

# Order of Service – 4/9/2022

## Season of Creation 1

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### Opening verse:

Praised be you, our God, through all your creatures. (St Francis of Asisi – Laudato Si)

### Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Ian

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

#### **And also with you**

Breathe...

Light Candle...

Stand to sing and bring in bible...

### Song of praise

*All creatures of our God and King (TiS 100 adapted verses 1, 2, 4 &7)*

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1. *All creatures worship God most high,  
lift up your voice in earth and sky,  
    alleluia, alleluia!  
O burning sun with golden beam,  
and silver moon with softer gleam,  
    Sing your praises, Sing your praises,  
    alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
  2. *Swift-rushing winds that are so strong,  
and clouds that sail in heaven along,  
    Sing your praises, alleluia!  
Fresh-rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
and lights of evening, find a voice:  
    Sing your praises, ...*
  4. *Dear mother earth, who day by day  
unfold rich blessings on our way,  
    Sing your praises, alleluia!  
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,  
let them her glory also show;  
    Sing your praises, ...*
  7. *Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness;  
    Sing your praises, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
    Sing your praises, Sing your praises,  
    alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
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## Acknowledgement of Country

Ian

Colonial Spring officially began this week but signs of the changing of the season have been with us for weeks. We are in the time of year that the Wurundjeri people name Poorneet season (porneet means tadpole). Over the next few weeks we will be celebrating some of the signs of this season. Senior Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin tells us watch out for Pied Currawongs calling loudly and often, reminding us that the gurnmil (snake) and budjing (lizard) are awake and active.

As we acknowledge country now let's listen to the call of the pied currawong.

We acknowledge and respect  
the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation,  
the traditional custodians of this land  
since time immemorial.  
We are learning that the land  
is not ours to own, but to look after;  
and that if we listen,  
we may hear in it the calling of the eternal Spirit.  
**Responding to this call, we commit ourselves  
to work for justice, reconciliation,  
and care of the earth.**

## Welcome and Introduction

Season of Creation

Laudato Si spiritual exercises from Pope Francis encyclical "on care for our common home".

## Prayer of Adoration

One of the Laudato Si spiritual exercises which we'll be practicing each week during the Season of Creation, invites us to develop an ecological spirituality by focusing on the wonders of the natural world. We'll be doing that by meditating on images of creation. You are invited to send us photos of creation, places and things that move you to awe, for us to use in worship. Today, wildflowers from my back yard. Poorneet Season is a rainy time of year when lots of native plants are in flower. Here are some images of local indigenous flowers after rain.

### Image 1: Austral Indigo

Contemplate these natural wonders. Let them move you to awe. Their beauty is a prayer of joyous praise to the creator who loves all things into being. Let's join them in their praise.

### Image 2: Austral Indigo

Your creatures praise you, O God, for the wonders of creation.

### Image 3: Response

***Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness***

### Image 4: Silver Cassia

Breathe into awe...

### Image 5: Silver Cassia

Your creatures praise you, O God, for the wonders of creation.

### Image 6: Response

***Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness***

### Image 7: Wattle

Breathe into awe...

### Image 8: Wattle

Your creatures praise you, O God, for the wonders of creation.

### Image 9: Response

**Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness**

*Song of Praise* (Ros Langmead)

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*Creator of this great land, we adore you.  
Renewer of your people, hear our praise.  
Transformer of all life, you often take us by surprise.  
Continue to be present in life-giving ways.*

*Descant: Creator we adore you.  
Renewer, hear our praise.  
Transformer you surprise us,  
Be present in life-giving ways.*

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SONG: Song of Praise, Written for the Commission for Mission  
by Ross Langmead for Synod worship, September 1996. Used with permission

## Bible Reading – Isaiah 41:1, 17-20

Lucy Hardman

Listen to me in silence, O coastlands;  
let the peoples renew their strength;  
let them approach, then let them speak;  
let us together draw near for justice.  
When the poor and needy seek water,  
and there is none,  
and their tongue is parched with thirst,  
I the ETERNAL ONE will answer them,  
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.  
I will open rivers on the bare heights,  
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;  
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,  
and the dry land springs of water.  
I will put in the wilderness the cedar,  
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive;  
I will set in the desert the cypress,  
the plane and the pine together,  
so that all may see and know,  
all may consider and understand,  
that the hand of the ETERNAL ONE has done this,  
the Holy One of Israel has created it.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

**Thanks be to God**

## With the Children

Steph

## Song – Tree Growing Song

Steph

*I'm Growing* (Carolyn Luder)

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*Vs 1. Start off small, a little seed  
Hiding in the soil  
Bit by bit I grow till my stem breaks through the earth  
The sun shines down nice and warm  
Helps to make me healthy  
And water makes the garden grow  
Up, up, up*

*'Cos I'm growing, each and every day  
Yes I'm growing, in a special way*

*I'm growing, each and every day  
Yes I'm growing, in a special way*

*Vs 2. As I grow, big and strong  
Stems turn into branches  
And roots in the soil soak up all the food I need  
Branches lead to leaves  
Maybe fruits and flowers  
And Water makes the garden grow  
Up, up, up*

*'Cos I'm growing, each and every day  
Yes I'm growing, in a special way  
I'm growing, each and every day  
Yes I'm growing, in a special way*

*I'm growing, in a special way  
Yes, I'm growing, in a special way*

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## **Bible Reading – Luke 14:25-33**

**Meredith Budge**

Gospel today is an anti-Father's Day reading...

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

***Thanks be to God***

## **Reflection**

The Family of Creation

## Prayer of Lament and Confession – Laudato Si Spiritual Exercise 1 “Am I hearing and responding to the cry of the Earth?”

The first of the Laudato Si Spiritual Exercises asks, “Am I hearing the cry of the Earth? Am I responding to the distress of my siblings in the family of creation?”

Let us listen now in a prayer of lament and confession:

Breathe...

Tune into the cry of creation, the pollution, the waste, the extinctions, the fires, floods and storms.

Bless our Lament, Creator God,  
Bless the tear we shed for the resources we have squandered.  
Bless the sigh we breathe out for the atmosphere.  
Bless the head we hang for the creatures lost and exploited.  
Bless the hands we wring for the things we have broken and wasted.  
Bless us as we lament.  
Cradle us as we regret.  
Restore us as we start afresh.

Have mercy on us.  
Forgive us our part in in this pain.  
Show us your steadfast love.

May humankind be freed from the greed  
which is destroying the earth;  
and may your church family  
be courageous in standing against  
the forces that threaten life.  
Amen

Prayers adapted from: <https://www.greeningthelectionary.net/442189851>

### Word of Grace

Out of love for the world,  
our creator comes to be part of creation  
as the living word of wisdom,  
Sophia, Jesus the Christ,  
to heal and inaugurate a renewed creation.  
In Christ grace, hope and promise live beyond our brokenness.  
His word resonates in creation saying:  
You sin is forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

God’s renewing grace invites a response from us. Take a moment to reflect: what are you doing now to respond to the cry of the family of creation, and what more could you do?

Share with neighbours...

### Offering with Song

We offer gifts for the work of Christ’s family in this place, and our commitments to action for the family of all creation.

*For all beings without speech / The solid speech of God (BUC Julie Perrin)*

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*For all beings without speech  
For plants that sing their silent song  
For wilderness in wordless prayer  
The spaciousness for which we long.*

*Who will speak for wild ones now?  
And love the more-than-human-world  
Earth calls in tumult and in peace  
Alive in us like leaves unfurled.*

*Can we hear the voice of God  
That solid speech of all that is  
In rock and water, flowing air  
In warmth of fire, a Spirit Place.*

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SONG: [The solid speech of God](#). Words by Julie Perrin, music by Shawn Whelan. © 2013. Used with permission.

## Offering Prayer

### Prayers of the People

Meredith Budge

*Before we start – let's settle ourselves in our chairs, close our eyes or focus on our candle, plant our feet carefully and deliberately on the floor to sense to earth below us. Take a few slow breaths to drawing up from our feet to connect with the spirit of the earth and with the spirit within us. Sense the air settle around our heart-space with each breath.*

Loving God, we come to you in prayer acknowledging the incredible beauty and wonder of your creation and the stunning gift of life that you provide to each of us. As we breathe deeply into our lungs, we stop to consider the wonder of our own existence, the incredible complexity of our bodies, the interplay of our organs: muscles, bones, eyes, ears, skin, blood and nervous systems, our brain and its chemistry. All providing us with the ability to dwell in and explore your beautiful creation. Forgive us when we criticize and condemn or neglect our bodies, forever wanting to change and improve them rather than dwelling in their wonder, our ability to be present, to move, to engage, to create, to think and explore the world around us.

Show us instead, how to be part of your creation, celebrating its beauty and adding to its wonder with our very existence. May we always use this gift of life to care and protect the earth.

As we sit here with our feet planted on these old wooden floors, made with magnificent trees grown centuries ago, we acknowledge our deep connection with mother earth – this stunning blue planet that provides us with so much beauty and wonder: air to breathe, food to eat, shelter and warmth, forests to explore, stunning oceans and mountains, waterways and canyons, places of extreme beauty that can take our breath away. We also acknowledge the small wonders of flowers, insects, birds and hidden animals just outside our doors. The amazing creative patterns that occur all around us if we stop and look closely.

But we know that mother earth is deeply wounded and we feel her pain and her cry for healing and repair. And we want to say sorry. We want to apologise for our neglectfulness that means we rush on by and often do not stop to wonder – when we let our needs, our wants, our safety, our convenience, our fears and anxieties blind us to the beauty that is in and around us always.

Forgive us for expecting everything to be safe, bug free and risk free to protect our needs without concern for other species and their habitat needs. Instead, let us wonder at the importance of the mosquito and the fly and the ant and even the cockroach and their role in this fragile ecosystem, to protect and create healthy soil and for the important food they provide for our wildlife.

More than anything, we want to apologize for the part we play in using the resources of our economic system that wants to extract and exploit, trash, control and concrete over all this beauty for our convenience, our wealth, our safety and security, at the expense of other beings on this earth. As we watch companies knowingly destroy more and more habitat, extract fossil fuels and witness the impact on our very climate, on our oceans, species extinction, show us how to be part of a people that says stop, enough!

Help us to be the people who turn around and work together to advocate for change, to restore, to recycle, to protect, to regenerate and heal this beautiful place. Not just for generations to come but for all living beings that are part of this incredible, interconnected beautiful world that you have created.

Help us to seek the wisdom and knowledge of our first nations people to heal this earth together. Help us to recognise the healing that this wisdom can bring, not just to the earth but for all of us.

Dear God, we hear your cry and we feel the pain, give us the courage to take action to be part of your healing world. We thank you that your creation is forever renewing, recreating, rebirthing and we want to be a part of this renewal and restoration. We pray that our lives can be a part of this creative and recreative cycle and seek your love and courage to stop and choose beauty in everything that we do.

Amen

## Holy Communion

Servers: Ian, Helen R, Lyn, Max, Saide Steph

### Introduction and Invitation

- One circle even if we are not receiving. People at home on the livestream part of the circle too.
- Please don't feel bound to receive communion, but please do still come and be part of the circle. If you would prefer to leave your mask on and receive a blessing, simply cross your hands on your chest.
- Remain in your seats if you wish or are not able to stand
- All servers will hand sanitise and keep masks on
- Gluten free bread

### Communion Song

*Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup* (TIS714)

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*Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to him and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
trust in him and you will not thirst.*

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SONG: Eat this bread, Taize Community, Ateliers et Presses de Taize Ltd,  
from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious WORD OF LIFE

### Thanksgiving

We are the body of Christ

***His Spirit is with us.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift our hearts to God.***

Let us give thanks to God who is Wisdom and Love.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Father of goodness, Mother of kindness,  
for creation in its wonder and mystery

***we thank you***

for Jesus your beloved Son, our brother,

***we thank you***

for your Holy Spirit in her grace,  
***we thank you***

And with the whole family of creation around us,  
with earth, sea and sky,  
***we sing to you!***

With all the saints before us and beside us,  
with brothers and sisters,  
east and west, north and south,  
***we sing to you!***

And with our loved ones,  
separate from us now,  
who yet, in this mystery are close to us,  
***we sing the hymn of unending praise:***

*Holy, holy, holy (TIS764)*

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*Holy (Holy), holy, (holy)  
holy Lord of power and might.  
Heaven (Heaven), earth (earth)  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
All glory to your name.  
(All glory to your name.)  
All glory to your name.  
(All glory to your name.)  
Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)  
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)  
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
(Hosanna in the highest.)  
Hosanna in the highest.  
(Hosanna in the highest.)*

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Blessed is our brother Jesus,  
who on the night of his betrayal  
took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

***This is my body given for you.  
Whenever you eat it, remember me.***

In the same way, after supper,  
he took the cup saying:

***This is the cup of  
a new covenant in my blood.  
whenever you drink it, remember me.***

Come now, Holy Spirit of our God,  
love us into the unity of peace  
through this bread and wine. For:

***Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!***

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ  
all glory be to you,  
Source of all Being,  
Eternal Wisdom and Holy Spirit,  
one God and Mother of all creation.

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen***

#### Breaking of the Bread

Christ is the bread of resurrection:  
***new life for all.***

Christ is the cup of life:  
***who revives the faint-hearted.***

We who are many are one body,  
***for we all share in the one bread.***

Let us receive what we are.  
Let us become what we receive:  
***The body of Christ.***

The gifts of God for the people of God.

#### Distribution

#### The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
***And also with you.***

*Exchange a sign of peace without touching.*

## Notices

## Sending Song

*Canticle of Daniel (NCYC99.7)*

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*1. And you sun and moon and stars - Oh bless the Lord  
And all you showers of rain - Oh bless the Lord  
And all you breezes and winds - Oh bless the Lord  
And you fire and rain - Oh bless the Lord*

***Refrain:*** *To God be highest glory and praise forever more*

*2. And you dew and frosts and snow - Oh bless the Lord  
And you night time and day - Oh bless the Lord*

*And you darkness and light - Oh bless the Lord*  
*And you lightning and clouds - Oh bless the Lord **Refrain***

3. *And you mountains and hills - Oh bless the Lord*  
*And you all plants of the earth - Oh bless the Lord*  
*And you fountains and springs - Oh bless the Lord*  
*And you rivers and seas - Oh bless the Lord **Refrain***

4. *Let all the earth bless the Lord (repeat to fade)*

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SONG: Canticle of Daniel, Words and Music: Don Stewart © 1980, from It all depends, NCYC '99 Songbook, Uniting Church in Australia; Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

## Blessing and Sending

Ian

An Aboriginal blessing from Brooke Prentis

May our footsteps, on these ancient lands,  
remind us of creation and connectedness, in our search for truth.

May the Gum Tree, from its roots to its branches,  
remind us to dig deep and reach high, in our action for justice.

May the Eagle, who soars in the sky,  
remind us of the power, in our call for love.

May the expanse of the lands and seas, of the sky and stars,  
remind us of God's timing in our faith in hope.

May the Holy three, Creator Spirit, Lord God, Papa Jesus,  
remind us of community.

So with grace, mercy, and peace,  
go in truth, justice, love and hope.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

## Thank yous

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to...

Liturgist:  
Ian Ferguson

Prayers of the People:  
Meredith Budge

Bible readers:  
Meredith Budge  
Lucy Hardman

Musicians:  
Elaine Potter  
(Co-ordinator)  
Daniel Broadstock  
Brad, Sam & Hudson

Children's time:  
Steph Gesling

Coath  
Glenice Cook

Reflection:  
Ian Ferguson  
(Minister of the Word)

Kate Scull  
Joanne van Ravenswaaij

Postlude Song: The Solid  
Speech of God. Words by  
Julie Perrin, music by  
Shawn Whelan. ©2013  
Musicians: James Balsillie,  
Courtney Rohde, Natalie  
Sims, Shawn Whelan

Images:  
Ian Ferguson

Editing / Production:  
Michael Cameron  
Ray Cameron  
Saide Cameron  
Lauren Reader  
Mal Rowe

## Closing verse:

Praised be you, our God, through all your creatures. (St Francis of Assisi – Laudato Si)