



22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 – Pentecost 18  
Season of Creation

**Greeter:** **Betty**

**Meditation Song: A new commandment** (TIS 699)  
*(please remain seated)*

A new commandment I give unto you  
that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.  
By this will others know that you are my disciples  
if you have love one for another;  
by this will others know that you are my disciples  
if you have love one for another.  
(repeat)

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

May the Creator, fountain of life,  
Jesus the Christ, pulse of life,  
and Holy Spirit, breath of life,  
be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Moment of Stillness:**

### **Christ Candle:**

We light this light to remind us that Christ is the light of the world.

**As we light this light, we remember that God; Creator, Christ and Spirit is present among us.**

### **Acknowledgement of First Peoples:**

As we gather, we recognise that this land is sacred land, this land is holy ground.

We acknowledge the First Peoples of this land on which we worship God today, the Gadigal and Wangal people. We honour them for their custodianship of sacred stories, of dreamings and connections with the deep earth and oceans.

**We pay our respects to the elders past, present and emerging and commit to walking with them for justice and reconciliation.**

### **Call to Worship:**

In this Season of Creation

We gather in this place, in this world that God has made,  
**and we are thankful.**

We are surrounded by our broken, beautiful,  
scarred and glorious world,

**joining our voice to the earth's song of praise.**

We gather to worship the God of rivers and oceans and  
waterfalls, of rainforest and desert places.

We gather to hear the cry of the prophets and the groaning of  
creation, and to join that mighty river of justice and peace.

**We come to be quenched by living water, giver of life.**

**We come to plant our feet on this earth, parched for  
justice.**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Let us pray a song of thanksgiving to our God!

Thank you, Sustaining God for things seen and unseen;  
for the colours of the seasons and the stories they tell.  
Thank you for the birthing of each new day  
and the rainbow of possibilities  
above and beyond the narrow spectrum we perceive  
and thank you for the weight of our feet on the Earth.  
Thank you for our deep connections to your creation surrounding us;  
the sights and sounds; the colours and dance of life around us.  
In the name of Christ, in whom we live and breathe and have our being.  
**Amen**

### **Hymn: Father in heaven (TIS 465)**

1 Father in heaven, grant to your children  
mercy and blessing, songs never-ceasing;  
love to unite us, grace to redeem us,  
Father in heaven, Father, our God.

2 Jesus, Redeemer, may we remember  
your gracious passion, your resurrection:  
Worship we bring you, praise we shall sing you,  
Jesus, Redeemer, Jesus, our Lord.

3 Spirit descending, whose is the blessing:  
strength for the weary, help for the needy;  
make us your temple, born a new people,  
Spirit descending, Spirit adored.

### **Prayer of Confession**

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation,  
which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our God of Grace, let  
us make our confession, beginning with a time short time of silence...

Creator God,  
you have given us a world full of rich resources  
to feed us all and to provide us with all  
that the body and mind could need.

Yet the poor are still with us, deprived of food, of home,

of education and dignity; deprived of healing and of hope.

Forgive our inhumanity.

Forgive our selfishness and greed.

Forgive us for leaving Christ unfed and unhoused,  
without healing and without hope.

Forgive us and help us to bring ourselves and our possessions back to you.

In Christ's name

**Amen**

### **Words of Assurance - Taize chant (sung twice)**

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,

You alone O God are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia.

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Peace:**

May the peace of Christ be always with you

**And also with you.**

*Let's share Christ's peace with one another*

### **Hymn: O thank the Lord for he is good (Psalm 136)**

1. O thank the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever.  
Give thanks unto the God of gods, his love endures forever.  
Give thanks unto the Lord of Lords, his love endures forever.  
To him alone who does great works, his love endures forever.

2. Praise him whose wisdom made the heavens, his love endures forever.  
Who o'er the seas the earth has spread, his love endures forever.  
Who made great lights for day and night, his love endures forever.  
The sun and moon and stars on high, his love endures forever.

3. He struck down Egypt's first-born sons, his love endures forever.  
And brought out Israel's chosen ones, his love endures forever.  
With outstretched arm and mighty hand, his love endures forever.  
Who split the sea to form dry land, his love endures forever.

**Moment for the young at heart: Brian**

**Children's Activity: Carolyn**

**Bible Reading: Marian**

**Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:**

Psalm 1 paints a neat and orderly world: good comes to those who follow the Law, evil to those who do not. Yet it is rarely the case that things are as neatly ordered as this psalm promises. Psalm 1 does not grapple with the many realities of what it means to be human. Yet the psalms that follow do, wrestling with all of the facets of human emotion: anger, grief, and mourning, but also love, admiration, and joy. This is why the invitation that Psalm 1 provides is so important. Psalm 1 asks readers to meditate on the entire Torah of Yahweh, to delve into all the psalms that follow.

**Psalm 1 (NRSV)**

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;

<sup>2</sup> but their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
    and on his law they meditate day and night.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so,  
    but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
    nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

<sup>6</sup> for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
    but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Mark 9:30-37 (NRSV)**

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> 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.”<sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”<sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.<sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”<sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,<sup>37</sup> “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: Roger Abrahams**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: David**

**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**

**Community News:**

## Mission Conversation: **Ron Brown**

### Offering Prayer:

Giver of all good things,  
let your grace flow through us;  
a generous stream,  
unstoppable, refreshing, abundant.  
We release these gifts into your river of love,  
flowing out to all the world.

**Amen.**

### Song: **They'll know we are Christians by our love**

1. We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity  
May one day be restored

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians  
by our love

2. We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
And together we'll spread the news  
That God is in our land

Chorus

3. We will work with each other  
We will work side by side  
We will work with each other  
We will work side by side  
And we'll guard human dignity  
And save human lives

## Chorus

4. All praise to the Father  
From whom all things come  
And all praise to Christ Jesus  
His only Son  
And all praise to the Spirit  
Who makes us one

### ***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 the blessing of God Almighty;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit  
be upon you and remain with you always.

### **3-fold-Amen**

### **Pastoral Prayers: Chris W**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: pinterest.com*

*Greeting & Call to worship – adapted UCA Season of Creation resources*

*Opening Prayer ~ adapted ecocongregationscotland.com*

*Invitation to prayer of confession: adapted Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'.*

*Prayer of confession: adapted greenanglicans.org*

*Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Working Preacher*

*Offering prayer: Carol Penner*

*Benediction: adapted from\_Dorothy McRae-McMahon – 'Liturgies of the journey of life'*