



# Chet Valley Churches



**Informal Communion**

**6<sup>th</sup> September 2020**



# We Prepare for Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Introduction

Let us start with a gathering song as the table is prepared:

♪♪ *Be Still and Know that I am God*

**Be still and know that I am God,  
Be still and know that I am God,  
Be still and know that I am God.**

**In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.  
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.  
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.**

**Be still and know that I am God,  
Be still and know that I am God,  
Be still and know that I am God.**



## A Quote from Pope Francis

*The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dew drop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things.*

## A Collect

Heavenly Father, out of your infinite love you created this universe, beautiful and mysterious. Give us the gift of love so that we may care for your world as much as you do.

We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Kyrie Confession

Lord, you give us this good earth,  
**yet we take your generous gifts for granted.**

*[Pause]*

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this good earth,  
**but we squander its rich resources.**

*[Pause]*

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this good earth,  
**but we fail to share your bounty with all of your children.**

*[Pause]*

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

## Absolution

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading: Genesis 8:19-22

All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on the earth—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”



## Sensio Divina

At the heart of our service is a process we call Sensio Divina. To introduce it, here's a quote from Richard Rohr:

*All you have to do today is go outside and gaze at one leaf, long and lovingly, until you know, really know, that this leaf is a participation in the eternal being of God. It's enough to create ecstasy.*

I invite you to select something living: a pot plant, perhaps, or some cut flowers; a cactus or succulent; or, if you can go outside try to find something like an acorn or a blackberry. All that matters is that it is natural and living.

Now relax and take the time to look intently at the living thing you have chosen: see its colours; notice the richness and the small gradations of shading; feel its roughness and its smoothness. Get to know it. How do you sense God in this part of his creation?

*[Take two or three minutes]*

Consider your living thing: try to immerse yourself in it. Look deeply and as you do, open yourself to listen to God. What might he might be saying to you through this small part of his creation? In particular, what is God saying to you about your part in caring for the earth?

*[Take three or four minutes]*

If you would like to share any reflections or thoughts, please use the chat facility if you are watching on premiere or the comments section below the video on YouTube.

In response we sing:

### ♪♪ *How Great Thou Art*

**O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the roaring thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

***Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!***

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;**

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee...*

**And when I think that God his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die—I scarce can take it in.  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin:**

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee...*

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home—what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And then proclaim, my God, how great thou art!**

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee... [x2]*

## **Prayer for Creation & New Life**

### **A Prayer of Gratitude for Creation**

**God of the Universe, we thank you for your many good gifts:  
For the beauty of creation and its rich and varied fruits.**

**For clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter,  
animals and plants.**

**Forgive us for the times we have taken earth's resources for  
granted and wasted what you have given us.**

**Transform our hearts and minds so that we would learn to care  
and share, to touch the earth with gentleness and with love,  
respecting all living things.**

**We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste, greed and  
indifference, and we pray that the day will come  
when everyone has enough food and clean water.**

**Help us respect the rights of all people and all species and help us  
to willingly share your gifts. Today and always. Amen.**

## The Peace

Christ, who extends welcome and hospitality to all who wish to enter his kingdom, welcomes us now.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*We share peace with one another in our hearts*

### ♪ **Offertory Hymn: Spirit of God Unseen as the Wind**

***Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,  
gentle as is the dove:  
teach us the truth and help us believe,  
show us the Saviour's love!***

**You spoke to us long, long ago,  
Gave us the written word;  
We read it still, needing its truth  
Through it God's voice is heard.**

***Spirit of God, unseen as the wind...***

**Without your help we fail our Lord,  
We cannot live his way;  
We need your power,  
We need your strength,  
Following Christ each day.**

***Spirit of God, unseen as the wind...***

## Eucharistic Prayer

*Eucharistic Prayer for the Season of Creation from the Anglican Church of Southern Africa*

The Lord be with you **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God of all of Creation.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise**



You spoke the Word and all that is in heaven and on the earth, all things, came to be.

Your Spirit hovered over the primal elements, and you brought forth life in forms innumerable, including this our fragile earth, and we amongst its inhabitants.

As our past is in you, so our hope for the future rests with you. As we have turned from your way, so we turn again to the warmth of your love. Through you all things are brought to new life.

And now we give you thanks for the glories of your creation given into our care, and for the opportunities we have to share that richness with all your people.

And so with the wonders of creation and the songs of praise of all your creatures both in heaven and on earth we praise you now and for ever saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest**



In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, work of human hands, gift of our earth, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread to speak to us of the breaking of his body upon the cross. He gave it to his friends and said: Take and eat, for this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

He took the wine, work of human hands, gift of our earth, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He poured out the wine to speak to us of the pouring out of his blood. He gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me.

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died  
Christ is risen  
Christ will come again.**

Therefore God, we who seek your reconciliation; we who need reconciliation one with another; we who hope for reconciliation with all creation, draw close to this mystery.

In being broken, spilt and buried, life sprang forth again. In the breaking, there is an opening up; in the spilling, there are the roots of sharing; in death and burial, there is the seed of the new life to come.

As we look in our world, in our lives, and in our hearts, for his second coming, keep us close to this vision that we have seen. Through the giving in the bread and wine, reconcile us to our world and give us the broken oneness, the spilt unity, and the buried resurrection by which we can restore your creation and fulfil your will.

Send upon us, and upon all your creation, the life-giving Spirit who first moved upon the waters of the deep. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive. Unite us with you through the body and blood of your Son, your Word made flesh as your Word has made flesh.

By whom, and with whom and in whom, in the unity of your Creative Spirit, with all that has been, is, and will be in your universe, we stand before you and worship you, God of all, in songs of everlasting praise,

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven...

**You are also at home in the air, the earth,  
the forests and the seas,**

Hallowed be your name...

**We show your holiness  
by the care we take of your creation,**

Your kingdom come...

**May we live according to your ways,**

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...

**So the earth shall be full of your glory.**

Give us today our daily bread...

**That all may have sufficient to live life in fullness.**

Forgive us our sins...

**Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and future generations,**

As we forgive those who sin against us...

**By reconciliation with justice and peace.**

Lead us not into temptation...

**The temptation to equate dominion with domination,**

And deliver us from evil...

**The evil of destroying the gift of your creation.**

For the kingdom...

**Your kingdom,**

The power and the glory...

**In the cross and resurrection,**

Are yours...

**Not ours.**

For ever and ever...

**You were the beginning and you are the end.**

**Amen, so let it be.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

God's holy gifts for God's holy people

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*We share communion.*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

**Creator God, who made the goodness of the land,  
the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons;  
we thank you for feeding us with your spiritual food.**

**Send us out to cherish and respect your creation and to offer our  
lives as a living sacrifice to protect this planet and its peoples,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **♪ Hymn: *We Plough the Fields and Scatter***

**We plough the fields, and scatter  
The good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered  
By God's almighty hand:  
He sends the snow in winter,  
The warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes, and the sunshine,  
And soft, refreshing rain.**

***All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
For all his love.***

**We thank thee then, O Father,  
For all things bright and good,  
The seed-time and the harvest,  
Our life, our health, our food.  
Accept the gifts we offer  
For all thy love imparts,  
And, what thou most desirest,  
Our humble, thankful hearts.**

***All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
For all his love.***



## **Ending**

**Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers, feeding us with your word and sacrament, and encouraging us in our gathering together.**

**Take us and use us to love and serve you, and all people, in the power of your Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The power of God, displayed in creation,  
fill you with grace to serve God in his world;  
The peace of God, breathing in every living thing,  
enable you to spread God's peace wherever you go;  
The love of God, which fills the universe,  
flow through you that you might reflect his image,  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go into God's world in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

