

# Climate Communion Service

## Celebrating the Eucharist with a focus on the Earth

*[please join in words in italics and singing]*

### Call to Worship

The whole Earth waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God  
*Sing to the Lord all the Earth*

### Opening Hymn [1]

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the holy One, is here;  
come bow before him now  
with reverence and fear:  
In him no sin is found –  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, or the presence of the Lord,  
the holy One, is here.
2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is corned:  
how awesome is the sight –  
our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.
3. Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place:  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace,  
No work too hard for him,  
in faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

### Opening Prayer

God of forever,  
you know our wants and our desires,  
and from you nothing is concealed.  
May our intentions be honest  
and our hearts open to your Spirit,  
who inspires and enthuses life,  
so that we love you and your purposes for us.  
May your sacred name be held up  
and reflected in us,  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## **Welcome and Greetings**

### **Thanksgiving (Psalm 136)**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
who alone does great wonders,  
who by understanding made the heavens,  
who spread out the earth on the waters,  
who made the great lights,  
the sun to rule over the day,  
the moon and stars to rule over the night,  
O give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

### **Offering of Devon Symbols (may be processed or already on a table)**

Sea-water from a Devon beach - symbol of rising sea temperatures, polluted, suffering and dying ocean worlds.

Stunted and unripened local fruits/vegetables – symbols of a lack of sunshine, failed crops, human hunger and suffering.

Stone from a collapsed Devonshire cliff or river bank – symbol of dangerous water levels, eroded land, flooded fields, destructive weather.

Three symbols of climate change from three areas of our County. There could be a hundred more symbols of ecological imbalance, human struggle and suffering from many other places.

### **Confession [2]**

Lord, we lay in your hands these symbols of your suffering creation. Forgive us our part in the destruction of your carefully balanced world, our home and community. Help us heal and reconcile your earth.

God be with you  
*And also with you*

We turn our faces to God  
*We offer our hearts to God*

O God, you have searched us out and known that we do not speak up strongly for tomorrow's world, nor pay attention to the voices of those who do. We have failed to see your revelation through the natural world and through one another, and have therefore avoided our responsibility for the Creation and for humankind. We have omitted to understand the cosmic breadth of Christ's power, and we have rejected you by refusing to love life in its fullness.

*We acknowledge our insensitivity to the Creation  
We confess our blind apathy and indifference  
We reject our unthinking destructiveness  
We pray for life in this world to come. Amen.*

## **Absolution**

Heavenly and earthly God,  
who forgives all who seek change and hope,  
have mercy upon each and every one of us.  
May we be pardoned and delivered  
of our sins in Creation,  
and led into goodness, justice and life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

**Gloria** (Taize)      Gloria, Gloria in Excelsis Deo.  
Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia

## **First Reading** Isaiah 24: 4-13/21-22

### **Hymn [3]**

1. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God,  
and his righteousness  
and all these things shall be added unto you;  
allelu, alleluia  
  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you,  
seek and ye shall find;  
knock, and it shall be opened unto you;  
allelu, alleluia.  
  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia

## **The Gospel** Matthew 5:1-16

### **Reflective Message/Sermon**

#### **Creed [4]**

*We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.*

*We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptizes this planet with living water.*

*We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee, who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.*

*And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.*

*We believe in everlasting life in God.*

*And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.*

*Amen*

## **Intercessions**

God of Creation  
In the face of global warming  
We stand on the edge of many challenges.  
We consume the world's resources to favour the few  
whilst the many and the future look at uncertainty.

May it not be long  
before we actively say no to excessive emissions  
that choke the world in climate vulnerability.

May it not be long  
before we decide to change ourselves  
rather than the climate.

May it not be long  
before we reverse the trends of greed  
that lead to despoliation and waste.

May it not be long  
before we reject a consumer mentality  
that encourages us to buy that which we do  
not need and which satisfies us not.

May it not be long  
before we turn away from competing unthinkingly with one another,  
and hope rather to cooperate and share resources  
so that all may live in hope.

May it not be long  
before we seek to heal the earth  
and let the earth hold us as you will.

May it not be long, Lord. Amen

## **The Peace**

We are the Body of Christ,  
all parts of an interconnected whole.  
Therefore, let us pursue  
God's peace with each other  
and with the Creation around us.  
Peace be with you...

*And with us all.*

## Offertory Hymn Tune: Thornbury 76 76 D [5]

1. The whole earthly Creation  
reflects God's heavenly grace,  
since life has now developed  
upon this globe in space;  
but now our human industry  
is threatening all its worth,  
with unchecked global warming  
one Hope, one Life, one Earth
  
2. Our scientists and leaders  
now recognise this trend.  
Unless we change our habits,  
our lives themselves might end.  
So now they make decisions  
to implement our voice,  
to shrink our carbon footprint  
one God, one World, one Choice
  
3. The task for all our nations'  
to cut back greenhouse gas,  
that humankind in future  
will not face death and loss;  
the targets of our rulers  
must demonstrate resolve,  
to save our children's children,  
one Globe, one God, one Love
  
4. We call out to our God now  
that we united be,  
and our destructive lifestyles  
be lost to history.  
We move ahead together  
agreeing a new accord  
to limit our emissions  
In faith in Christ, our Lord.



**Sanctus:** This is the table of communion with the earth on which Christ became incarnate

Holy God,  
you reveal yourself  
through the Earth,  
through bread and wine  
water and flesh.  
Glory to you  
through all creation!

## Eucharistic Prayer [6]

Today we give thanks for Jesus of Nazareth,  
in whom Christians believe that God was especially present,  
through whom God was made known to humanity.  
On the night that he was betrayed, he feasted with his followers;  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it  
and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take this and eat it.  
This is my body broken for you,  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way, after supper,  
he took the cup of wine, gave thanks,  
and gave it to them, saying,  
'Drink from it all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many.  
Do this whenever you drink it  
in remembrance of me.'

For all that Jesus of Nazareth means to us.

*We give thanks*

So today we share bread and wine together  
as a sign that that we are one humanity,  
as a pledge that we will work for justice,  
and a healing of the damage we are bringing to God's world.  
This will be a foretaste of that which can be  
despite what is and what has been.

May the Spirit that guides us all  
be present in this feast,  
taking this bread and wine,  
the concerns that we have expressed,  
the lives that we leave,  
and transforming them all  
for the unity of all creation  
and the service of love.

*God, whose body is all creation,  
may we come to know you in all the earth  
and feel you in our blood,  
So will no part of us, or the world,  
be lost to your transforming grace.*

## **Lord's Prayer – Global Warning [5]**

*Creator God – maker and shaper of  
all that is, seen and unseen;  
You are in the expanse and depth  
of Creation, and in the processes  
that make life possible.  
Yet we are distracted by the gods  
we make ourselves and our  
lives become fractured and fragmented.  
In our brokenness we disturb the  
Earth's capacity to hold us.  
Instead we find climate uncertainty  
and global injustice.  
Call us back from the brink.  
Help us to choose love not fear,  
to change ourselves and not the planet;  
to act justly for the sake of the vulnerable;  
and to make a difference  
today for life tomorrow.*

*In your name - Maker, Son and Spirit. Amen*

## **The Communion**

Alleluia! This living bread is broken  
for the life of the world.

*Alleluia! Let us keep the feast.*

## **Sharing of bread and wine**

## **Reflective Music**

## **Prayer after Communion [7]**

God of life and God of light,  
as we seek a new relationship with your created order,  
may we sense the grace and peace  
of a new relationship with you.

*May the air sing with songs of glory,  
May the water flash with the silver of creation,  
May the forests bloom with leaves  
for the healing of nations,  
May God's light and love  
fill our hearts and souls and minds. Amen.*

## **Dismissal**

God be with you.  
And with us all.  
Tend the earth,  
Care about God's good creation  
Bring forth the fruits of justice for all.  
May we go in the peace of Christ  
  
*Thanks be to God*

## Hymn [8]

**Tune : Sine Nomine the tune to "For all the saints who from their labour rest"**

1. Creator God, abundant life your mark,  
You once poured speech into the formless dark  
And from those words sprang forth a living spark  
Your inspiration - Awoke creation
2. Throughout this world, in which we live and move,  
All that we sense below, around, above  
Displays the imprint of your longing love  
Its revelation - Throughout creation.
3. But yet the earth is fractured, frayed and torn,  
Poisoned, polluted, ravaged, scarred and worn  
Its treasures plundered and its beauties scorned  
Our transformation - Of God's creation.
4. From blight and guilt, we cannot walk away  
Our will and actions shape the world today  
And ours the greed, insisting on its way,  
Whose depredations - Despoil creation.
5. Come Holy Spirit, challenge mind and heart!  
Inspire our living so that we will start  
To make those choices which may yet impart  
Love's liberation - To your creation.
6. We pledge to touch all things with holy care  
Until your coming Kingdom ends despair  
Then all the world will witness and will share  
The jubilation - Of healed creation.

- [1] David Evans
- [2] Methodist DSR
- [3] Karen Lafferty
- [4] Keld B. Hansen
- [5] Martyn Goss
- [6] St. Hilda's Community
- [7] World Council of Churches
- [8] Pat Bennett



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