



Celebration of Creation

May 5, 2019 10:30 a.m.

Order of Service

GATHERING SONG:

Step by Step

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Leader: Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God.

If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature – even a caterpillar – I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature. --

OPENING RESPONSES

Leader: God above us – trees, birds and sunshine, stars and moonlight

All: God above us.

Leader: God beneath us – earth, rocks and rivers, roots and caverns

All: God beneath us.

Leader: God around us – seas, winds and cities, animals and people

All: God around us.

Leader: God within us – hope, tears and laughter, love and wonder –

All: God within us.

Leader: God beneath us, God around us, God within us,

All: We celebrate that you made us, you love us and you call us to work and rest with you.

OPENING SONG: *All Creatures of our God and King* CP 355

PRAYER OF THANKS FOR CREATION

Leader: Let us pray...

Thank you, God - thank you for beauty:

the twinkle in an older person's eye,

a child's shout of laughter;

thanks for greening trees and frozen waterfalls,

stunning buildings and flowerbeds in summer.

All: Thanks for beauty.

Leader: Thank you, God, thank you for creativity:

the skills of a tapestry weaver,

the imagination of a web designer;

thanks for bakers and dancers and crossword compilers,

for spiders' webs and city murals.

All: Thanks for creativity.

Leader: Thank you, God, thank you for abundance:

for seeds and raindrops,

for grains of sand and infinite galaxies;

thanks for seagulls, plankton and shoals of mackerel,

for wriggling worms and golden dandelions.

All: Thanks for abundance.

Leader: Thank you for your world, God, and for our part in it.

Thanks that you are a maker, and that you made us makers too.

All: Help us to love creation as you love it,

to take risks to value it as Jesus did,

and draw us into the wildness and wonder

of your Holy Spirit today and every day. Amen.

READINGS

First reading: *Genesis 9:8-17*

... The word of the Lord **All:** Thanks be to God

Psalms 30 (*responsively by the half verse*)

1 I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up * **and have not let my enemies triumph over me.**

2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you, * **and you restored me to health.**

3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; * **you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.**

4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; * **give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.**

5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, * **his favour for a lifetime.**

6 Weeping may spend the night, * **but joy comes in the morning.**

7 While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed. * **You, Lord, with your favour, made me as strong as the mountains."**

8 Then you hid your face, * **and I was filled with fear.**

9 I cried to you, O Lord; * **I pleaded with the Lord, saying,**

10 "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? * **will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?**

11 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; * **O Lord, be my helper."**

12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; * **you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.**

13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; * **O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.**

PRAYER AFTER THE PSALM

Leader: We say together...

All: God our Father, glorious in giving and restoring life,
do not hide your face from your people overcome with loneliness and fear;
turn our mourning into dancing and raise us up with your Son, that we may
rejoice in your presence for ever. Amen

2nd Reading: Acts 9:1-6

... The word of the Lord **All:** Thanks be to God

SONG BEFORE THE GOSPEL: *Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult* CP 432

Gospel: John 21: 1-19

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel is read

Leader: The Gospel of Christ....**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

REFLECTION VIDEO - *All Creation Worships You*

PRAYER OF REGRET

Leader: In the light of your word
and your call to care for creation,
we come to say sorry, God...

Leader: This we know: the earth does not belong to us.

All: The earth is the Lord's and so are all its people

Leader: This we know: we did not weave the web of life.

All: The earth is the Lord's and so is all that breathes on it.

Leader: This we know: we are called to till and work the earth...

All: The earth is the Lord's and so are all who work the land.

Leader: This we know: that we are called to take care of creation....

All: The earth is the Lord's, yet we have polluted and abused it.

Leader: This we know; that whatever befalls the earth...

All: Befalls the sons and daughters of the earth.

Leader: In the silence, we seek your forgiveness for ourselves
and healing for the world.

(moment of quiet)

Leader: Listen to what God says to us: "I made the heavens and the earth.

I call you to be good servants and responsible stewards.

Come and work with me .I will always be with you."

This we know: that the earth is the Lord's

All: And so we will serve Him in it. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Leader: Together we proclaim our faith:

I believe in God, ...

All: the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY SONG: *Praise with Joy the World's Creator* (tune: CP 381)

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Following the directions of the intercessor

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our
Saviour taught us singing...

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

THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

CLOSING BLESSING

Leader: May the heavens bless you.

May the sun shine on you. May the rain dance on your rainboots.

May the stars make you wonder and smile. May the earth bless you,
and may you bless the earth in planting and protection,
and sharing food.

All Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING SONG: *Hear Our Praises*

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go now...

Go and revel in God's world

Go and be creative

Go and work for justice

Go and love your neighbours

Go and walk with God.

All Amen.