

Order of Service 18/9/2020

Season of Creation 3

Opening verse:

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

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Helen

This is a new day. We have come together from many places, we have enjoyed catching up, but I now ask you to take a seat, as we are about to worship our God. We are living in a country of infinite variety, unique in all God's creation. Please take time to hold, handle, crush, smell the leaf or gum nut you chose as you entered. As we stand to welcome the Light and the Word, cup your little piece of God's artistry in your hands, breathe in, feel your connection to the earth that nurtures you. Now let's join together in praising our God by singing

Song of praise

Helen

Lord of Earth and all Creation TIS672(ii)

- 1. Lord of earth and all creation,
let your love possess our land:
wealth, and freedom, far horizons,
mountain, forest, shining sand:
may we share, in faith and friendship,
gifts unmeasured from your hand.*
 - 2. People of the ancient Dreamtime,
they who found this country first,
ask with those, the later comers,
will our dream be blessed or cursed?
Grant us, Lord, new birth, new living,
hope for which our children thirst.*
 - 3. Lord, life-giving healing Spirit,
on our hurts your mercy shower;
lead us by your inward dwelling,
guiding, guarding, every hour.
Bless and keep our land Australia:
in your will her peace and power.*
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SONG: [Lord of earth](#), by Michael Rayner Thwaites, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, CAL LICENCE NO. 3275. UNAUTHORISED COPYING PROHIBITED

Acknowledgement of Country

Helen

Our title slides during the season of creation show signs of indigenous Poorneet Season. Senior Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin tells us to look and listen out for tadpoles, dancing lyrebirds, calling currawongs, murnong daisies, purple flax lilies, and many other native flowers blooming.

During the Acknowledgment of Country, I ask you again to hold your leaf or gum nut in your hands as a symbol our commitment.

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

Helen

Good morning everyone, I am Helen, your Liturgist for Week 3 of our Seasons of Creation, and together with Ian, and all those involved with the service today, we welcome you to BUC, whether you are here in person, or watching the Livestream. Today we are focusing on Goal 4 of the Laudato si', Living a simpler Life. We will hear an Old Testament reading from Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, an anguished cry of "where is our God" a cry we can all relate to in this time of climate crisis. Our New Testament reading is Mathew 5: 1-12. The Beatitudes, a reading of great simplicity and inner complexity.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Helen

I ask you now, to again cup your leaf or gum nut in your hands, to breathe in, feel Gods presence and our connection to Gods continuing creation, as we come together in prayer.

Mother, Father, Jesus, Spirit.

Laudato si, Praise be to you.

You who created the galaxy of stars in our sky.

Laudato si, Praise be to you.

You, who cause the sun to shine, the wind to blow, the rain to fall, the plants to grow.

Laudato si, Praise be to you.

You who are the Spirit of the Dreaming in this land.

Laudato si, Praise be to You.

You who created the earth, teaming with myriad animals, birds, fish, insects
and made us in your image, custodians of all this splendor.

Mother, Father, Jesus, Spirit, we hang our heads in shame, for we have failed you.

Forgive our failure Lord. When we do nothing and say "it's Gods will" or God will "fix it"
Forgive us when we ignore You, and try to do it all ourselves, instead of working with You.

Forgive us for declaring this land "Terra nullius" nobodies land,
when it was inhabited by the earths most ancient culture.

For forcing the people off their country and into Aboriginal Reservations,
nations mixed together.

For ignoring their beliefs and Culture and only now, starting to see and value
their knowledge of how to work with this land, and their contribution to our cultural life.

Forgive us when 20-40% of all food produced in Australia,
never goes to market because it is blemished or misshapen.

Forgive us that one third of food produced in Australia ends up in landfill,
and people in Australia make decisions about paying bills or buying food.

Forgive us that we have lost our contact with the seasons of this land.

We fly peaches, cherries, even oranges from the USA because we want them off season.

Our suburbs stretch out into the countryside covering land
which once had market gardens and orchards, and our animals loose their habitat.

We have filled the oceans with floating islands of plastic.
Covered our lawns with plastic grass because we don't have time to mow.
We have busy lives so we don't have time to recycle, re-use
and we certainly don't want to reduce our lifestyle.

Mother , Father, Jesus, Spirit, forgive us.

Word of Grace

Laudato si, Praise be to you, that in your infinite grace and mercy,
you created a path for us, a light for us in the darkness we have created.

So through the name and sacrifice of Jesus our savior we can say, our sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

From the Prophets – Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1

Hugh

Today during our reading from the prophet Jeremiah we will sing verses of the African American Spiritual Kumbayah. The song has its origins in the colonial slave trade, first sung by slaves from West Africa. Kumbaya is a creole phrase meaning "Come by here". It is an appeal to God to come and help when people call out in need. Later it became a favourite of folk musicians. Kumbayah provides a good example of how songs are colonised and disempowered as they become favourites of the dominant community who "discover" and reinvent the music. Today, rather than singing it as a sentimental favourite lets sing it with people who were, and continue to be enslaved, sing for the harm that colonisation has done and our need for reconciliation. Oh Lord, Kumbaya.

*Kumbayah my Lord, Kumbayah,
Kumbayah my Lord Kumbayah,
Kumbayah my Lord, Kumbayah,
Oh Lord Kumbayah.*

My joy is gone, grief is upon me,
my heart is sick.

*Someone's grieving Lord, Kumbayah,
Someone's grieving Lord, Kumbayah,
Someone's grieving Lord, Kumbayah,
Oh Lord, Kumbayah*

Hark, the cry of my poor people
from far and wide in the land:
"Is the LORD not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?"
("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
with their foreign idols?")
"The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved."

*Someone's praying Lord, Kumbayah,
Someone's praying Lord, Kumbayah,
Someone's praying Lord, Kumbayah,
Oh Lord Kumbayah.*

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of my poor people
not been restored?

*Someone's crying Lord, Kumbayah
Someone's crying Lord, Kumbayah
Someone's crying Lord, Kumbayah
Oh Lord Kumbayah.*

O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of my poor people!

*Kumbayah my Lord, Kumbayah,
Kumbayah my Lord Kumbayah,
Kumbayah my Lord, Kumbayah,
Oh Lord Kumbayah.*

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

With the Children

Ian

Remembering people who have died. The Queen, and other important leaders and representatives: Uncle Jack Charles (died the same week as the Queen so there is a risk that his passing and the importance of his life might be lost and not fully remembered), Uncle Archie Roach. Important artists, leaders and representatives for the First Nations community, but also for the rest of us.

There have been other people who have died as well and, in a moment, I'll give you all the opportunity to name people who you want to remember today – they don't need to be public figures. If you don't want to speak aloud you can hold them silently in your heart for all of us.

The Queen, Uncle Jack and Uncle Archie were all much loved leaders who represented their people through very difficult times. We call them by special titles out of respect: your majesty, uncle or aunty.

Who is the most important person in the world out of the Queen, Uncle Jack, and Uncle Archie?

The Queen was one of the richest and most important people on earth. Uncle Jack and Uncle Archie were part of the stolen generation, lived on the streets, suffered addictions, Uncle Jack even went to prison 22 times (and then became a prison mentor to young indigenous prisoners).

But today we remember that for Jesus the most important people in the world are the poor, lowly, humble, meek, persecuted people. Yes, we honour the queen for who she was, but Uncle Jack and Uncle Archie remind us of who has the most important place in the Kingdom of God. For, as Mary sings, Jesus comes to bring down the powerful from their thrones, and lift up the lowly because we are all equal to God.

Who else do we remember today?

Children place gum leaves in remembrance at the:

- Cross for the pain of love
- Table for communion in suffering

- Font for water of compassion
- Candle for light of hope and peace

(everyone else hold your gum leaf through the rest of the prayers today and place it at one of these places at the end of the service)

All these things are in Archie Roach's music: pain and suffering, communion and compassion, peace and hope. Listen to Uncle Archie singing Down City Streets as the children place the gum leaves, a song written by his wife Auntie Ruby Hunter. They are singing about living on our city streets.

The Gospel – Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

Song

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)

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Reflection

Ian

Offering with Song

Ian

Where were you by Shawn Whelan

*“Where were you when the universe sprang to life?
Where were you when I made the day and the night?
Where were you when the morning stars sang, to all the heavens’ delight?”*

*“Have you walked into the springs of the sea?
Have you dwelled where the gates of death are revealed?
Have your minds yet comprehended the breadth of all that I see?”*

**O God, you breathe through all time and space.
O God, we know you here in this place.
Help us learn to sit in silence, to open up to your grace.
Oohh...**

*“Do you know the mountain goat in the wild?
Do you know the way she nurtures her child?
Do you know the way I treasure the earth that you have defiled?”*

*“O behold the birds of air that I feed.
O behold the deadly toll of your greed.
O behold the sparrow falling, and all that you never heed.”*

**O God, your beauty all round us shines.
O God, we’re breaking your good design.
Help us learn a humble spirit, before we run out of time.**

**O God, we pray you make us anew
O God, our damage help us undo
Help us hear your call to change as we tend creation with you
Help us hear your call to change as we tend creation with you**

© Shawn Whelan 2021. Written on the banks of the Birrarung (Yarra River), Wurundjeri country, August 2021, watching Salvatore the seal at play – after studying Job 38-39 with theologians Graeme Garrett, Jan Morgan and the Brunswick Uniting Church Eco-theology group. Used with permission.

Laudato Si Spiritual Exercise 4

“How am I faring with adopting a simpler lifestyle?”

Ian

Conversation

Offering Dedication

Ian

Prayers of the People

Jim Kilpatrick

Loving God of warming Spring ground
We pray for the World. May true leaders soften climate change.
The ground warms in Melbourne but the challenge remains.
May we all find a new strength as the year turns.
We pray for all the victims of war in Ukraine and elsewhere.
May they find sanctuary, and justice.
In your mercy, hear our prayers.
**We plant our feet on the ground. We feel the ease of warming ground.
We imagine plants unfurling. We breathe in. We breathe out.**

We pray for the Church. We pray for Uniting Church congregations and other congregations rebuilding after winter and supporting people through Covid. May the Uniting Church find compassionate, progressive responses to social issues. May we all find wise ways to support refugees and asylum-seekers. May leaders find the outer and inner resources to inspire us. In your mercy, hear our prayers.

**We plant our feet on the ground. We feel the ease of warming ground.
We imagine plants unfurling. We breathe in. We breathe out.**

We pray for those in need: may we all rebuild, this Spring. May our colleagues support us. May carers find rest. May counsellors find inspiration. May health-workers rebuild. May refugees and asylum-seekers find healing. We pray with those watching at home: may they feel included. May we all feel able to connect, again. In your mercy, hear our prayers.

**We plant our feet on the ground. We feel the ease of warming ground.
We imagine plants unfurling. We breathe in. We breathe out.**

In the name of Christ, ground of our lives.
Praise, Amen

Notices

Helen

It is now time to share the news of our community. If you have a notice to share, please line up and keep it short if you can. Of course you can check what's going on on our Website and also on Facebook. While you form a queue, I invite you to share morning tea and a chat with us in the hall, after the service.

Sending Song

Ian

TIS 728. Jesuchristo reina, reina, ya

(Jesus Christ reigns!)

1. *Jesucristo reina, reina, ya!*

Jesucristo reina, reina, ya!

Jesucristo reina, reina, ya!

Aleluya, amen! Aleluya, amen! Aleluya, amen!

(Jesus Christ heals)

2. *Jesucristo sana, sana, ya!*

(Jesus Christ loves.)

3. *Jesucristo ama, ama, ya!*

(Jesus Christ lives.)

4. *Jesucristo vive, vive, ya!*

(Jesus Christ saves.)

5. *Jesucristo salva, salva, ya!*

SONG: [Jesucristo Reina Ya](#), Anon. (from Argentina), from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Blessing and Sending

Ian

A blessing by Uncle Vince Ross

<https://slife.org/aboriginal-prayers-and-blessings/>

May the God of creation warm your heart like the campfires of old
Bring wisdom and peace as shown to the first peoples of this land

Shake off the dust from the desert plains by the refreshing rains
Followed by the glow and warmth of the sun
Let the light of God show us the right path and stand tall like the big
River gums drawing life from the ever flowing waters.

Go in peace to love as you have been loved.
In the name of God
Source of life,
Child of Love,
Spirit of Hope.
Amen

Thank yous

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

Liturgist:
Helen Burnham

Bible readers:
Hugh Brown
Semisi Tapueluelu

Children's time:
Ian Ferguson

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:
Jim Kilpatrick

Musicians:
Natalie Sims
(coordinator)
Daniel Broadstock
Alistair Hunter
Bronte Potter
Elaine Potter
Kate Scull
Shawn Whelan

Postlude Song: Jesucristo
Reina Ya, Anon. (from
Argentina), from Together in
Song (627) Harper Collins
Religious, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Musicians: Natalie Sims,
Daniel Whelan,
Shawn Whelan

Editing / Production:
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Ian Ferguson
Ben Hon
Alistair Hunter
Owen Sun

Closing verse:

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