



An All Age service of  
Holy Communion  
for Climate Sunday  
5th September 2021



**St. Luke's Church Maidenhead**

*And he showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, on the palm of my hand, round like a ball. I looked at it thoughtfully and wondered, 'What is this?' And the answer came, 'It is all that is made.' I marvelled that it continued to exist and did not suddenly disintegrate; it was so small. And again my mind supplied the answer, 'It exists, both now and for ever, because God loves it.' In short, everything owes its existence to the love of God. In this 'little thing' I saw three truths. The first is that God made it; the second is that God loves it; and the third is that God sustains it.'*

In one of the most famous passages of *Revelations of Divine Love*, the medieval English writer, Julian of Norwich, distils the heart of Christian belief about the all-encompassing love of God our creator. Her words echo the theme of God's loving sovereignty proclaimed in Scripture: 'The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the compass of the world and all who live therein' (Psalm 24.1). They constitute a foundational truth for all Christians. We believe that God has created the world and sustains it in being. We also believe that God has uniquely entrusted the care of creation to human beings (Genesis 1.26–30) and that to God we must render an account of our stewardship. And not simply to God, but to our children and grandchildren, who are increasingly clamouring to know what will be their global inheritance.

As members of the global Anglican Communion, we are aware of those around the world who face losing their homes and livelihoods as a result of the effects of climate change. Across the world, people of different nationalities and faiths, and those who profess no faith at all, are using the language of climate emergency and environmental crisis to express their profound concern about the impact of humankind's wilful indifference to the state of the planet. Pictures of oceans clogged with discarded plastic, the desertification of productive farmland, extreme weather conditions, rising sea levels and the catastrophic decline of biodiversity in some parts of the world have introduced an urgency in public and private discourse.

For too long humankind has taken the environment for granted. Now that we see it threatened, we are at last waking up to the challenge of caring better for God's earth. 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth,' is one of the Five Marks of Mission. The care of creation is integral to our evangelism and mission.

## The Gathering

We gather in praise of the God who is  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

*All* **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

## Hymn

**Be still for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here.  
Come bow before him now  
with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found,  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
The Holy One, is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight,  
our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.**

**Be still for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him;  
in faith receive from him;  
be still for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.**

*Daniel J Evans*

*All* **Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### **Prayers of Penitence**

Let us confess our greed  
and repent of the ways in which we have damaged God's  
good creation:

We confess to you  
our lack of care for the world you have given us.  
Lord have mercy.

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

We confess to you  
our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.  
Christ have mercy.

*All* **Christ have mercy.**

We confess to you  
our failure to protect the environment.  
Lord have mercy.

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse you from your sins,  
and restore you in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**Gloria in Excelsis**

**Gloria Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria Gloria alleluia alleluia**

**The Collect**

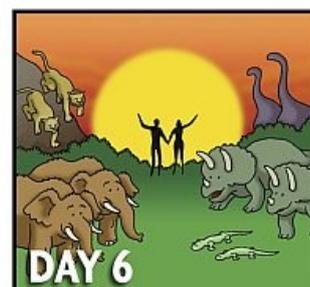
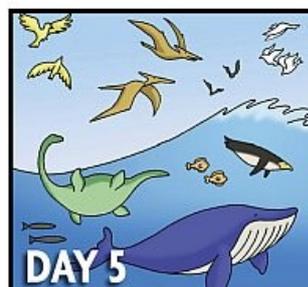
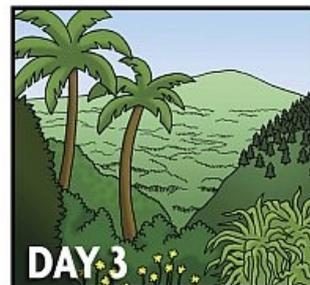
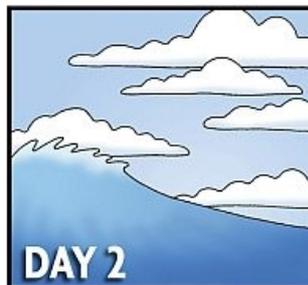
In a time of silence,  
let us pray that our worship will bring us closer to the one who  
has created all things.

Glorious God,  
the whole creation proclaims your marvellous work:  
increase in us a capacity to wonder and delight in it,  
that heaven's praise may echo in our hearts  
and our lives be spent as good stewards of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

First reading: Genesis 1.1-2.4



The Gospel Reading: Matt 6. 25-31

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**



*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Reflection Time**

**The Creed**

The Lord is a mighty King  
The maker of everything  
The Lord he made the earth  
He spoke, and it came at once to birth  
He said 'Let us make mankind'  
The crown of his design  
'In our own likeness'  
His image in every human face

And he made us for his delight  
Gave us the gift of life  
Created us family  
To be his glory, To be his glory

And yet we were deceived  
In pride the Lie believed  
To sin and death's decay  
The whole creation fell that day  
Now all creation  
Yearns for liberation  
All things in Christ restored  
The purchase of his precious blood

*Graham Kendrick  
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### **Intercessions**

*The prayers end*

Merciful Father,  
*All* **accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

#### **The Peace**

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

#### **Hymn**

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands has made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

*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!*

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 hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.

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!

*This prayer at the preparation of the table may be said.*

With this bread that we bring      **we shall remember Jesus.**  
With this wine that we bring      **we shall remember Jesus.**

Bread for his body,  
wine for his blood,  
gifts from God to his table we bring.      **We shall remember Jesus.**

#### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
*All*      **and also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
*All*      **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All*      **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father,  
Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.  
When we turned away  
you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.  
**You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.  
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends  
he took bread, and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body  
which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me  
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood  
of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you  
for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.  
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit  
that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

And now we give you thanks  
because in him, our risen Lord,  
the new creation is being brought to perfection,  
a broken world is being renewed,  
and creation itself will share  
in the glorious liberty of the children of God.  
With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
*All* **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.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

#### **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

#### **Giving of Communion**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

*Please remain in your place, standing or sitting, as you prefer.  
The Host will be brought to you. Please sit once you have received.  
If you would prefer a (silent) blessing please cross your hands over  
your chest.  
We maintain SILENCE throughout.  
During the distribution music may be played.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

God our creator,  
you give us seed to sow and bread to eat:  
as you have blessed the fruit of our labour in this eucharist,  
so we ask you to give all your children their daily bread,  
that the world may praise you for your goodness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

#### ***Act of Commitment***

Let us pledge ourselves anew to serve our Creator God, the  
Father who is the maker of all things, the Son through whom all  
things are made, and the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who  
renews the face of the earth.  
Let us stand to affirm our commitment to care actively for God's  
creation.

*All* **Lord of life and giver of hope,  
we pledge ourselves to care for creation,  
to reduce our waste,  
to live sustainably,  
and to value the rich diversity of life.  
May your wisdom guide us,  
that life in all its forms may flourish,  
and may be faithful in voicing creation's praise.**

## The Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the source of all goodness,  
pour his blessing upon all things created,  
and upon us his children,  
that we may use his gifts to his glory  
and the welfare of all peoples;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in peace, and may the commitment we have made this day  
be matched by our faithful living.

*All* **Thanks be to God. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## Hymn

**You shall go out with joy  
And be let forth with peace,  
And the mountains and the hills  
Will break forth before you  
There'll be shouts of joy  
And all the trees of the fields  
Will clap, will clap their hands**

**And the trees of the fields will clap their hands  
The trees of the fields will clap their hands  
The trees of the fields will clap their hands  
and you'll go out with joy**

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