



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Environment Programme

A service of the word for Creationtide

1978 ✦ DORCHESTER TEAM ✦ 2018

Gathering and Greeting

Welcome

God in Christ has revealed his glory.

ALL: Come let us worship.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

ALL: the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

ALL: O praise the name of the Lord!

Hymn

We plough the fields and scatter

the good seed on the land,

but it is fed and watered

by God's almighty hand;

he sends the snow in winter,

the warmth to swell the grain,

the breezes and the sunshine

and soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us

are sent from heaven above,

then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord

for all his love.

He only is the maker

of all things near and far;

he paints the wayside flower,

he lights the evening star;

the wind and waves obey him,

by him the birds are fed;

much more to us his children,

he gives our daily bread.

All good gifts...

We thank you, then, O Father,

for all things bright and good,

the seed-time and the harvest,

our life, our health, our food:

accept the gifts we offer

for all your love imparts;

and that which you most welcome,
our humble, thankful hearts.
All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.

Opening Prayer

During these prayers symbols of creation will be brought forward

ALL: We praise you, living God:

you give strength to the earth that sustains us,
you open your hand to feed all living things.

ALL: 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.

ALL: We praise you, Holy Spirit, fire of love:

you are the breath of life in every creature,
you refresh our thirsty souls with grace.

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

Climate Change Prayer (Collect)

Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation,
and every living thing belongs to you:
have mercy on us as climate change confronts us.
Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live,
to reduce the energy we use,
to share the resources you provide,
and to bear the cost of change.
Forgive our past mistakes
and send us your Spirit,
with wisdom in present controversies
and vision for the future to which you call us
in 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:

ALL: 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:

ALL: 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:

ALL: forgive us and help us.

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

Father, in your mercy:

ALL: 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:

ALL: forgive us and help us.

Absolution

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

Anthem: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree by Elizabeth Postern

Diocese of Oxford- response to Climate Emergency
Hannah Mann (Environment Programme Manager) will give an update

Hymn

Monarch and maker of all time and space,
sculptor of mountains and of desert place,
source and sustainer of both sea and land,
all that exists was crafted by your hand.

Yours are the myriad stars and cosmic grace,
yours is the image of each human face;
history and mystery in all that we know,
yours is the love through which we live and grow.

Help us as guardians of all life on earth
both to respect the world and prize its worth;
and, in deep gratitude for all you give,
turn greed to sharing so that all may live.

Glory to God to whom all praise is due,
glory to Jesus making all things new,
glory to God the Spirit, bold and bright,
who leads the world through darkness into light

Words John L Bell; Tune: Woodlands

Liturgy of the Word

Reading: Romans 8: 18-26

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope

that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

This is the word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

Reading Matthew 6: 25-34

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

This is the word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

Address

Hymn

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you,
seek and ye shall find;
knock and it shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

You shall not live by bread alone,
but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And he shall direct your path
In all your ways acknowledge him
Allelu, Alleluia

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

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

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

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

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

Prayers of the people

Prayers will be led by Rev Jennifer Morton

Concluding with **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

ALL: 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.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Let us go in peace,

ALL: to treasure and to tend the world God made and loves,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands

And the trees of the field
will clap their hands
the trees of the field
will clap their hands
the trees of the field
will clap their hands
and you'll go out with joy