

The Climate Sunday Eucharist

4th July 2021

HYMN: 539 Let all creation dance

All stand as the ministers process in.

Let all creation dance
in energies sublime,
as order turns with chance,
unfolding space and time;
for nature's art
in glory grows,
and newly shows
God's mind and heart.

God's breath each force unfurls,
igniting from a spark
expanding starry swirls,
with whirlpools dense and dark.
though moon and sun
seem mindless things,
each orbit sings:
'your will be done.'

Our own amazing earth,
with sunlight, cloud and storms,
and life's abundant growth
in lovely shapes and forms
is made for praise,
a fragile whole,
and from its soul
heaven's music plays.

Lift heart and soul and voice:
in Christ praises meet,
and nature shall rejoice
as all is made complete.
in hope be strong,
all life befriend,
and kindly tend
creation's song.

Brian Wren (b.1936)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

Like many churches across Great Britain and Ireland we are participating in Climate Sunday, ahead of the COP26 summit. God created the world and calls us to serve and protect it. This Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on and to pray together about this important issue and to commit to addressing it both as a church community and as individuals.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The people are invited to reflect on their sins. We keep a few moments of silence to remember before God our faults and the things we have done that are wrong. God promises us forgiveness, healing and a fresh start when we confess our sins in faith and penitence.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE GLORIA is sung by the choir.

THE COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Psalm 104:1, 14-24

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honour and majesty,

¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,

to bring forth food from the earth,

¹⁵ and wine to gladden the human heart,

oil to make the face shine,

and bread to strengthen the human heart.

¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

¹⁷ In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.

¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the coney.

¹⁹ You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.

²⁰ You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

²¹ The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.

²² When the sun rises, they withdraw
and lie down in their dens.

²³ People go out to their work
and to their labour until the evening.

²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 10:17-27

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response:

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

At the end:

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers for the sake of Your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**
Amen

THE PEACE

The priest introduces the peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN: 537 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 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:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:

For each perfect gift of thine,
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

For thy church which evermore
lifteth hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.*

Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835 – 1917)

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

The priest praises God for his mighty acts.

The choir sing the Sanctus:

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.

The priest recalls the Last Supper.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues.

At the end we respond:

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so 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 forever.

Amen.

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 choir sing the Agnus Dei:

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.

Jesus is the lamb of God

Who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
But only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

You are invited to use the prayer for Spiritual Communion below asking Jesus to be with you now.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly,

love you more dearly,

and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Amen.

'Gracious God, in adoration' & 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind' are sung during communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,

that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered

by your governance,

that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

A blessing is given.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The ministers depart. An organ voluntary is played.

Spiritual Communion.

The term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. The form of prayer offers Christians an opportunity to give thanks for their communion with him, particularly at times when they would ordinarily be present at the Eucharist.

The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves. Making a Spiritual Communion is particularly fitting for those who cannot receive the sacrament at the great feasts of the Church, and it fulfils the duty of receiving Holy Communion 'regularly, and especially at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun or Pentecost' (Canon B 15).

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.