

An Environmental Service

Welcome

Opening Sentence

Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
for in him all things in heaven and earth were created.

Colossians 1: 15, 16b (NRSV)

Hymn

‘Morning has broken’ (HO&N 450)

or ‘New every morning’ (HO&N 467) *for morning service*

or ‘The day thou gavest, Lord, has ended’ (HO&N 638) *for evening service*

Responses

Morning

Let the sun rise in the heavens and give us light,
Let birds praise God with their morning song,
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Let all be put ready for the daytime tasks
Let there be thankfulness in those who work
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Let blossoms open and the pasture grow,
Let the rain fall softly on to hill and dale,
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Evening

Let the light fall warm and red on the rock,
Let the birds sing their evening song,
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Let the tools be stored away,
Let the work be over and done,
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Let the flowers close and the stars appear,
Let hearts be glad and minds be calm,
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Penitence

God's whole creation groans.
The land produces thorns and thistles

and is ready for burning.
Our sin affects all around.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.
Your righteousness, Lord, is like the strong mountains,
And your justice as great as the deep:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

With you is the well of life,
and in your light shall we see light:
Christ, have mercy,

Christ, have mercy.

O continue your righteous dealing
to those that are true of heart:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

O God, your fertile earth is being slowly stripped of its riches,

Open our eyes to see.

O God, your living waters are being slowly choked with chemicals:

Open our eyes to see.

O God, your clear air is slowly being fouled by pollutants:

Open our eyes to see.

O God, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering:

Open our eyes to see.

God our maker, so move us by the wonder of creation

that we repent and care more deeply.

So move us to mourn the loss of life,

that we learn to cherish and protect your world.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
our light and our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

In the beginning you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

To dispel the darkness of our night,
you sent forth your Son,
the first-born of all creation.

He is our Christ, the light of the world, and Him we acclaim,
as all creation sings to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

Old Testament Reading *Verses from Psalm 19*

The heavens are telling of the glory of God
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech
and night to night declares knowledge.

There are neither words nor language
nor sound of any voices.

Yet their utterance goes out to the whole earth
and their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun
who comes forth as a bridegroom from his canopy.

It rejoices to run its course like a giant.
It comes out from one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other extremity,
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

New Testament Reading *Romans 8: 18 - 23 (NRSV)*

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.

Hymn

Gospel Reading *Matthew 6: 25 - 33 (NIV)*

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? And who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?

And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow; they do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Affirmation of faith

We believe and trust in God the Creator who made the world.
We believe and trust in God the Son who redeemed the world.
We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to the world.
We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Intercessions

Let us pray to God, the Lord of the harvest,
that he will bring to fruition
all that he desires for His creation.

Lord of the harvest, you have created the universe
through your eternal Word,
and have blessed humankind
by giving us dominion over the earth:
We pray for your world, that we may share
and conserve its resources,
and live in reverence for all creation
and in harmony with one another.

Lord of creation,

In your mercy, hear us.

Lord of the harvest, though you have given
the human race a rich land,
a land of streams and springs, wheat and barley,
vines and oil and honey,
we have made through sin
a world of suffering and sorrow:
we pray for those who bear the weight of affliction
that they may come to share
the life of wholeness and plenty.

Lord of creation,

In your mercy, hear us.

**Accept these prayers,
for the sake of your son our Saviour,
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Final Prayer

Lord of all, as with joy we have offered thanksgiving
for your love shown in creation,
move our hearts to be generous and wise stewards
of the good things we enjoy,
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

or

May God who clothes the lilies
and feeds the birds of the sky,
who multiplied loaves and fishes
and changed water into wine,
feed us and change us
to reflect the glory of you, our Creator,
in this world and the next. **Amen.**

Blessing