

Pilton, Croscombe, North Wootton and Dinder, Morning prayer for Creationtide

26th September 2021



Gathering and Greeting

God in Christ has revealed his glory.

Come let us worship.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting
the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

O praise the name of the Lord!

Song: All Heaven declares

<https://youtu.be/Bm5NbY5yEnQ>

Opening Prayer

Biblical references: Psalm 104, Matthew 13

We praise you, living God:

you give strength to the earth that sustains us,

you open your hand to feed all living things.

We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ:

you teach us with stories of seeds and weeds and harvest time,

you call us to accept your word and bear much fruit.

We praise you, Holy Spirit, fire of love:
you are the breath of life in every creature,
you refresh our thirsty souls with grace.

Blessed be God, Source of Wisdom, living Word, abiding Spirit,
Blessed be God for ever.

Collect

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to
your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your
peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Penitence [We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse
of God's creation.]

God our Father, we are sorry
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,
and acted ungratefully.
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy: forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.
Father, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,
but ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless,
and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone,
as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.

Absolution

May the Lord enrich us with his grace,
and nourish us with his blessing;
the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil;
the Lord accept our prayers,
and absolve us from our offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

Benedicite - a Song of Creation (shorter version)

1 Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

2 Bless the Lord you heavens: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

3 Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

4 Bless the Lord all people on earth: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

5 O people of God bless the Lord: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

6 Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

7 Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

8 Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit: •
bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart;
bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Liturgy of the Word

Psalm 19: 7-end

This week our sung version is by Jess Ray

<https://youtu.be/f2aus-HWcHc>

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;
⁹ the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

The Gospel Reading Mark 9: 38-end

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.' And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

Song. Touch the world lightly

<https://youtu.be/XGHU2F2g3K0>

Sermon by Chris.

⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Psalm 19 tells us that and I am sure we can agree with the sentiment, however, the law of the Lord may be all those things but it is not always simple to follow as we see in Mark.

We continue to follow the disciples struggling to understand what is happening. Just a quick recap: Jesus had been teaching them about what was ahead, but they cannot grasp what he is saying. Instead they have argued about who was the greatest and then just before this reading they have failed to exorcise a demon. Jesus succeeds where they fail and tells them where they went wrong was not praying as 'this type of Demon only comes out by prayer.'

Today they tell Jesus they have found someone else exorcising demons in his name and, because he is not part of their group, they have tried to stop him. As we are getting to expect in Mark Jesus reaction is not what they expect.

Note that Mark makes it clear that the unnamed person was casting out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus explains to them it doesn't matter that this person is not part of their group (whatever they mean by that). If that person or anyone is casting out demons in His name they cannot then utter falsehoods against him. Who is for us is not against us.

Its fascinating to think that people 'not in the group' had a deep enough understanding to be able to do this, and maybe contrasts with the Disciple's recent failure. Were they trying to stop this person out of genuine concern or a reaction to their own failure - I wonder.

Over the centuries that is a trap many denominations have fallen into - thinking they/we are the only ones with the answers, rather than celebrating how many different flavours of Christianity are around and there is room for all who follow Jesus teaching.

Thank goodness the church has come a long way in embracing different denominations but there are still too many examples where people act more like the disciples do here than they want to admit. Sadly Sectarian differences still affect our world.

Back to psalm 19

¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Hidden faults – most of us have enough faults that we are aware of but it is a helpful reminder, if an uncomfortable one, that there are also other faults we cannot even see.

That is bad enough but if those faults cause others to stumble – which they might well, then Jesus has some other stern words.

If by your actions – known or unknown you cause someone else to stumble ... well we all heard what he said.

How many of us can say hand on heart that we know we have never caused damage to another human being through our actions? The examples Jesus uses are hyperbole but they certainly get the message across. That is a scary thought, are we sometimes wrong about our understanding about our faith and can we even persuade others to follow that same wrong misunderstanding and therefore damage their faith? Or do we say that thoughtless comment and not even notice how much it hurts someone?

People can be empathetic and supportive but can also occasionally get things very wrong.

This passage is also a very useful reminder about why we have the confession at the beginning of most services, a chance to wipe the slate clean and ask for forgiveness for the known and unknown times we have stumbled or caused others to stumble.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

That is the prayer I use before I preach. One reason I choose that prayer is I am asking God to make sure people hear only what God wants them to hear.

In this context it is a prayer that we want our words and our actions to point people to God not to damage them in any way.

Historically maybe that is part of Jesus teaching that has got lost, when proving that we were right was more important than actually being right. I pray we continue to try and avoid any such stumbling blocks as we go forward into unknown times together.

⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Amen

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Intercessions from Sue

**Let us pray to the Father through the Son and in the power of
the Holy Spirit.**

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the Church throughout the world and pray for those where it is difficult to practise the Christian faith. Grant that the Church will be an instrument of peace and reconciliation between peoples and nations. Bless the churches within our area and, within our

own parishes we pray for discernment for the future for our worship and our place in our wider communities.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

God of peace, we give thanks for the peace that you offer us. We remember those affected by unrest, violence and war. Hear our prayers for the situation in Afghanistan, for families and communities facing an uncertain future, and all whose lives are being lived out in danger and threat.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Loving Lord, the news continues to be filled with reports of suffering caused by natural phenomena: volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, storms, floods and fires. We pray for people whose homes and livelihoods are threatened; strengthen those who work to bring relief and support to all in need. Grant us all to live responsible lives and to play our part in working for the future of our planet in these uncertain times.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

It is good to see our village organisations beginning again and we pray for the people who work to run these events in order to enrich life in our communities; we pray that people will come together responsibly as they gather together in safe ways.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Compassionate Lord, we bring to you the suffering and sorrow which exists for families and individuals in our parishes. Amongst our own families, friends and neighbours, there are people in need of your loving presence in their lives: people who feel lonely, unloved or without hope for the future for themselves or for someone they love. In our parishes we pray for Wendy Lynn, for Clive Chiffers, for Michael and Ros Comer and others whom we name quietly in our hearts.

We continue to pray for people in areas where Covid cases are very high, locally and in other parts of the country.

Grant your healing peace and love to all in need

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Lord of eternal life, we remember with thanksgiving those whom we have loved but see no longer. May we come to share with them and with St John the Baptist and all your saints in life eternal with you.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Lord God, be with us in our walk with you today and in the days to come this week.

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

We continue in prayer as we say the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

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.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn: Joyful joyful (apologies if you get an advert with this one)

<https://youtu.be/eMY3ivdNzwE>

Conclusions and Endings

Creator God,

you give seed for us to sow,

and bread for us to eat;

make us thankful for what we have received

and generous in supplying the needs of others

so all the world may give you thanks and glory,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.**



Sources:

**Patterns for Worship 1995, 1998, New Patterns for Worship 2002
: Church House Publishing**

**Climate Change prayer; Dismissal, stewardship of creation;
Anglican Communion Environmental Network**