

# ***Environment Sunday***

## **Fourth Sunday Family Communion**

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022, 10.30am**

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion.  
This is a service for *everyone* to engage with and to participate in.  
Please make yourselves at home.

**Musical Meditation** – *God of mercy. God of grace*

### **Gathering to Worship God**

We gather in the praise of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All** **Amen.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**All** **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Words of welcome will be given.*

Come and celebrate our common home

**All** **we gather with the family of humanity.**

With the mountains, islands and deserts

**All** **we honour the glory of God in creation.**

With the land, its soil, seeds and sustenance

**All** **we give thanks for God's generous provision.**

We join with the whole of creation, inspired by those who have gone before  
and the prophetic voices of today

**All** **We dare to praise and pray for another possible world.**

To the glory of God,

**All** **Amen.**

**Worship Song** – *Creation Calls*  
(Performed by Sara, Claire and Mike)

I have felt the wind blow  
Whispering Your name  
I have seen your tears fall  
When I watch the rain

How could I say there is no God  
When all around creation calls  
A singing bird, a mighty tree  
The vast expanse of open sea

Gazing at a bird in flight  
Soaring through the air  
Lying down beneath the stars  
I feel Your presence there

I love to stand at ocean's shore  
And feel the thundering breakers roar  
To walk through golden fields of grain  
Neath endless blue, horizon's frame

Listening to a river run  
Watering the earth  
Fragrance of a rose in bloom  
A new-born's cry at birth

I believe  
I believe  
I believe

## Saying Sorry to God

Let us confess our greed  
and repent of the ways in which we have damaged God's  
good creation:

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

**All Lord have mercy.**

We confess to you  
our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.  
Christ have mercy.

**All Christ have mercy.**

We confess to you  
our failure to protect the environment.  
Lord have mercy.

**All Lord have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis** (*sung to the tune Ode to Joy*)

**All** **Glory be to God in heaven,  
peace to those who love him well;  
on the earth let all his people  
speak his grace, his wonders tell:  
Lord, we praise you for your glory,  
mighty Father, heaven's king;  
hear our joyful adoration  
and accept the thanks we bring.**

**Only Son of God the Father,  
Lamb who takes our sin away,  
now with God in triumph seated  
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:  
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,  
Saviour, you are God alone  
in the glory of the Father  
with the Spirit: Three-in-One!**

### **Prayer of the Day (the Collect)**

In a time of silence,  
let us pray that our worship will bring us closer to the one who  
has created all things.

Glorious God,  
the whole 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.

**All Amen.**

### **Hearing and Responding to the Bible**

#### **Old Testament Reading – Psalm 104.1,10-15,16-26**

A selection of verses from the book of Psalms

<sup>1</sup> My soul, praise the LORD!  
LORD my God, you are very great!  
You are clothed with glory and honour

<sup>10</sup> Lord, you cause water to flow from springs into the streams  
that flow down between the mountains.  
<sup>11</sup> The streams provide water for all the wild animals.  
Even the wild donkeys come there to drink.  
<sup>12</sup> Wild birds come to live by the pools;  
they sing in the branches of nearby trees.  
<sup>13</sup> You send rain down on the mountains.  
The earth gets everything it needs from what you have made.  
<sup>14</sup> You make the grass grow to feed the animals.  
You provide plants for the crops we grow –  
the plants that give us food from the earth.  
<sup>15</sup> You give us the wine that makes us happy,  
the oil that makes our skin soft,  
and the food that makes us strong.

<sup>16</sup> The great cedar trees of Lebanon belong to the LORD.  
He planted them and gives them the water they need.  
<sup>17</sup> That's where the birds make their nests,  
and the storks live in the fir trees.  
<sup>18</sup> The high mountains are a home for wild goats.  
The large rocks are hiding places for rock badgers.

<sup>24</sup> LORD, you created so many things!  
With your wisdom you made them all.  
The earth is full of the living things you made.  
<sup>25</sup> Look at the ocean, so big and wide!  
It is filled with all kinds of sea life.  
There are creatures large and small – too many to count!  
<sup>26</sup> Ships sail over the ocean,  
and playing there is Leviathan,  
the great sea creature you made.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn – Praise to the Lord (no.84)**

**All Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that as you love, so may I love,  
and do what you would do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with yours,  
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fulfil my heart's desire,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with your heav'nly fire.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die,  
but live with you the perfect life  
for all eternity.**

### **Gospel Reading – Mark 4:1–10, 13–20**

Alleluia, alleluia.  
You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honour and power,  
for you created all things.

**All Alleluia.**

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Another time Jesus began teaching by the lake. A great crowd gathered around him. So he got into a boat and went out on the lake. All the people stayed on the shore close to the water. <sup>2</sup> Jesus used many stories to teach them. He said, <sup>3</sup> “Listen! A farmer went out to plant his seed. <sup>4</sup> While the farmer was planting, some seed fell by the road. The birds came and ate all that seed. <sup>5</sup> Some seed fell on rocky ground where there wasn't much dirt. The seed grew very fast there because the ground was not deep. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, the plants withered. The plants died because they did not have deep roots. <sup>7</sup> Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. The weeds grew and choked the good plants. So those plants did not make grain. <sup>8</sup> Some other seed fell on good ground. In the good ground, the seed began to grow. It grew and made a crop of grain. Some plants made 30 times more grain, some 60 times more grain, and some 100 times more grain.”

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said, “Let those with ears use them and listen!”

<sup>10</sup> Later, when Jesus was alone, the 12 apostles and others around him asked him about the stories.

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to the followers, “Do you understand this story? If you don’t, then how will you understand any story? <sup>14</sup> The farmer is like a person who plants God’s teaching in people. <sup>15</sup> Sometimes the teaching falls on the road. This is like some people. They hear the teaching of God. But Satan quickly comes and takes away the teaching that was planted in them. <sup>16</sup> Others are like the seed planted on rocky ground. They hear the teaching and quickly accept it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But they don’t allow the teaching to go deep into their lives. They keep it only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the teaching, they quickly give up. <sup>18</sup> Others are like the seed planted among the thorny weeds. They hear the teaching. <sup>19</sup> But then other things come into their lives: worries, the love of money, and wanting all kinds of other things. These things stop the teaching from growing. So that teaching does not produce fruit in their lives. <sup>20</sup> Others are like the seed planted in the good ground. They hear the teaching and accept it. Then they grow and produce fruit – sometimes 30 times more, sometimes 60 times more, and sometimes 100 times more.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Talk – *Climate, Eco Church and Commitment***

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**All 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.**

## **Time to Pray**

*Between each petition:*

God of life:

**All hear our prayer.**

*At the prayers end:*

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

## The Peace

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

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

### **Hymn – *Thou, whose almighty word* (no.684)**

**All** Thou, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the Gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light!

Thou, who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing,  
healing and sight,  
heal to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind,  
O now to humankind,  
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving holy Dove,  
speed forth thy flight;  
move on the water's face  
bearing the gifts of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place,  
let there be light!

**Holy and blessed Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
boundless as ocean's tide  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide,  
let there be light!**

## **Sharing in Holy Communion**

*Minister*

The Lord is here

**All**

**God's Spirit is with us.**

*Minister*

Lift up your hearts.

**All**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Minister*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All**

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*Children*

Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

**All**

**Listen, and we will hear.**

*Left side*

Lord of all life,  
you created the universe,  
where all living things reflect your glory.  
You give us this great and beautiful earth,  
to discover and to cherish.  
You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,  
everything that gives us light,  
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.

*Right side*

You give us the fish in the sea,  
the birds of the air,  
and every plant and tree;  
the life that sleeps in the winter earth,  
and awakens again in the spring.  
You made us all,  
each wonderfully different,  
to join with the angels  
and sing your praise:

**All**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**



*Left side* We thank you,  
loving Father,  
because, when we turned away,  
you sent Jesus, your Son.

*Right side* He gave his life for us on the cross  
and shows us the way to live.

**All** **Send your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.**

*Children* Why do we share this bread and wine?

**All** **Listen, and we will hear.**

*Minister* On the night before he died,  
when darkness had fallen,  
Jesus took bread.  
He gave thanks, broke it,  
and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,  
for the forgiveness of sins.

'So Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.  
As you feed us with these gifts,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
and change us more and more  
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

*Children* How do we follow Jesus Christ?

**All** **Listen, and we will hear.**

*Minister* Help us, Father, to love one another,  
as we look forward to that day  
when suffering is ended,  
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.  
And now with all your saints  
we give you glory,  
through Jesus Christ,  
in the strength of the Spirit,  
today and for ever.

**All** **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*We say an adapted version of the Lord's Prayer:*

**All** Our Father in heaven, you are awesome!  
Show us who you are and how you want us to be.  
Make earth more like heaven.  
Please give us what we need to keep going each day.  
Help us when we are wrong and clean us up on the inside.  
Help us to let other people off and move on.  
Keep us from bad stuff.  
You're in charge!  
You're strong and powerful and always there.  
Forever!  
Amen.

## Breaking of the Bread

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

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

## Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

**All** Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*The minister and people receive Communion.*

## Going out to Serve God

Creator God,  
send your Holy Spirit to renew this living world,  
that the whole creation,  
in its groaning and striving,  
may know your loving purpose  
and come to reflect your glory;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

For bringing us together in love.

**All Thank you!**

For feeding us with your very self.

**All Thank you!**

For the power of your Spirit.

**All Thank you!**

For sending us out into the world filled with your Spirit.

**All Thank you!**

## Notices

**Worship song – *Sing for Joy***  
(performed by Sara, Claire and Mike)

**All If we call to Him, He will answer us  
If we run to Him, He will run to us  
If we lift our hands, He will lift us up  
Come now praise his name, all you saints of God.**

**O Sing for joy to God our strength  
O Sing for joy to God our strength, our strength**

**Draw near to Him, he is here with us  
Give Him your love, He's in love with us  
He will heal our hearts, He will cleanse our hands  
If we rend our hearts He will heal our land.**

**O Sing for joy to God our strength  
O Sing for joy to God our strength, our strength**

**If we call to Him, He will answer us  
If we run to Him, He will run to us  
If we lift our hands, He will lift us up  
Come now praise his name, all you saints of God.**

**Draw near to Him, he is here with us  
Give Him your love, He's in love with us  
He will heal our hearts, He will cleanse our hands  
If we rend our hearts He will heal our land.**

**O Sing for joy to God our strength  
O Sing for joy to God our strength**

**O Sing for joy to God our strength  
O Sing for joy to God our strength**

**O Sing for joy to God our strength  
O Sing, sing for joy to God our strength, our strength**

## **The Dismissal**

Let us affirm our commitment to care actively for God's creation.

**All** 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 God the Father,  
who clothes the lilies of the field  
and feeds the birds of the air,  
provide you with all we need for life in its fullness.

**All** Amen.

May God the Son,  
who fed the five thousand and turned water into wine,  
feed you with his life and transform us in his love.

**All** Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,  
who hovered over the waters of creation  
and formed the world from chaos,  
form you in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth.

**All** Amen.

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

**All** Amen.

Go in peace, and may the commitment we have made this day  
be matched by our faithful living.

**All** Thanks be to God.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.

**Thank you for joining us in worship this morning.**