



29th September 2024 – Pentecost 19
Season of Creation

Greeter: **Wendy**

Meditation Song: Seek Ye First (TIS 745)

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And his righteousness,
And all these things
Shall be added unto you,
Allelu, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia

(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 changing 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: Touch the earth lightly (TIS 668)

1. Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2. We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

3. Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

4. God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

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.

And help us to fight for justice in your world.

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: When I survey (TIS 342)

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Moment for the young at heart: Hector

Bible Reading: Milton

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

In Psalm 104, the world that God creates and recreates is not just ordered, but rhythmic, each created thing a note that contributes to the Spirit's song. The whole of creation is like a song of joy sung by the Spirit of the Lord. There is joy in the wondrous interdependence of God's creatures and in the necessity in which we exist for one another.

Psalm 104:1-13 (NRSV)

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honour and majesty,

² wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent;

³ you set the beams of your^[a] chambers on the waters;

you make the clouds your^[b] chariot;

you ride on the wings of the wind;

⁴ you make the winds your^[c] messengers,

fire and flame your^[d] ministers.

⁵ You set the earth on its foundations,

so that it shall never be shaken.

⁶ You cover it with the deep as with a garment;

the waters stood above the mountains.

⁷ At your rebuke they flee;

at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

⁸ They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys,
to the place that you appointed for them.

⁹ You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.

¹⁰ You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,

¹¹ giving drink to every wild animal;
the wild asses quench their thirst.

¹² By the streams^[e] the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches.

¹³ From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

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: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Andrew

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:

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: How great thou art (TIS 155)

**1.O Lord my God, when I, in awesome wonder,
Consider all the works thy hand has made;**

I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus:

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
and see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

Chorus

3. And when I think, that God, his Son not sparing;
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on a cross, our burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away our sin.

Chorus

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Chorus

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: **Alison**

Acknowledgements:

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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'