wonder and delight in it,
that heaven's praise may echo in our hearts
and our lives be spent as good stewards of the earth
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST BIBLE READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Father, unto you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**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;
Father, unto you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**For the joy of love from God,
that we share on earth below;
for our friends and family,
and the love that they can show;
Father, unto you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**For each perfect gift divine
to our race so freely given,
thank you, Lord, that they are mine,
here on earth as gifts from heaven;
Father, unto you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21: 33-46

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes"?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

At the end the reader says:
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

ACT OF COMMITMENT FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

‘While all creatures stand in expectation, what will be the result of our liberty?’
Thomas Traherne

As the whole of creation looks with eager longing for the redemption of humankind, let us pledge ourselves anew to serve our Creator God, the Father who is the maker of all things, the Son through whom all things are made, and the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who renews the face of the earth.

**Lord of life and giver of hope,
we pledge ourselves to care for creation,
to reduce our waste, to live sustainably,
and to value the rich diversity of life.
May your wisdom guide us,
that life in all its forms may flourish,
and may be faithful in voicing creation’s praise.
May the commitment we have made this day
be matched by our faithful living.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

This or another response may be used:
Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

St John's Prayer for Growth

**God of mission, you give fresh life to St John's.
Send your Holy Spirit to give
vision to our planning,
wisdom to our activities,
and power to our witness,
that we may grow in love and commitment to you,
in number of disciples,
and in loving service to our neighbours
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

THE PEACE

Blessed are the peacemakers: They shall be called children of God.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

SONG

**Earth is gift of God's creation,
ours to nurture or neglect.
We are called to witness boldly
that all life deserves respect.
We are kin to every being,
sharing space on earth, our home.
Yet we squander vast resources,
Seek to save ourselves alone.**

**When our lifestyle lessens others
We become a measure less.
When we choose to live more simply
we confirm what we profess.
Can we lose our tunnel vision,
see those who are cast aside,
sense the hurt of broken pledges,
hear the planet's silent cries?**

**Tending space within earth's garden,
honouring the future here,
we can serve with God as partners,
a community of care.
Strengthened by the rainbow's promise,
sign of God's enduring grace,
let us dare to live our calling,
In our time and in our place!**

Edith Sinclair Downing 2000

*Words © WGRG (Wild Goose Resources Group) Pearce Institute 840 Gowan
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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and singing:

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

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.'

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, 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 for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus come in glory.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms,
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Draw near with faith.

**Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

The President receives communion, gives communion to the other ministers on the dais and then to the congregation.

AFTER COMMUNION

**Lord of all creation,
as we have received the bread and wine,
fruits of the earth and tokens of salvation,
so with joy we celebrate your goodness
and commit ourselves to serve you on your earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

NOTICES

SONG

**Beauty for brokenness.
hope for despair,
Lord, in Your suffering world
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset,
Your kingdom increase!**

**Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen,
trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak.**

***God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.***

**Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields,
scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness,
His cross for the pain.**

**Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned-
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.**

***God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.***

**Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame
until Your justice
burns brightly again;
until the nations
learn of Your ways,
seek Your salvation
and bring You their praise.**

***God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.***

Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all peoples
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

<https://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/season-of-creation/>

Season of Creation 2024: A Celebration Guide. To Hope and Act with Creation

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