

St Andrew's and St George's West Order of Service, 20 February 2022

COP 26 and Climate Change



Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

The world belongs to God
The earth and every creature
How good it is, how wonderful
To act together with urgency
Love and faith come together
Justice: embrace the earth
If Christ's disciples keep silent
The stones shall call account.

Hymn 147 All creatures of our God and King (vv 1,2,3,4,7)

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!
Bright brother sun with golden beam,
clear sister moon with softer gleam:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Swift rushing wind so wild and strong,
high clouds that sail in heaven along
O praise him, alleluia
New breaking dawn in praise rejoice,
and lights of evening find a voice:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
Fire, with your flames so fierce and bright,
giving to all both warmth and light:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfolds God's blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
Let them his glory also show:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.
The world and all its people belong to him.

Merciful God, we believe that you uphold and sustain all that you have made, while also lovingly giving us the freedom to live in relationship with the rest of creation.

We ask your forgiveness for the ways we have abused that freedom, through what we have done and what we have left undone. We bring our lament and our longing for a renewed earth to you now:

As your people, we come to you weary and heavy laden. We ask that you would make our grief holy in your eyes.

Moment of Silence

Leader: Lord, have mercy.
Everyone: **Lord, have mercy.**

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.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray together saying

**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.**

Short Talk

Dedication of offerings

**Gracious and holy God,
accept all that we offer to you:
our resources of money, time and talent,
our brokenness, our hope, our risking, our lives.**

**Bless and transform all that we offer
and all that we are wise to hold back,
that new life may be celebrated and shared in Jesus' name.
Amen**

Sharing the Peace

The Lord be with you
And also with you

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.

Scripture Reading James 2:1-10, 14-17 (PR)

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not put it into action? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,

and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, when it’s not put into action, is dead.

Gospel Reading Mark 7:24-37

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there.

Yet he could not escape notice, for a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she fell, grovelling,

at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Sermon: The gift from the earth

Hymn Come saints and troublemakers (tune Thornbury CH 644)

Come saints and trouble-makers:
all passionate with good will;
as signs emerge; take note now
the Good News to distil:
Good News for every creature
that’s threatened in our day:
Good News, as in the darkness
we stumble on our way.

Come saints and trouble-makers:
love with integrity
the urgency of action
in solidarity.
Not what we earn will matter
nor who deserves to live:
when partnered with Creation
to heal and to forgive.

Come friends of Jesus, fearful
of news we daily read:
who hide behind tradition,
seek refuge in our creed:
these very gifts are given
by grace, to cheer and feed:
to make of us Christ’s creatures:
the gift the Earth shall need!

Prayers of the People

Lord of righteousness and faithfulness,
today we have heard familiar words,
which challenge us in myriad ways for myriad reasons.
As we pray for others and indeed ourselves this day,
we ask that you grant us
the patience and forbearance that we may need
as we seek to forgive,
to love our enemies
and to bless those who curse us.
In a world where people in positions of power
have shamelessly abused such power
to the detriment of so many,
help us to forgive as you forgive.

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

In a world where people create the means by which
others lose their lives, their livelihood and much more,
be it unjust policies, weapons, drugs or otherwise,
help us to forgive as you forgive.

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

In our communities where people go out of their way
to damage property, intimidate the vulnerable
and harm innocent citizens,
help us to forgive as you forgive.

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

In our churches where buildings
tragically become more important than people,
where competition obstructs cooperation
and where maintenance is seen
as more important than mission
help us to forgive as you forgive.

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

In our homes, where some never feel safe
through abuse or harm of body, mind and soul,
where justice for the abused and harmed
often seems impossible to find,
and amidst the complexity of such situations,

give us wisdom to know what is best,
help us to forgive as you forgive.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Faithful God,
in all these situations, may there be justice.
May those who have wronged be held accountable.
May those who are negatively affected
by the actions or decisions of others be helped and healed.
May a pathway to forgiveness and restoration become clear.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Amen

Hymn 251 I the Lord of sea and sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright
who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my Word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

Benediction

Worship Leaders: Rev David Coleman, Rev Colin Douglas, Pam Russell
Pianist: Mary Godden
Technical team: Alison Bruce, Ruth Forrester, Mary Margaret Scott

Sources:

Image: Rev David Coleman

Opening prayer: adapted from The Anglican Church of Australia

Scripture reading(s) taken from the New Revised Standard Version unless otherwise stated.

Prayers of the People: adapted from Spill the Beans

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition, except 'Come Saints and Troublemakers' Words: Rev David Coleman

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