



Pentecost 16 Year B – 12th September 2021
Season of Creation

Welcome:

Greeting:

Grace, mercy and peace,
from God the Creator, Christ and Spirit
be with you

And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

As we begin our service, let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within and all around us.

Lali – Fijian call to worship

Christ candle:

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"

And there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of this country on which we gather today; the Gadigal and Wangal people. And we pay our respects to their Elders past and present, together with all descendants.

We commit ourselves to support Voice, Treaty, Truth – justice for First Nations Peoples.

Call to Worship:

God who gave us the creation to play in,
with rolling landscapes of delight,
with wonders of earth and sea
and endless discoveries of beauty

We worship you

God who made us in infinite diversity,
with all the vivid colours of our differences,
all the magic of our unknowns
to be explored and celebrated

We worship you

God who in your being carries the One
who loved to feast with friends,
who sat in silence on the mountain tops alone,
whose Spirit dances in all the earth

We worship you

in Spirit and in truth

Opening Prayer:

Let us sing a song of thanksgiving to our God!

Creator God,
you hover over our life
like the beauty of the northern and southern stars,
and flow through our existence like the rivers of the earth.
You breathe among us like the gentle winds
and stand firm under our feet like the rock of ages.
We thank you that you are here with us, and we are never alone.

Teach us to see you, our Creator
In all things seen and heard,
In beauty of the ancient land,
In the singing of the bird.

Amen

Song: Morning has broken

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the word

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day

Prayer of Confession:

We come to God
knowing that we have failed to obey the call of Jesus
to love God and one another with our whole hearts;
but we come also to a God who reaches out to us
with healing and reconciliation.

In this knowledge, let us pray

Holy God, Creator and Lover of all that is,
we confess to you that we have turned away from you.
We have failed in our care for the land and its creatures,
we have been greedy, destructive, and wasteful
of the resources you entrusted to us.
We have polluted air and water,
eroded soil and salty earth,

deprived birds and animals of their habitat,
and left our neighbours hungry and thirsty by our selfishness:
all these cry out to us.
We struggle to know the way to restore what we have damaged,
and are in great sorrow and distress.

Silent reflection

Forgive us, we pray.
Give us grace to change our ways, to make amends
and to work together for the healing of the world.
In Jesus name we pray
Amen

Words of Assurance:

Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God.

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us:
'Your sins are forgiven'.

Thanks be to God

Peace:

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

Song: As the deer pants for the water

As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after you
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you

Refrain

*You alone are my strength, my shield
To you alone will my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you*

I want you more than gold or silver
Only you can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye

You're my friend and you are my Father
Even though you are my King
I love you more than any other
So much more than anything

Moment for the young at heart:

Bible Readings:

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament^[a] proclaims his handiwork.
² Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
⁴ yet their voice^[b] goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens^[c] he has set a tent for the sun,
⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.
⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
⁹ the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

- ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.
- ¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
- ¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent,^[d]
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
- ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Mark 8:27-38

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”^[a] ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,^[b] will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words^[c] in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

In this is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection:

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People:

The 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 in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen

Giving thanks and Signs of hope: The congregation share good news

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

As we faithfully give for the life and mission of God's church in this place and in the world, let's pray our offering prayer:

God of abundant gifts,
how can we remember all your creation in this offering?
You have given us time and the seasons.
You have given us families and friends.
You have given us our family of the Church.
Accept our offering of love.

You give us the wonder and marvel of summer,
with the warmth and fun of faith.
You give us the colour and change of autumn,
and cause us to see the need for change.
You give us the chill and rain of winter,
with time for us to sit and think.
You give us the new life and growth of springtime,
with the reminder of new life in Christ.

Creator God, God of the Universe,
accept our gifts and our lives that the world
and all people may praise your name.
Amen.

Song: Brother, sister let me serve you

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Benediction & Blessing:

Go in faith, for there is God,
riding in the light on the water,
singing in the songs of the birds,
sitting in the midst of the parties of life.
Go in faith to play in creation
and to drink deeply of the gracious cup of life

And may Almighty God bless you;

Creator, Son and Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always

3-fold Amen

Acknowledgements:

Image: shutterstock

Christ candle: Genesis 1:1-4a

Call to worship – Dorothy McRae-McMahon - ‘Liturgies of the journey of life’

Opening Prayer ~ ~ Adapted from Maker of All - David Adam in ‘Tides and Seasons’ and Dorothy McRae-McMahon - ‘Liturgies of the journey of life’

Prayer of confession - ~ adapted from <https://acen.anglicancommunion.org/media/61492/Confession-and-Absolution-Stewardship-of-Creation.pdf>

Offering prayer: adapted from- <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/>

Benediction – adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon – ‘Liturgies of the journey of life’