

**Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for
The Second Sunday before Lent.**

Opening and Call to Worship

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him” (Colossians 1.15-16)

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Amen

Our readings today focus on the presence of the Spirit of God in all of creation and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Prayers of Penitence

As we come to this time of meeting God in prayer and reflection let us first focus on the times when we have misused his gifts.

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God’s redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

We confess to you
our lack of care for the world you have given us.

Lord have mercy.

We confess to you
our selfishness in not sharing the earth’s bounty fairly.

Christ have mercy.

We confess to you
our failure to protect resources for others.

Lord have mercy.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all your sins, confirm and strengthen us in
all goodness and keep us in life eternal. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,

you have created the heavens and the earth

and made us in your own image:

teach us to discern your hand in all your works

and your likeness in all your children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,

now and for ever.

READINGS OF THE DAY

Proverbs 8.1, 22-31

Colossians 1.15-20

John 1.1-14

SERMON (see separate sheet)

Prayers

Let us pray for all of Creation

You have created the universe by your eternal Word,
and have blessed humankind in making us
stewards of the earth.

We pray for your world,
that we may share and conserve its resources,
and live in reverence for the creation
and in harmony with one another.

Lord in your mercy, hear us.

You have given the human race a rich land,
a land of streams and springs,
wheat and barley,
vines and oil and honey.
We have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow.
We pray for those who bear the weight of affliction,
that they may come to share the life of wholeness and plenty.

Lord in your mercy, hear us.

In Christ you call us to a new way of life,
loving our neighbours before ourselves.
Help us to treat with care and respect the world as it is
as we live in hope and anticipation of the world
as it will be
when your kingdom comes and your will is done.
Thank you for those, living and departed,
who have shown a true respect for your creation ...
Help us to follow in their footsteps,
until, with them, we see you face to face,
where all is made new in Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy, hear us

In a moment of quiet we bring before God our thanksgivings and concerns

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

For the coming of your kingdom we pray in the words Jesus gave 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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Psalm 104.25-37

O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.
There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.
Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Praise the LORD!

Closing Blessing

And we pray for God's blessing on each other and all who we love and pray for:

May God
who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky,

who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water,
who multiplied loaves and fishes and changed water into wine,
lead us, feed us, multiply us,
and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator
now and through all eternity;

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.