

“The season of Creation-tide marks a shift in the Christian understanding of our relationship to creation under God. The season is a time for Christians throughout the world to pray, reflect and act on issues related to the care of all Creation, the environment and the world in which we live”
The Rt Revd Nicholas Hotram, Bishop of Salisbury and the Church of England’s lead bishop on the environment.



Holy Communion in Creationtide

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If you are a visitor to this church, a very warm welcome to you! This church hopes that today you will feel at home and part of the family.

If you have children with you, at the back of the church there is an area set aside for the under eights with things for them to do. Alternatively, there are activity bags available for your child to have with him or her as they sit with you. Please don't worry about whether or not your child makes a sound – most service leaders can make more noise if they need to! We are delighted that your child is with us. As toilet arrangements are different in each of our churches, please ask the person who gave you this booklet—they will be happy to tell you where the nearest toilet is.

During the service, like Christians around the world, the story of our faith will be celebrated; that in becoming one with humanity, Jesus made sacred the ordinary events and activities of life. In Creation Season we also celebrate God's creation—the seasons through which we live and work, God's goodness in providing the food we eat, and perhaps take for granted, the gifts we have been given, life that surrounds us and of which we are a part.

On the night before Jesus died, in an upper room in Jerusalem, he shared a final meal with his friends and explained that he would soon die and that whenever we eat bread or drink wine we should remember that his death was for us so that we would be forgiven our sins and live fully. Through the Holy Spirit, we believe that God uses the bread and wine to feed those who come to him in faith. After the meal, Jesus also washed the disciples' feet to show them that all his followers must love and serve other people in the same way that he loves us. These two aspects of Jesus' life are remembered every time we meet, and in particular when we share in Holy Communion together.

But Holy Communion is more than a reminder, as wine is poured and bread is broken, our own life experience of struggle and suffering is given hope and meaning that we can live by. Because Jesus offered his vulnerability and love to the world in obedience to God's love for the world, so we do too in such a way that it becomes the means of new life to us all.

The nature of that new life can be glimpsed as we share peace, a meal and worship God together

Now that the Service has come to an end, we hope that you will join everyone else for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

Jesus said, 'Come to me all who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest ...'

If you have a situation or person on your heart this morning and would like to pray with someone else about it or them, please tell the leader of the service or the person who gave you this booklet, and they will arrange this for you.

Amen

And the blessing

A Hymn may be sung

The Dismissal

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
And bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God
Amen.

*Before the service begins some NOTICES may be announced.
Words of welcome or introduction are said*

Opening Responses

In the beginning, God made the world;
**He made it and nurtured it;
shaped it and provided for it
filled it with seeds and with signs of fertility**
All that is green, blue, deep and growing
God's is the hand that created you
All that is tender, firm, fragrant and curious
God's is the hand that created you
All that crawls, flies, swims, walks or is motionless
God's is the hand that created you
All that speaks, sings, laughs, cried or keeps silence
God's is the hand that created you
All that suffers, stumbles, lacks or longs for an end
God's is the hand that created you
The world belongs to God
The earth and all its people

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A hymn may be sung

Prayer of Preparation

*We sit or kneel to pray.
This prayer may be said.*

**Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power
to free our praise,
inspire our prayer**

and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

There may now be a time in which we give thanks for any blessings received this week.

Prayers of Penitence

Invitation to confession

A minister uses this or a seasonal invitation to confession

O God, gladly we live and move
and have our being in you.
Yet always, in the midst of this creation glory,
we see sin's shadow and feel death's darkness:
around us, the abuse of matter in the earth, sea and sky,
beside us, the betrayal of one another, in the broken, the hungry
and the poor;
and often, deep within us, a striving against your Spirit

God has blessed us,
but still God's children go hungry:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God has blessed us,
but still the poor cry out for justice:
Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy.

God has blessed us
but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Blessing

The minister may use seasonal blessing:

May God the Father,
who clothes the lilies of the fields
and feeds the birds of the air,
provide us with all we need for life in all its fullness.

May God the Son,
who fed the five thousand and turned water into wine,
feed us with his life and transform us in his love

May God the Holy Spirit,
who hovered over the waters of creation
and formed the world from chaos,
form us in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the
earth.

Great is the mystery of life
Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again

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.
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

The minister breaks the consecrated bread

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

Giving of Communion

The minister says this or another invitation to communion.

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which He gave for you and His blood which He shed for you. Eat
and Drink in remembrance that he died for you and feed on Him
in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.
Amen.

*The minister and people receive communion. If you would prefer to
receive a blessing, please come forward to the
communion rail, kneel and simply bow your head and hold your hands
by your side. After receiving the bread and the wine reply:*

God our Father, we are sorry
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly and acted
ungratefully.
Father in your mercy
Forgive us and help us

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us
Father in your mercy
Forgive us and help us

We belong to a people who are full
and satisfied,
but ignore the cry of the hungry
Father in your mercy
Forgive us and help us

We are thoughtless and do not care enough for the world you
have made
Father in your mercy
Forgive us and help us

We store up goods for ourselves alone,
as if there were no God and no heaven.
Father in your mercy
Forgive us and help us.

The minister says:

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Gloria in Excelsis

The Gloria in Excelsis may be used and is sometimes sung.

2. Glory to God!

**Our hearts to you we raise!
Joy and peace on earth,
in highest heaven praise!
Songs of adoration,
Lord to you we bring,
Praising your great goodness
Father, heavenly King.
*Glory to God,
Our hearts to you we raise!
Joy and peace on earth,
in highest heaven praise!***

**Son of the Father,
bearing this world's sin,
Lamb of God, have mercy,
grant us peace within.
You, O Christ, are holy
you alone are Lord,
with the Holy Spirit
evermore adored.
*Glory to God!
Our hearts to you we raise!
Joy and peace on earth,
in highest heaven praise!*
(Tune Maccabeus—'Thine be the glory')**

Therefore with all the heavenly hosts,
we give voice to everything you have made,
and sing the eternal hymn of praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory
hosanna in the highest
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
hosanna in the highest**

The minister recalls the Last Supper

We praise and bless you, loving Father
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.
On the night before he died he had supper with his friends,
and taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
drink this all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, as we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

These prayers may be said at the preparation of the table.

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom. **Amen**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before
you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will
become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of
the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

*The minister praises God for his mighty acts using these seasonal words
and all respond*

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Holy Father, Almighty and Eternal God.
For you have created the heavens and the earth,
and formed us in your own image.
In the fullness of time you sent forth your Son, your eternal Word,
who laid down his life for our salvation

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The Collect

Creator God,
You made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythms of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

At the end the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A hymn may be sung.

We remain standing after the hymn.

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*
Glory to you, O Lord.

at the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon, reflection or activity

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The Creed

We stand to say the Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the
body
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

A member of the congregation may lead us in prayers which usually include these concerns and may follow this or another sequence:

The Church, its leaders and ministry.

The world and those in authority.

Our local community.

Those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit.

The families and friends of those who have died.

This response or another may be used.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Or

Lord of the harvest
In your mercy hear us

And at the end:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace *(all stand)*

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace by shaking hands at this point or sometimes at the end of the service.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

A hymn may be sung while the table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it and a collection is taken.