

Order of Service 25/09/2022

Season of Creation 4

Opening verse

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

Gathering, Greeting

Good morning, please find somewhere to sit here in this space or in your homes as we prepare to worship God. Thank you for continuing to wear your masks in the worship space.

Song: Grant us

Let's stand together singing **Grant us a wise and discerning heart** as we welcome the Word and the Light.

*Grant us a wise and discerning heart
Be with your people today
Grant us a wise and discerning heart
Lead us to walk in the Way*

SONG: [Grant us a wise and discerning heart](#), by Shawn Whelan, Used with permission

Call to Worship

Come let us worship the God of all creation
Let's sing out our praises telling of God's love
Let's celebrate with wonder and joy and delight
all that God has made as we follow in Christ's Way.

Song of praise: Made in God's likeness, TiS 671

We sing together '**Made in God's likeness**', a joy-filled song that takes us through the day.

*Made in God's likeness, moved by the Spirit,
called to create a new world for our God,
called to create a new world for our God.*

*1. Birds in the mountains sing of your praises,
called in the morning to tell of your love;
bell-birds and whipbirds sing of creation,
celebrate always that Christ is the King.*

*2. Summoned at noontide, come now and follow,
joyfully marching wherever you lead;
roller birds stuntmen, kingfishers' laughter,
clowns of creation in the circus of God.*

*3. Called in the night-time to act in your drama,
to take on the Christ role, your script in our hearts;
masked owl and bowerbird teach us to study
the part we must play in the gifts we can share.*

4. *Called now at all times to wait on the Mother,
follow her lead as she partners our dance;
brolga bird dances, retreats, and, returning,
bowing at last to his partner, our God.*

SONG: [Made in God's likeness](#), by Patricia Lewis, from [Together in Song](#),
Harper Collins *Religious*, Copyright unknown

Acknowledgement of Country

We are in the 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.

Responding to Aunty Joy's invitation and as we prepare to offer the Acknowledgment of Country let's breathe together and recall a time when we have looked and listened, seen and heard.

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

Welcome to worship this morning, the final Sunday in the Season of Creation. During this season our worship has been shaped in part by the Laudato Si Spiritual Exercises which offer 7 goals or questions to help us reflect on how we might better care for our Common Home. We conclude today with Goals 5 & 7, more on these from Ian later. We will continue to listen to the prophet Jeremiah and today learn of his somewhat crazy decision to buy a piece of land during a siege and how this might be seen as a sign of hope.

We offer our thanks to Claire Foley and Helen Burnham for the photos used in the Title slides today.

I'm Saide, the liturgist for today, leading worship with Ian, Ralph, Ray and the musicians led by Alistair, supported by our AV team. We are glad to be worshipping with you in this space and online now or later. Please stay on for morning tea & conversation in the hall after worship.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Saide

As we conclude the Season of Creation our prayers of adoration and confession will be shaped by Psalm 104 which is said to be one of the finest pieces of lyric poetry in the Old Testament. The psalmist praises God's works and the wonders of creation. It's long though so we won't be reading it today but maybe make some time to sit outside and read the psalm for yourself. Instead, we'll sing Marty Haugen's joyful call and response paraphrase 'All you works of God' as our Prayers of Adoration.

SONG: All you works of God, AoV.1.19

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKzlxlZNzz4> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STrv8jjiRvo>

*All you works of God,
Every mountain, star and tree,
Bless the One who shapes your beauty,
Who has caused you all to be
One great song of love and grace,
Ever ancient, ever new.
Raise your voices, all you works of God.*

*1. Sun and moon: Bless your Maker!
Stars of heaven: Chant your praise!
Showers and dew: Raise up your joyful song!*

*4. All the earth: Bless your Maker!
Hills and mountains: Chant your praise!
Green things that grow: Raise up your joyful song!*

*6. Flying birds: Bless your Maker!
Beasts and cattle: Chant your praise!
Children at play: Raise up your joyful song!*

*7. All who live: Bless your Maker!
Men and women: Chant your praise!
Servants of God: Raise up your joyful song!*

SONG: [All you works of God](#), by Marty Haugen, from [As One Voice](#), volume 1, Willow Connections,
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And now as we continue to pray, let's breathe into the love of God our Maker

We express our anguish about the impact of climate change,
the loss of biodiversity and the ever-present threat of extinction
for so much of the non-human world.

We lament our despair over the lack of strong action being taken
by political and industry leaders to enact environmental protections
to protect the future for generations to come.

We confess our busyness that distracts us from the wonders of creation,
and the opportunity to learn more about the culture and ecological spirituality
of indigenous peoples and their connection with the land.

Amen

Word of Grace

Our God delights in creation spinning out joy after joy
And joins in our anguish and despair for the harms caused.
Let us breathe in God's joy as we turn again and again
to follow in Christ's Way confident that
in His Holy name our sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen

With the Children

Ian

Song: Brother Sister Creatures

Listen here: <https://www.worldmaking.net/copy-of-we-work-for-peace>

*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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From the prophets – Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15

Ralph

Jeremiah Buys a Field During the Siege

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him. Zedekiah had said, 'Why do you prophesy and say: Thus says the Lord: I am going to give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;

Jeremiah said, The word of the Lord came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.' Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Spiritual Exercise – response/conversation – Goals 5 & 7

Am I educating myself and others towards integral ecology to further my awareness and action?
Am I engaging in and participating in community action for care of creation?

Offering with Song: God gives us a future, TiS 687

We offer our gifts to God, gifts for the care of the earth, for all people and creatures. We offer these gifts in many ways – the work of our hands, the prayers of our hearts and the money that we offer. You are welcome to place your offerings in bowls by the baptism font or by transfer to the account on screen now or by ongoing direct transfer. As we offer our gifts let's stand and sing of our hope for the future ...

*1. God gives us a future, daring us to go
into dreams and dangers on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow in the Spirit's power,
we will let God change us, for new life starts now.*

*2. We must leave behind us sins of yesterday,
for God's new beginning is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit must not hold us back:
God gives hope, and insight, and the strength we lack.*

*3. Holy Spirit, teach us how to read the signs,
how to meet the challenge of our troubled times.
Love us into action, stir us into prayer,
till we choose God's life, and find our future there.*

SONG: [God gives us a future](#), by Elizabeth J. Smith, from [God gives a future](#),
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Offering Prayer

God of new beginnings,
we offer our gifts with hope-filled hearts.
We pray that they may be used to shape
a new tomorrow where all creation
lives and sings in harmony. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Ray

Good morning I'm Ray. After our prayers for the world, the church and our community I will take the Christ Candle to the Chapel space where you are welcome to light a taper for your personal prayers during the final song or after the service. As we pray we will call on God to hear our prayers in song. Let's begin with this call now.

SONG: God of justice

*God of justice, hear our prayer
God of justice, hear our prayer*

SONG: [God of Justice](#), words and music Rosie O'Reilly, © 2020, from [Walk as One](#), Wattleseed Publishing
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Creator God, we pray for the world, for your abundant creation.
We pray that world leaders will hear our calls for action on climate change.
We pray for people whose lives are most closely impacted, that their voices may be heard.
We pray for the non-human world, help us to give voice to the silent suffering.
God open the eyes and hearts of all people to act and cry out for justice.

God of justice, hear our prayer
God of justice, hear our prayer

Jesus Christ, you show us the Way and so we pray for the church.
We pray for our church leaders, our President Sharon, our Moderator David
for our Presbytery ministers, our Ministry Team, Church Council and committees.
We pray that they will lead us with wisdom and discernment in these challenging times.
God open our eyes and hearts so that we might follow you on the path of justice.

God of justice, hear our prayer
God of justice, hear our prayer

Holy Spirit you breathe love, hope, peace and joy into our community.
We pray for all who are sick in body, mind or soul and for all who care for them.
We pray for those who are homeless, out of work, suffering abuse and in need of care.
We pray for young people who look to a future that seems to offer little promise.
God open our eyes and hearts so that we can joyfully live our commitment to justice.

God of justice, hear our prayer
God of justice, hear our prayer

Amen

Notices

It's time to share the news of the community. If you know in advance that you will be offering a notice you are welcome to let me know and provide an eye-catching image! You can catch up on much of the news and events in our community in the Olive Press, on the website and our Facebook group. So share your news now in a sentence or two and tell us where to look for the details.

Sending Song: On Eagle's wings, TiS 48

*1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: 'My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!'*

*'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'*

*2. Snares of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear,
under God's wings your refuge
with faithfulness your shield.*

3. *For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

SONG: [On Eagles' Wings](#), by Michael Joncas, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*
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Blessing and Sending

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

The blessing today was written by Uncle Vince Ross.

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:
Saide Cameron

Bible reader:
Ralph Eduardo

Children's time:
Ian Ferguson

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:
Ray Cameron

Musicians:
Alistair Hunter
(co-ordinator)
Helen Burnham
Michael Cameron
Quilan Goff
Nicole Lowe
Elaine Potter

Postlude Song: Grant us a
wise and discerning heart,
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Musicians: Shawn
Whelan, Natalie Sims

Images:
Helen Burnham
Claire Foley

Editing / Production:
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Alistair Hunter
Dave Miller
Mal Rowe

Closing verse

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