

Sunday @ Seven – September 2020

All that He had made

Welcome

Let us sing to the God of salvation,
Let us sing to the Lord our Rock!
Let us come to his house with thanksgiving;
Let us come before the Lord and sing!

*Praise our Maker,
Praise our Saviour,
Praise the Lord our everlasting King.
Every throne must bow before him:
God is lord of everything.*

In his hands are the earths deep places,
And the strength of the hills is his.
All the sea is the lord's for he made it,
By his hands the dry land was formed.

Praise our Maker,.....

Let us worship the Lord our Maker,
Let us kneel to the Lord our God;
For we are the sheep of his pasture;
He will guide us with his powerful hand.

Praise our Maker,.....

Let today be the time when you hear him!
May our Hearts not be hard or cold,
least we stray from the Lord in rebellion
As his people did in times of old.

Praise our Maker,....

A prayer to say together –

**Creator, restorer and renewing God,
you have measured the waters and
marked off the heavens;
you have scooped up the dust and
weighed the mountains.
When we faint and fall with weariness
and worry,
renew our strength, lift us up,
and set us on our journey again,
that we may travel in hope
and serve you wherever you have called
us;
in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

Setting the scene - The Gardener's World

Readings – from Genesis 1 and 2

God had a busy time creating the heavens
and the earth. He saw all that he had made
and it was very good. Then he rested.
In chapter 2 we are told of the garden in
Eden. All kinds of trees grew there, pleasing
to the eye and good for food.....a river
watered the garden....and the Lord God took
the man (and woman) he had formed and
put them into the garden so that they might
work it and take care of it.

God provided for us and called on us to use it
and take care of it. Through the grace of God
we have been given the beauty of his
creation.

Let your mind picture it; recall rolling
landscapes; wild coastlines; peaceful streams.
And the cultivated gardens.

Then look up, on a clear starry night, and
gasp at the wonders of the heavens above
us.

Spend some time giving thanks for the
wonder of creation.

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.
All things bright.....

The purple headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky.
All things bright.....

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.
All things bright.....

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.
All things bright.....

***We consider the world around us now –
looking at God’s garden. Time for
Garden Rescue?***

Let us just spend a moment or two reflecting
on the world God gave us and ask how have
we done with the taking care of it.

God created such a wonderful world for us to
live in. But right now it often seems a broken
world, bearing the scars of what has been
done to it down the ages and continues
today. Scars that are so hard to heal.

A world ravaged by greed; broken by
violence and war; wounded by a lack of
understanding and a resistance to
reconciliation.

A world polluted; exploited; where climate
change is being fuelled by pressures of the
global economy.

A world blighted by a lack of sharing what we
have been given; where there is enough for
all yet the hungry cry out for a crumb of
bread; the oppressed and downtrodden
scream for justice; so many tearful eyes stare
at us and ask “Why?”

Period of Quiet.

Let us say this prayer together –

**Heavenly Father, God of Creation,
open our eyes and the eyes of all
people, especially those who lead the
nations, that we may see beyond the
squalor and ugliness which we have
created, to see the beauty which you
created.**

**Challenge us to have a vision of a return
to the garden you formed in Eden.**

**We pray for understanding,
reconciliation, peace and justice
between all people.**

**We pray that once again rivers and
trees will clap their hands; valleys laugh
and sing; the hungry fed; the humble
lifted high.**

**Convert the hearts of those who ravage
the earth; strengthen the resolve of
those who respect it. Prevent us from
destroying your gift to us.**

In the Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world this is our
prayer:
bread for the children, justice, joy, peace;
sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives, cure for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the
weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can’t
speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love from a spark to a
flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share;
peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to
green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the
pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and
streams
plundered and poisoned – our future, our
dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we
need.

God of the poor.....

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their
praise.

God of the poor.....

***Let us now consider ourselves in the
context of God's garden.***

Reading from John 15 – Jesus said “I am
the true vine and my Father is the gardener.
He cuts off every branch in me that bears no
fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit
he trims clean so that it will be even more
fruitful. Remain in me and I will remain in
you.”

Isaiah 58 – If you do away with the yoke of
oppression, with the pointing finger and
malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves on
behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of
the oppressed, then your light will rise in the
darkness, and your night become like the
noon day. The Lord will guide you always; He
will satisfy your needs in a sun-drenched land
and will strengthen your frame. You will be
like a well-watered garden, like a spring
whose waters never fail.

Reflection: Gardeners Question Time -

So we look to ourselves.
Are we perfectly tended gardens?
Is all blooming and lovely?
Do we allow the Gardener to tend to us?

Do we in some part reflect the problems
which we see in the world around us?

Do parts of our lives need attention, re-
ordering, re-defining?

Are there weeds which threaten to choke us
and prevent growth perhaps?
Are there areas that need pruning?

Maybe new shoots that need time and
encouragement to grow?

Maybe some parts of our personal garden
need a complete dig over, fresh soil and
compost, new seeds sown to sprout and
grow and bear fruit.

Let us be still and offer ourselves to the
Gardener.

Period of Quiet.

Let us say this prayer together-

**Heavenly Father, Jesus put his life into
our hands; now we put our lives into
his.**

Take us. Renew us. Remake us.

**What we have been is past; what we
shall be, through you, still awaits us.**

Be our Gardener.

**Tend us, nurture us, water us and prune
us.**

Help us to grow strongly in Jesus.

Re-invigorate our faith, our hope.

Lead us on.

Take us back into Eden. Amen.

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of Thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my king;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
it shall be no longer mine:
take my heart, it is Thine own;
it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at Thy feet its treasure store:
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all, for Thee.

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Father unto You we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light,
Father unto You we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of love from God,
That we share on earth below.
For our friends and family
And the love that they can show,
Father unto You we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

We say the Grace together.

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**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**