

***St Joseph's, Ansdell, Service for World Day of
Prayer for Creation
1st September 2016***

*Please take a tea-light before the service begins
Feel free throughout the service to sit or kneel*

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

My brothers and sisters, we gather on this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in faith and in hope to pray for our world and the great gifts of creation that our God has given us.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis says: "Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life". (LS para 207).

May our prayers for creation inspire all to care and to cultivate responsibly what the Lord has given us to steward.

PENITENTIAL RITE:

As we seek to make a change to our lives and the lives of others, let us call to mind the times we have forgotten the command to love our neighbour and have failed to care for the wonderful gift of creation.

For the times we have been caught up in our own needs and neglected the needs of others. Lord have mercy

ALL: Lord have mercy

For the times we have taken more than our fair share of the gifts God has given for all. Christ have mercy

ALL: Christ have mercy

For the times we have failed to act to prevent injustice. Lord have mercy

ALL: Lord have mercy

Transform our lives. May God who established the dance of creation, who marvelled at the lilies of the field, who transforms chaos to order, lead us to transform our lives and the Church to reflect God's glory in creation.

FIRST READING

Laudato Si' #228

Care for nature is part of a lifestyle which includes the capacity for living together and communion. Jesus reminded us that we have God as our

common Father and that this makes us brothers and sisters. Fraternal love can only be gratuitous; it can never be a means of repaying others for what they have done or will do for us. That is why it is possible to love our enemies. This same gratuitousness inspires us to love and accept the wind, the sun and the clouds, even though we cannot control them. In this sense, we can speak of a "universal fraternity".

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35. R. Cf. v.30

**R. Send forth your spirit, o Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe! **R.**

You founded the earth on its base,
to stand firm from age to age.
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:
the waters stood higher than the mountains. **R.**

You make springs gush forth in the valleys:
they flow in between the hills.
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;
from the branches they sing their song. **R.**

From your dwelling you water the hills;
earth drinks its fill of your gift.
You make the grass grow for the cattle
and the plants to serve people's needs. **R.**

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
Bless the Lord, my soul! **R.**

GOSPEL READING

John 1: 1-5

In the beginning was the one who is called the Word.
The Word was with God and was truly God.
From the very beginning the Word was with God.
And with this Word, God created all things.
Nothing was made without the Word.
Everything that was created received its life from him,
and his life gave light to everyone.
The light keeps shining in the dark,
and darkness has never put it out.

Pause for a moment's reflection on the readings

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Our candles are lit as the Blessed Sacrament is brought to the altar.

I will light a light

A: I will light a light
In the name of the maker of light
Who lit the world with stars, sun and moon
And breathed the breath of life into all things.

B: I will light a light
In the name of the revealer of light
Who brought light into the darkness
And stretched out his hands for us
Giving his love to the whole world.

A: I will light a light
In the name of the inspirer of light
Who lit the world from within
And fills my life with wonder
In the search for learning and wisdom.

B: We hold these lights
**All : For the Trinity of light and love
God's presence everywhere
God's salvation for everyone
God's inspiration of all things.**

A: We hold these lights
**All : For ourselves and each other
For our families, friends and enemies
For our work, hopes and struggles.
For the whole world
For all things created, visible and invisible
For individuals and communities in need.**

B: We hold these lights to give thanks
**All : For water, air and soil
For plants, trees and animals
For minerals and fossils.**

A: We hold these lights to give thanks
**All : For knowledge, skills and ideas
For inventions and discoveries
For science and the arts.**

All: May our footprint on this earth be light

B: May we discover the holiness of your presence everywhere
May we learn how to value your gifts without harm or waste
May we enrich the flourishing of beauty in the things we make and use. **Amen.**

PRAYING FOR PEOPLE AND PLACES

Pope Francis has called on us to be attentive to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth. In our hearts call out the names of people

and places we especially remember this afternoon, especially those affected by the ecological crisis.

There is now a period of silent prayer and adoration. You are invited to come forward with your lit candle and place it at the foot of the altar reflecting on your own personal commitment to care for God's Creation.

The readings on the back page can be used for reflection during the silence

LITANY OF CREATION

Leader: Loving God, we give you thanks and praise, for you embrace with tenderness all that exists. Let us pray:

Reader: Heavenly Father, source of light and life,

All: Let all the earth praise you.

Reader: Son of God, Jesus, risen in fullness,

All: Let all the earth praise you.

Reader: Holy Spirit, infinite bond of love,

All: Let all the earth praise you.

Reader: Triune God, creator of resplendent beauty,

All: Let all the earth praise you.

Reader: God of our own hearts, you draw all creatures to yourself,

All: Give us the grace to care for your gift.

Reader: Living Lord Jesus, you open our eyes to the dignity of all,

All: Give us the grace to care for your gift.

Reader: Holy Spirit, you inspire us to do what is good,

All: Give us the grace to care for your gift.

Leader: God's bountiful love unites us as one family, and so together we dare to say:

All: Our Father...

The Blessed Sacrament is returned to the Tabernacle

CONCLUDING PRAYERS AND BLESSING

Merciful God, Hear the prayers of your people; Reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation, and to thank you for the wonderful handiwork which you have entrusted to our care. Send us

your help for the protection of creation as well as your pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reader1: Lord, allow my ears to listen to the cry of the earth, the voices of the people of the south, those who face the harsh reality of climate change.

All: Lord - I come to do your will

Reader2: Lord, allow my eyes to see the beauty of creation, in flowers, creatures, forests, and cities alike.

All: Lord - I come to do your will

Reader3: Lord, allow my voice to speak out for justice and ensure the voiceless are heard.

All: Lord - I come to do your will

Reader4: Lord, allow my hands to care for the earth, to toil, to reap, to celebrate.

All: Lord - I come to do your will

All: Lord, allow my feet to take the path less trod, to walk the extra mile, to take your message out in the world. Amen

Leader: Through the blessing of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, may we go forth with joy to care for creation.

All: Amen.

As part of our renewed commitment to care for creation, we invite you to take part in a national week of action between 10-16 October. Locally you might arrange to meet MP Mark Menzies (01253 729846 or 0207 219 7073) to talk about care for creation and the impact of climate change. To find out more visit cafod.org.uk/takeaction or contact the Preston CAFOD volunteer centre on 01772 733310.

A Christian prayer in union with creation

Pope Francis published this prayer in his Laudato Si' encyclical, and is meant for Christians to ask for inspiration to take up the commitment to creation set before us by the Gospel of Jesus.

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

**God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.**

Reflection:

Desmond Tutu, Retired Archbishop of Cape Town, Anglican Church of South Africa

Genesis in the Bible declares that human beings have been created in the image of God and are bidden to have dominion over the rest of creation. Made in the *imago dei*, they are thus God's representatives, and so must hold this dominion not ruthlessly, aggressively exploitatively, but as God would hold dominion, caringly, lovingly and compassionately.

There is a very intimate connection between us humans and the rest of creation. It is mystical and real. So when Adam and Eve muck up their lives through disobeying God, it has devastating consequences for the rest of creation – the ground which up to then had produced crops for the benefit of humans, now spews forth weeds. This is an imaginative way of saying that Creation has been damaged because human beings have been damaged. It is now red in tooth and claw.

Reflection:

Archbishop Anders Wejryd of Uppsala, Church of Sweden

Access to water is a human right. Water is the basis of all life. The unique role water plays in human life is reflected in the key role water has been given in texts and rituals in most religions all over the world. In our Christian interpretation, water signifies life cleansing and sanctity, but also compassion and generosity.

In our times water is a scarce resource for more than a thousand-million people. The nations of the world agreed to cut hunger in half between 2000 and 2015. If this goal is to be achieved we have to make lasting improvements in the water situation in the world around us. We all share a responsibility to find the solutions.

Reflection: St. Paul (Romans, 8)

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labour pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Reflection: An extract from a poem by Mary Oliver ('Messenger')

My work is loving the world.
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird – equal seekers of sweetness.
Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.
Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?
Am I no longer young, and still not half-perfect?

Let me keep my mind on what matters, which is my work,
which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished.....