

Order of Service – 11/9/2022

Season of Creation 2

Prelude Slides

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

Gathering, Greeting

Kirsty

Come, please take a seat and pause and prepare for worship.

Take a moment and think about the beauty of creation that we have witnessed this morning. What did you see when you hopped up, as you made your way here? What did you hear? What did you smell? What did you hold?

Come, let us praise God
For the beauty of Creation
For the air we breathe and
For the precious life that is all around us.

Now let us stand and welcome the Word as we praise God the Creator in song.

Song of praise: *Let all creation dance*, **TiS 187**

- 1. 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.*
- 2. 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.'*
- 3. Our own amazing earth,
with sunlight, cloud and storms
and life's abundance growth
in lovely shapes and forms,
is made for praise,
a fragile whole,
and from its soul
heaven's music plays.*
- 4. Life heart and soul and voice:
in Christ all praises meet
and nature shall rejoice
as all is made complete.*

*In hope be strong,
All life befriend
And kindly tend
Creation's song.*

SONG: [Let all creation dance](#), by Brian Arthur Wren, from *Piece Together Praise*, © 1996 Hope Publishing Co, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*; Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Acknowledgement of Country

Kirsty

We are in the season of Poorneet, one of six seasons that are familiar to the Dja Dja Wurrung clans of the Kulin Nation. Senior Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin tells us that this is the season when (among other things) those fast moving little tailed poorneets (tadpoles) appear and there are lots of them. Her words reminded me of my childhood, when we would go to the puddles in the dirt roads in Mt Martha after rain to look for tadpoles, and our excitement when we discovered them. Let's listen to some gentle rain as we acknowledge country in this Poorneet season.

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

Kirsty

Welcome to worship and to this, the second Sunday in the season of Creation.

Last week we were introduced to the *Laudato Si'*. It is based on St Francis of Assisi's 'Canticle of the Creatures' and the words translate as 'praise be to you'. The *Laudato Si'* is a spiritual exercise which has 7 goals that challenge us to care for our planet. I focussed on the first of these goals: 'Am I hearing and responding to the cry of Earth?'

Today we will continue to explore this, as we focus in particular on two questions:

'Am I hearing and responding to the cry of the Poor?' and

'Am I considering and acting on Ecological Economics?'

We will do this in our prayers and readings, and in a time of reflection where you will be invited to meditate and respond at one or more of the stations that are inside and outside.

Gospel Reading – Luke 15:1-10

Kirsty Brown

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word. **Thanks be to God**

Prayer of Adoration & Confession

Kirsty

Let us continue to reflect on the gospel reading (Luke 15:1-10) as I lead us now in our prayers of adoration and confession. Let us pray:

God of joy and creation
You remind us to celebrate new beginnings
You pay attention the smallest of the creatures
You rejoice when the lost are found.

*Forgive us when we don't recognise when it is the time to celebrate
When we don't notice the small ones among us
And grumble and criticise, instead of smiling.*

Jesus who welcomes sinners and eats with tax collectors
You do not give up on anyone
You rejoice in finding us
And welcome us all.

*Forgive us when we judge others,
Categorising them as important or unimportant
And give priority to people because of their work, their gender, their race.*

Spirit who sings with the angels
You give life to all:
To humans, the animals, the insects, the plants and trees, the planet
And create a rich tapestry of life.

*Forgive us when we give ourselves priority over other living creatures,
Placing our needs above those of the earth,
And do not hear and respond to the cry of the planet.*

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Kirsty

Siblings in Christ,
We know that God rejoices when we repent,
When we recognise where we have failed and commit to do better.
And so we can say with confidence:
Our sin is forgiven.

Song: *Amazing Grace*, TIS129

Kirsty

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- 1. Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.*
 - 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!*
 - 3. Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come,
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*
 - 4. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.*

5. *When we've been there ten thousand years
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
than when we first began.*

SONG: *Amazing Grace*, by John Newton from *Together in Song (modified)*,
Harper Collins *Religious* PUBLIC DOMAIN

Bible Reading – Psalm 148

Kirsty Brown

Hallelujah!

Praise GOD from the heavens;

praise GOD in the heights.

Praise GOD, all you holy angels;

praise GOD, all heavenly host.

Praise GOD, sun and moon;

praise GOD, all you shining stars.

Praise GOD, heaven of heavens,

and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the ETERNAL ONE,

who commanded, and they were created.

GOD made them stand fast forever and ever

and gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise GOD from the earth,

you sea-monsters and all deeps;

fire and hail, snow and fog,

tempestuous wind, obeying God's will;

mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars;

wild beasts and all cattle,

creeping things and winged birds.

Hallelujah!

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

With the Children

Ian

Brother Sister Creatures (Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan)

Huge and tiny beings (Huge and tiny beings)

Each one part of our family (Each one part of our family)

Hearing, smelling, seeing (Hearing, smelling, seeing)

Each one part of our family (Each one part of our family)

Refrain:

Brother sister creatures of the ground

Brother sister creatures of the sea

Brother sister creatures of the air

Oh I love my brother sister creatures

Loud and quiet beings (Loud and quiet beings)

Each one part of our family (Each one part of our family)

Moving, touching, feeling (Moving, touching, feeling)

Each one part of our family (Each one part of our family)

Reflection Time

Ian

Ian: Intro to Stations

Congregation walks to 3 stations:

- Outside by indigenous Sculpture – Ecological Spirituality, wonders of the natural world
- Inside 1 – Prayers for the World. Hearing and responding to the cry of the poor.
- Inside 2 – Response and Offering. Considering and acting on Ecological economics.

Song Nothing is lost on the breath of God, ATR606

Kirsty/Ian

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- 1. Nothing is lost on the breath of God,
nothing is lost forever,
God's breath is love, and that love will remain,
holding the world forever.
No feather too light, no hair too fine,
no flower too brief in its glory;
no drop in the ocean, no dust in the air,
but is counted and told in God's story.*
 - 2. Nothing is lost to the eyes of God,
Nothing is lost for ever;
God sees with love, and that love will remain,
holding the world forever.
No journey too far, no distance too great,
no valley of darkness too blinding;
no creature too humble, no child too small
for God to be seeking, and finding.*
 - 3. Nothing is lost to the heart of God,
Nothing is lost forever;
God's heart is love, and that love will remain,
holding the world forever.
No impulse of love, no office of care,
no moment of life in its fullness;
no beginning too late, no ending too soon,
but is gathered and known in God's goodness.*
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SONG: [Nothing is lost on the breath of God](#), © Colin Gibson, 1994, from [Songs for a rainbow people](#),
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Offering

Ian/Kirsty

Short gathering up of offerings from station

Prayers of the People

Kirsty/Ian

A short prayer gathering up the prayers from the station

Notices

Kirsty/Ian

1. *When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?*

And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there.

2. *I was hungry and thirsty, . . .*
3. *I was cold, I was naked, . . .*
4. *When I needed a shelter, . . .*
5. *When I needed a healer, . . .*
6. *When they put me in prison, . . .*
7. *Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel, I'll be there.*

SONG: [When I needed a neighbour](#), by Sydney Carter, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins;
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Blessing and Sending

Ian

Thank you's

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

Liturgist:
Kirsty Bennett

Bible readers:
Kirsty Brown

Children's time:
Ian Ferguson

Stations introduction:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:
Kirsty Bennett/
Ian Ferguson

Musicians:
Courtney Rohde
(co-ordinator)
James Balsillie
Andrew Dickinson
Joel Hallinan
Anthony Hinds
Catherine Leslie

Editing / Production:
Martin Brown
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Ian Ferguson
Jason Minatour

Postlude Song: [Send us out, O God](#), © 1991 Monica Brown & Emmaus Productions. Used with permission; from [As One Voice 2](#), Willow Connection Pty. Ltd. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502,
Musicians: Shawn Whelan, Natalie Sims, Daniel Broadstock

Closing verse:

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