

**THE PARISH OF
WITNEY**



**St Mary
the Virgin**



SEASON OF CREATION

The Eucharist

*Season of Creation
in the days of mourning for
the late HM the Queen*

**Sunday 18 September 2022
10.45am**

**We warmly welcome everyone
to Saint Mary's Church in the Parish of Witney.**

The Season of Creation was first adopted in 1989 by the Greek Orthodox church and the concept has spread to other denominations. Since then churches in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, Europe and the USA have taken the lead to develop initiatives and liturgical and other material for this period known as Season of Creation or Time for Creation.

Most commonly it has been celebrated between Creation Day on September 1 and St Francis of Assisi Day on October 4. In this scenario, the four Sundays in September are the core Sundays of the Season of Creation.

God the creator, Christ the redeemer of creation, and the Holy Spirit as sustainer of life are integral to worship throughout the church year and although we hope that caring for creation is a vital dimension of every worship service, the current crisis gives us an opportunity to explore in new ways our commitment to being carers of God's earth.

I would like to encourage you to promote the Season of Creation within your Diocese.

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

The Procession

As the sacristy bell sounds we all sing the first hymn

Mother Earth, our mother birthing
Ev'ry creature from the ground.
Jesus too was flesh and breathing,
Kin to all that's green and brown.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

Sister Air, our sister lifting
Ev'ry creature born with wing;
Jesus shared the breath of forests,
Breath that makes our spirits sing.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

Brother Water, brother pulsing
Deep through ev'ry vein and sea,
Jesus drank the very raindrops
For our wine and in our tea.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

Father Fire, our father burning
With the sacred urge to live.
Jesus' death completes the cycle,
Bringing life beyond the grave.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

Words: © Norman Habel 1999
Melody: PRAISE MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800-1880

The Greeting

✠ In the name of the Creator of all things,
and of the Son, the firstborn of creation,
and of the Spirit, the breath in all life.

All **Amen.**

From Christ the wondrous Light of all mysteries:
Grace, mercy, and peace be with you

All **and also with you.**

The service is introduced

Then a member of the Benefice Climate Group leads us

In the beginning
before time, before people,
before the world began,

All **God was.**

Here and now, among us, beside us,
enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven,

All **God is.**

In the future,
when we have turned to dust
and all we know has found its fulfilment,

All **God will be.**

Not denying the world but delighting in it,
not understanding the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

All **God was, God is, God will be.**

The Penitential Rite

The time of penitence is introduced by a member of the Benefice Climate Group. The choir leads the verses and we all respond with the 'Have Mercy' choruses.

Hear the song of our lament,
we grieve a dry and broken land;
hearts have turned from your intent
and earth is ravaged by our hand.

Oceans weep for beauty lost,
and forests plead for your return,
fields are drenched in tears and blood;
all nature groans beneath sin's curse.

*Have mercy, have mercy,
have mercy on us, Lord.
Renew us, restore us,
have mercy on us, Lord.*

Peoples rage and nations rise
to war and waste for senseless gain,
turning from creation's cries
and trading glory in for shame.

*Have mercy, have mercy,
have mercy on us, Lord.
Renew us, restore us,
have mercy on us, Lord.*

Lead us in your Eden call
to live as those who bear your name;
show us how to love your world
until the day you come again.

*Have mercy, have mercy,
have mercy on us, Lord.
Renew us, restore us,
have mercy on us, Lord.*

CCL# 7158764

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The Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive you ✠ and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gloria

We sing the Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray:

O God, the ground of being,
who formed us and all living
creatures from carbon dust,
into which you breathed your Spirit of life;
forgive us for viewing ourselves as separate
from and dominating creation;
give us instead a humble sense of ourselves
as belonging to the earth so that
we use our skill and power
as stewards of the land
from which we come and to which we return,
through Jesus Christ, who took on our flesh,
and with you and the Holy Spirit,
lives and reigns, forever and ever.

(Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis)

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for the first reading, Hosea 2.18-23. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

We stand to sing

Hail the Earth that first appeared. Alleluia!
When a word from God was heard. Alleluia!
Let the Earth arise and be. Alleluia!
Filled with living mystery. Alleluia!

Hail the rainbow flying high. Alleluia!
Spun by God across the sky. Alleluia!
Giving Earth a solemn word. Alleluia!
Never to unleash a flood. Alleluia!

Hail the planet blue and green. Alleluia!
Where the face of God is seen. Alleluia!
Glory filling all the Earth. Alleluia!
Celebrating every birth. Alleluia!

Hail our body made with clay. Alleluia!
Given breath to praise and pray. Alleluia!
Clay God honoured by God's birth. Alleluia!
As a human life on Earth. Alleluia!

Hail the groans of Earth in pain. Alleluia!
From the weight of human sin. Alleluia!
Longing for the Christ who died. Alleluia!
All creation to revive. Alleluia!

Words: © Norman Habel 1999
Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781-1823

The Second Reading

We sit for the second reading, 1 Timothy 2.1-7. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

We stand as the Choir sings the Alleluia which heralds the Gospel, and we repeat:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

5
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

John 15.1-11

The Sermon

We sit for the sermon by Br Sam SSF

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith together:

**[L
SEP]** *Women* We believe that God creates all things,
renews all things and celebrates all things.

Men We believe earth is a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with others.

Women We believe that God became flesh and blood,
became a piece of Earth,
a human being called Jesus Christ,
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,
suffered and died on a cross,
for all human beings and for all creation.

Men We believe that the risen Jesus
is the Christ at the core of creation
reconciling all things to God,
renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

Women We believe the Spirit renews life in creation
groans in empathy with a suffering creation,
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

All We believe that with Christ we will rise
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

The Intercessions

Let us offer our prayers and praises to the God who showers gifts upon us from on high:

Living God
All **hear our prayer.**

Loving and merciful God,
All **accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Why do you worry? Consider the lilies of the fields.
Instead seek peace and pursue it,
be shaped by Jesus the firstborn of all creation.

The peace of our Creator be with you in all things
All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand as the Offertory Hymn is sung and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar. The bread, wine and money are all gifts from God and our offering of them back to God is a sign of the offering of our lives in the Lord's service.

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy
rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Maker, Christ our Saviour, all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Saving love is reigning o'er us, faithful love binds each to each.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.

Words: Henry van Dyke
Music: HYMN TO JOY, Beethoven

Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray:

We break this bread for those who love God and seek the truth,
for those of other faiths and no faith, and pray that one day we
may become one.

We break this bread for the great green earth,

For the forests, fields and seas, for the species of plant and animal
life that we are destroying,
And pray that one day, God's original blessing will be restored.

We break this bread for those who have no bread,
For the hungry, the homeless,
And all who are refugees,
And pray that one day this world may be a home to all.

And we break this bread for the broken parts of ourselves,
For our broken relationships and for the wounded child in each
one of us, and pray that one day we may find the wholeness that
is of Christ.

All **Amen.**

The Revd Donald Reeves



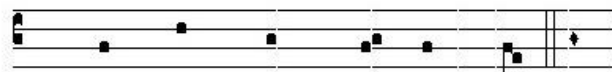
The Lord be with you



And al-so with you.



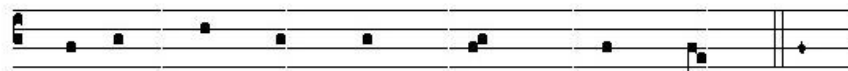
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer of all that is,
loving maker of us all,
in whose hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains,
and in whom we live and move and have our being:
at your command all things came to be,
from the vast expanse of stellar space to this fragile earth, our home.

We give you thanks for your creation as gift of your love.
In wisdom you have made all things;
the earth is full of your creatures;
all times and seasons obey your laws.
The heavens tell of your glory;
your way is in the whirlwind and the storm.

All creatures look to you for their food;
when you open your hand they are filled with good things;
when you take away their breath, they die.
At your command the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy.
We join with them, with angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven,
to give a voice to creation's praise:

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.

From the primal elements, you brought forth humanity,
and blessed us with consciousness and skill.
You gave us responsibility to care for your world,
yet through our foolishness and selfishness
the earth has become polluted,
and now languishes and withers.

Through our exploitation of earth's riches,
poor communities are oppressed,
and the life of many creatures put in jeopardy.
Your creation, now in bondage to decay,
waits with eager longing for its freedom.

You sent your Word Jesus Christ,
in whom all things in heaven and earth were created
and in whom all things hold together,
to reconcile all things to yourself,
making peace through the blood of his cross.

On the night he was betrayed
he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
*Take eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in
remembrance of me.*

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
*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.*

Your Word, Jesus Christ, gives himself as the Bread of Life.
His Spirit refreshes us with rivers of living water.
Send your Spirit on these gifts of your creation,
✠ this bread and this wine,
that they may be for us a foretaste of your creation's transformation and
renewal.

Send your Spirit on your people.
Transform us that we may become
more faithful stewards of your gifts.
Restore in us the image of your glory.
Heal what is broken.
Awaken us to the fruitfulness yet fragility of your world.
May we live more just and godly lives,
responsible in care for your earth,
and sharing more equitably its rich resources.

Sustain us in hope,
waiting and working for your new world to be born.
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Redeemer,
to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
Creator and Giver of Life, be all honour and praise.
For from Christ and through Christ and to Christ are all things.
To Christ be glory for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all
that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, as our
Saviour taught us so in faith we pray:

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated host

We break this bread to share our unity with creation in Christ
and to share in the creativity of God.

All **Though we are many, we are one creation,
because we all share in the love of the creator.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

Come, for all things are now ready.
Come to the table with all who are gathered
and share with all in need:
the gift of healing for those in pain,
the gift of forgiveness for those in sin,
the gift of assurance for those in doubt,
and the gift of hope for those in tears.

All **May we who share these gifts,
share Christ with one another
and all our sisters and brothers.**

*We break the bread for the whole world. We invite all who seek God
and are drawn to Christ, and all who walk the way of faith to come
forward and receive the body and blood of Christ in one kind, as directed
by the Sidesperson. Or you are warmly invited to come forward for a
blessing – please carry this booklet and bow your head. Gluten free
wafers are available on request.*

The Communion

We are not our own. Earth forms us,
human leaves on nature's growing vine,
fruit of many generations,
seeds of life divine.

We are not alone. Earth names us:
past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers
show us who we are.
Through a human life God finds us;
dying, living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us:
we are not our own.

Therefore let us make thanksgiving,
and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth, and all things living,
liturgies of care.

And if love's encounters lead us
on a way uncertain and unknown,
all the saints with prayer surround us:
We are not alone.

Let us be a house of welcome,
living stone upholding living stone,
gladly showing all our neighbors
we are not our own!

Words Brian Wren © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

The Post Communion Prayer

After a period of silence, we stand with the Priest to pray

Holy God, mother of all,
You birthed your people
In labour and in joy
And have now fed us from the
Breast of Christ who passed
Through blood and water
To bring us to the knowledge and love
Of your eternal presence.
And so we praise you with all the saints
and offer ourselves to be sent afresh to the world,
Swaddled in your grace and mercy;
in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

All **O you eternal wisdom – whom we partly know and partly do not know; O you eternal justice – whom we partly acknowledge and never fully obey; O you eternal love – whom we love a little but fear to love too much:
filled with these gifts, open our minds that we may understand,
work in our wills that we may obey,
kindle our hearts that we may love you.
Come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.**

The Notices

We sit for the notices

The Blessing

We stand

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Go out into the world rejoicing,
and encounter the Creator who waits to meet you there;
Rejoice in its richness and diversity and live as those who praise
God for its bounty;
and the blessing of the Creator God,
✠ the Eternal One, the Risen Son
and the Promised Holy Spirit
bless you that you might be a blessing
to others today and always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

As we prepare to leave
and embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world,
Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Recessional Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

Organ extemporisation

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Words: W Chalmer Smith, 1824-1908

Music: ST DENIO, Welsh Song

Let us bless the Lord!

All Thanks be to God!

Everyone is welcome to greet one another and enjoy coffee after the Eucharist. There will then be drinks with Br Sam in the Winchester Room

