

Welcome to a time of prayer and reflection. Let's be still and recognise that we are in the presence of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Through this creationtide season let's use words in prayer that help us to appreciate God's creation and re-commit ourselves to its care and flourishing

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

Your righteousness, Lord, is like the strong mountains,  
and your judgements are like the great deep.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

With you is the well of life,  
and in your light shall we see light. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Save us, Lord.

Continue your steadfast love to those who love you,  
and your salvation to the upright of heart.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
Amen

Let us pray:

Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

From the Gospel according to Mark 7:24-37

Sermon (see attached text)

Let us pray to God the almighty, the King of creation.

God said, 'Let there be light.'

Eternal God, we thank you for your light and your truth.

We praise you for your fatherly care

in creating a universe which proclaims your glory.

Inspire us to worship you, the creator of all,

and let your light shine upon our world.....

God of life:

hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the heavens.'

We thank you for the vastness of the universe

and the mysteries of space.

We pray for all scientists and astronomers

who extend the boundaries of our knowledge.

As we contemplate the wonder of the heavens,

confirm us in the truth that every human being is

known and loved by you.....

God of life:

hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let the waters be gathered together,

and let dry land appear.'

We thank you for the beauty of the earth,  
for the diversity of land and sea,  
for the resources of the earth.

Give us the will to cherish this planet  
and to use its riches for the good and welfare of all.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the sky  
to separate the day and the night.'

We thank you for the warmth of the sun,  
the light of the moon, the glory of the stars.

We praise you for the formations of clouds,  
the radiance of dawn and sunset.

Save us from wasting or abusing the energy  
on which all life depends.

Open our eyes to behold your beauty,  
and our lips to praise your name.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let the waters bring forth living creatures,  
and let birds fly across the sky.'

We thank you for the teeming life of the seas,  
and the flight of the birds.

Help us to protect the environment  
so that all life may flourish.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind.'

We rejoice in the variety of animal life.

Grant us grace to treat all animals with respect and care;

to protect endangered species,  
to preserve the variety of habitats,  
and to honour the delicate balance of nature.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let us create human beings in our own image.'

We pray for the human family.

We exult in its diversity and giftedness,  
we repent of its sins, divisions and violence.

We pray for all who suffer.....

By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us,  
through Christ who came to remake us

by his death and resurrection. We remember those we love and see no  
longer, and all who have died: may we, with them come to share in the  
resurrection and your closer presence.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty:

open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works;

that, rejoicing in your whole creation,

we may learn to serve you with gladness;

for the sake of him through whom all things were made,

your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We gather all these prayers as 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.

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.

*All Amen.*