



Pentecost 17 Year B – 19th 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: For the beauty of the earth

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.

Refrain:

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

For the church that evermore,
lifting holy hands of love,
offers up on every shore
the pure sacrifice of love,

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: How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the troubled breast,
is manna to the hungry soul
and to the weary rest.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you as you are
I'll praise you as I ought.

Moment for the young at heart:

Bible Readings:

Psalm 1

Happy are those
 who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
 or sit in the seat of scoffers;
² but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees
 planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
 and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ The wicked are not so,
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

Mark 9:30-37

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Hear 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: Lord your almighty word

Lord, your almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving holy dove,
speed forth your flight;

move on the waters' face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide,
let there be light.

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: pinterest.com

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’