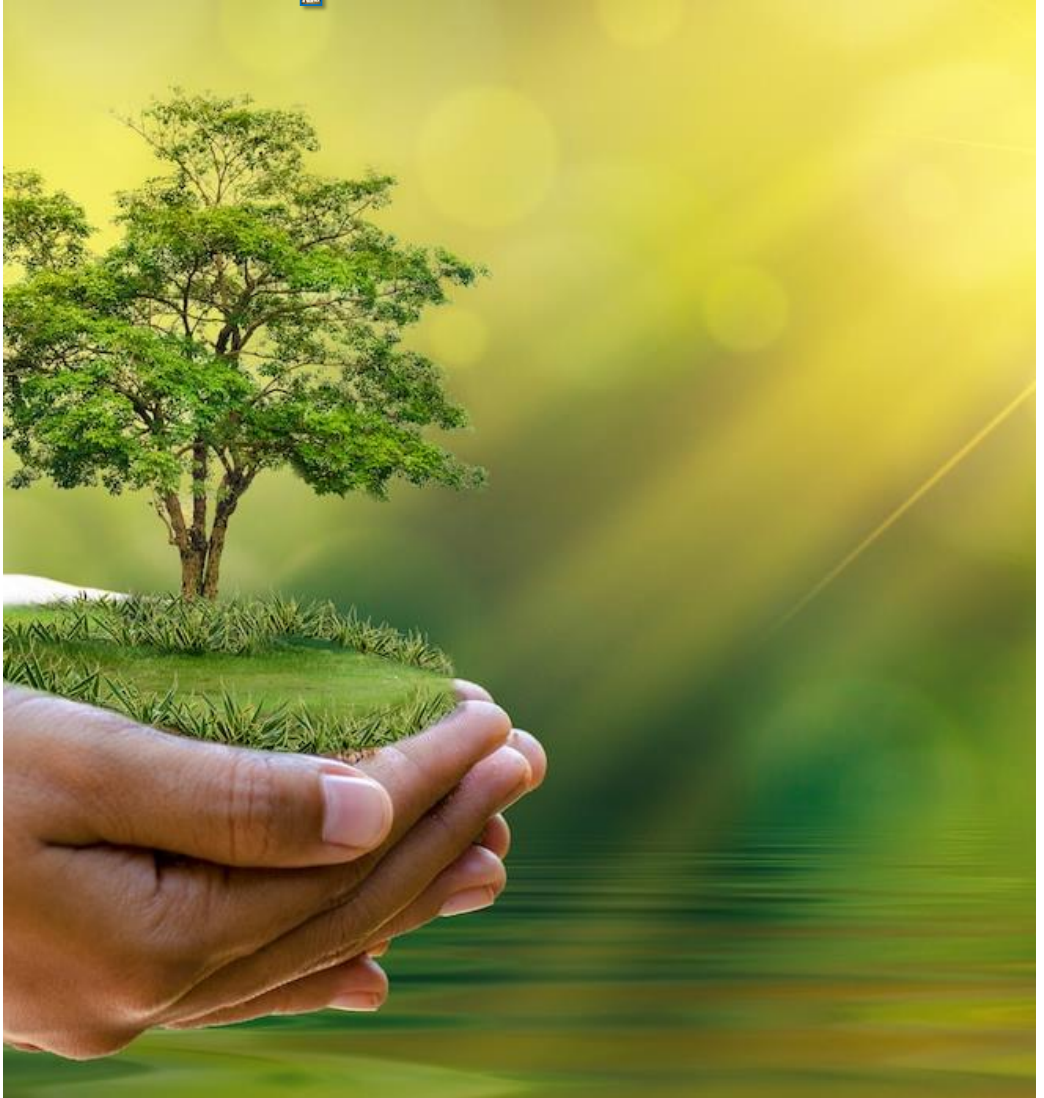




Chet Valley Churches



Service of Holy Communion for World Environment Day

6th June 2021

Greeting & Introduction

The earth is the Lord's, **and everything in it. Amen.**

Psalm 24:1

2021 is a crucial year for action on the climate crisis, with politicians gathering to pledge action to bring down carbon emissions and help slow climate change. The G7 meeting this month in Cornwall will focus on uniting some of the wealthiest and most polluting democracies in the world to help build back better from coronavirus and create a greener, more prosperous future. Then, in November, COP26 will bring together governments of practically every country in the world in Glasgow to tackle the climate crisis. In today's service, we will pray together in thankfulness, and lament and hope for all of creation, for our global neighbours and for our world leaders in the midst of this climate emergency.

'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech
but with actions and in truth.' Amen.

1 John 3:18

♪ **Hymn: O Lord my God, When I in Awesome Wonder**

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

***Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
'How great thou art! How great thou art!'* [Repeat]**

**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...

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

Then sings my soul...

We are privileged here in the Chet Valley to live in a very beautiful part of the country. So let's come in thankfulness to praise God for the beauty that is all around us. Let us pray.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Creator God, we acknowledge that as your handiwork, we stand alongside all that you have made. Trees and rivers, marshes and commonland, soaring birds and swimming creatures, all are held within your care.

May we grow in our love and appreciation for the riches of your creation around us; and may our awe and wonder draw us closer to the natural world, and through it to you, the God of all things. **Amen.**

Our world and our neighbours are impacted unequally by climate change. Those who are least responsible are often impacted first and worst.

Let's listen to Orbisa's story

Orbisa lives with her husband and nine children in Afar, north-east Ethiopia—one of the hottest inhabited places in the world—everyday life there is a real struggle.

Over the last few years, rainfall in her region has reduced dramatically because of climate change. Orbisa says, “In the past we had rainfall every six months, but now we don’t know when the rainfall will come. The length of the dry season is increasing.”

Without rain, her animals are dying, which means less income, less food and poor health for the family. Orbisa now has to travel many hours every day to fetch water, but still her children go thirsty.

This is what the climate emergency looks like. If we don’t take urgent action now, climate change will continue to push millions more people like Orbisa deeper into poverty. So we pray:

Prayer of Lament

Lord God, you made the world and declared it was ‘very good’. And yet, we have not treated the earth and our fellow humans with the care and respect they deserve. We are sorry and ask for your forgiveness.

Give us the courage to keep raising our voices about the climate emergency, which affects people living in poverty the worst. And may your Spirit of peace be in the hearts of all people, so that conflicts end in peace, and relationships are restored. **Amen.**

🎵 **Hymn: Think of a World Without Any Flowers**

**Think of a world without any flowers,
Think of a world without any trees.
Think of a sky without any sunshine,
Think of the air without any breeze.**

**We thank you, Lord, for flowers and trees and sunshine.
We thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.**

**Think of a world without any animals,
Think of a field without any herd.
Think of a stream without any fishes,
Think of a dawn without any bird.**



**We thank you, Lord, for all your living creatures.
We thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.**

**Think of a world without any people,
Think of a street with no-one living there.
Think of a town without any houses,
No-one to love and nobody to care.**

**We thank you, Lord, for families and friendships.
We thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.**

📖 **Reading: Romans 8:19–21**

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

If the creation was groaning when Paul wrote those words 2000 years ago, then in some ways it seems to be groaning even louder today. Despair is one response; but for those of us with faith, the will of God will always prevail. As children of God we express our faith in a version of the creed:

Creed

We have faith in God, the Almighty who created heaven and earth and who wishes to save the world from our foolishness and greed.

We have faith in the Spirit and the might of our community which enables and protects life; which stands up against lethal threat and paralysing helplessness.

And we have faith in Jesus Christ, our brother and Son of God who grounds heaven and links heaven to earth; who suffered from our weakness; who was crucified by our lack of faith; who died from our paralysing fear; who was buried under our indifference; who rises among us with every new hope with every drop of good water; with every breath of healthy air; with every flower in full blossom; and he will separate those who practise death and those who answer for life.

Moved by faith, we hear God's call to care for creation. Let us pray:

Prayer for the Church

Lord God, we pray that we, as your church, will have eyes that are ready to see, ears that are ready to listen, and hearts, hands and minds that are ready to respond to the unfolding climate catastrophe. Help us challenge those who have power to make a difference in the policies that they pursue globally, nationally and locally. As individuals and as part of the local church, help us to take our own steps to reduce our carbon footprints.

Amen.

Prayer for World Leaders

Lord God, we lift to you the leaders meeting at the climate meeting in Cornwall later this week and those going to COP26 in Glasgow in November. We pray for boldness and conviction for all attending, especially members of the UK government acting as hosts, that they will act with truth. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that governments will be ambitious in their commitments and actions, prioritising justice and equality. We pray for a green recovery for all; that rich nations will stand in solidarity with low- and middle-income countries, through the promotion of debt cancellation and through honouring their commitment to support vulnerable countries financially to tackle climate change. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We make all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Peace *cf Ephesians 2.14,15, 18*

God calls us to peace: **in God's justice is our peace.**

Christ calls us to be God's people: **in Christ's call is our peace.**

The Spirit leads us to the Father: **in the Spirit's leading is our peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

🎵 **Hymn: Peace to You**

Peace to you. We bless you now in the name of the Lord.

Peace to you. We bless you now in the name of the Prince of Peace. Peace to you.

Eucharist

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.

Today we give you thanks because you gave us this great and beautiful world to discover and to cherish. And, though we have spoiled it, we have hope that we may be able to restore it because with you all things are possible.

Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels, and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells, to proclaim the glory of your name, for ever praising you and saying:

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

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:



Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, 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, 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 for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread & Invitation

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.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**



Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise and the bread of life at the heart of your church.
May we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and work together to transform our broken world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

♪ Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth

**For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn 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:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.**

**For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heav'n.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.**

Prayer and Blessing

May the God in whose image we are made, strengthen us in our struggle, embrace us in our weakness, and inspire us with hope for a different future: as we work, separately and together for the freedom of the whole creation. **Amen.**

The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be upon you now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

