

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 5 September 2021**

Planet Earth Sunday



Craftivist canary for COP26

Organ Music: Josef Gabriel Rheinberger, Sonata no. 3 in G: 2. Intermezzo.
Joseph Jongen, Petit Prélude

Welcome

Call to Worship (from Psalm 149)

All **Praise the Lord!**

Minister Sing to the Lord a new song,
All **his praise in the assembly of the faithful.**

Minister Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
All **let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.**

Minister Let them praise his name with dancing,
All **making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.**

Minister For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;
All **he adorns the humble with victory.**

Minister Let the faithful exult in glory;
All **let them sing for joy on their couches.**

Hymn 124 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
praise God, my soul, for in him are your health and salvation;
come all who hear;
into his presence draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who in all things is wondrously reigning,
shields you from harm and is gently yet firmly sustaining.

Have you not seen
how your heart's wishes have been
granted by God's wise ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who with blessing and power will defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you;

ponder anew,
what the Almighty can do:
God will for ever befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the Amen
sound from God's people again:
gladly for ever adore him.

Opening Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Leader Loving and gracious God, we give you thanks for all your gifts to us:

for all the fruits of your creation,
for the air we breathe,
for the water we depend upon,
for the earth and all its riches,
for life in all its forms,
and for our relationships with you and with one another.

Generous God, creation is your song of love.
May we stop to listen, and open our hearts to the melody
so that we might join in the singing.

All **Amen.**

Prayer of confession

Leader For times when we have viewed Planet Earth as a supply of endless
resources,

All **Forgive us, O God.**

Leader For our contribution to human activity that pollutes Earth's atmosphere, land
and waters,

All **Forgive us, O God.**

Leader For times when we have cared more about today's needs and wants than
about nurturing Planet Earth for future generations,

All **Forgive us, O God.**

Leader For times when we have focused on ourselves and failed to share your gifts
with others,

All **Forgive us, O God.**

Leader For times when we have neglected to show kindness to others, or to welcome the stranger,
All **Forgive us, O God.**

Words of affirmation

Leader Planet Earth is our sanctuary home. Let us care for it and share its resources fairly, with present and future generations.
All **We celebrate Earth as our home and live in the goodness of God's forgiveness. May we use the grace of forgiveness to be an energy of change.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Scripture Reading Ezekiel 33: 7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely die', and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

New Testament Scripture Reading Matthew 18: 15-20

'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the

member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Hymn 243 Touch the earth lightly

Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ re-connect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Reflection

Prayers for Others

Leader Gracious God,
We pray for our broken world and for peace.
We pray for the children of all nations, and for men and women facing
disrupted lives and longing to be reunited with their families.
We pray especially for the people of Afghanistan.
Lord, in your mercy
All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray that in this time of climate crisis and ecological emergency, you may help us to rediscover your love of creation and to reflect that in our own lives.
Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for those people who are already facing droughts, wildfires, floods and storms: grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate.

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader God who speaks through unexpected people, we thank you for contemporary prophets who are challenging us to act on climate change: for indigenous people and their invaluable knowledge of the land and sea where they live; for scientists dedicating their careers to warning us about changes to the planet; and for young people voicing concern for their future.

As we approach COP 26, we pray that those in power will listen to these prophetic voices. Help them to see beyond short-term political priorities, and give them wisdom and courage when they face difficult decisions.

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Creator God, source of all goodness, help us to care for your gift of Planet Earth. May we work to keep this, our common home, a sanctuary for future generations, filled with peace and justice.

We ask all this in Jesus's name.

All **Amen.**

Hymn 238 Lord, bring the day to pass

Lord, bring the day to pass
when forest, rock and hill,
the beasts, the birds, the grass,
will know your finished will:
when we attain our destiny
and nature lives in harmony.

Forgive our careless use
of water, ore and soil -
the plenty we abuse
supplied by others' toil:
save us from making self our creed,
turn us towards each other's need.

Help us, when we release
creation's secret powers,
to harness them for peace,
our children's peace and ours:
teach us the art of mastering
in servant form, like Christ our King.

Creation groans, travails,
futile its present plight,
bound - till the hour it hails
God's children born of light:
that we may gain our true estate,
come, Lord, new heavens and earth create.

Blessing and Sending

May the One who calls you
to lift up the poor and shun the oppression of the rich,
to love your neighbour as yourself,
to show mercy to those who suffer and
to show your faith by your life,
give you time to live the Gospel,
that you may change,
offer resources to those who struggle,
show mercy to the planet, and
have faith that we can live differently.

And the blessing of Almighty God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
be with you, now and always, Amen.

Organ Music : Josef Gabriel Rheinberger, Sonata no. 3 in G: 1. Pastorale. Con Moto.

Worship Leaders: Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie, Jocelyn and Michael Cunliffe

Organist: Alasdair Grant

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott, Philippa Burgess, Amy Marcham

Sources:

Image: Anne Dallas

Opening Prayer from Seasons of the Spirit © Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2019 (adapted)

Prayers for Others adapted from Christian Aid Order of Service for Climate Justice, and CAFOD Climate Sunday Mass Template

Blessing adapted from eco-congregation Scotland Creation Time resources

Scripture readings taken from the New Revised Standard Version

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th edition

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