



Pentecost 18 Year B – 26th 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: Thanks to God whose word was spoken

Thanks to God whose word was spoken
in the deed that made the earth.
God's the voice that called a nation;
God's the fires that tried its worth.
God has spoken, God has spoken
praise God for the living word.

Thanks to God whose word was written
in the Bible's sacred page,
record of the revelation
showing God to every age.
God has spoken, God has spoken
praise God for the living word.

Thanks to God whose word is answered
by the Spirit's voice within.
Here we drink of joy unmeasured,
life redeemed from death and sin.
God is speaking, God is speaking
praise God for the living word.

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: This is my will my one command

This is My will, My one command,
That love should dwell among you all.

This is My will that you should love
As I have shown that I love you.

No greater love can be than this
to choose to die to save one's friends.
You are My friends if you obey
What I command that you should do.

All that I ask My Father, dear,
For My name's sake you shall receive.
This is My will, My one command,
That love should dwell in each, in all.

Moment for the young at heart:

Bible Readings:

Psalm 124

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side
—let Israel now say—

² if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,

³ then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;

⁴ then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;

⁵ then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

⁶ Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.

⁷ We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

⁸ Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth

Mark 9:38-50

³⁸ John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone^[a] casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹ But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴² “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me,^[b] it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell,^[c] to the unquenchable fire.^[d] ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.^{[e][f]} ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,^[g] ⁴⁸ where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹ “For everyone will be salted with fire.^[h] ⁵⁰ Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it?^[i] Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Tui Waqanibaravi

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: Praise the Lord, you heavens adore him

Praise the Lord, you heavens adore him;
praise him angels in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him,
praise him, all you stars and light.
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken,

worlds his mighty voice obeyed:
laws, that never shall be broken,
for their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord, for he is glorious;
never shall his promise fail:
God has made his saints victorious:
sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
hosts on high his power proclaim;
heaven and earth, and all creation,
praise and glorify his name.

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: cath_stonehouse - instagram

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’