

Evening Prayer on Wonder 6th September 2020



During this time of worship and reflection, you might like to find something from the natural world to conetmplate when we reach our time of prayer....

Opening Responses

In the corncrake's rasp and the skylark's song
God's joy at the heart of all things.

In the gap-toothed grin of a mischievous child;
God's joy at the heart of all things.

In the tantalising smell of freshly baked bread:

God's joy at the heart of all things

In the starlit splendour of the winter sky:
God's joy at the heart of all things.

In the satisfying squelch of a muddy walk:
God's joy at the heart of all things.

In the ladybird's flight and the puffin's waddle,
God's joy at the heart of all things.

In the sharing of stories and the sipping of beer:
God's joy at the heart of all things.

In the windswept hair of a highland cow:
God's joy at the heart of all things.

When children are able to be children:
God's joy at the heart of all things.

When adults become like children again:
God's joy at the heart of all things.

Hymn: All Creatures of our God and King...

During this hymn you may wish to go and find something from the natural world to hold and look at during our time of prayerful reflection.

- 1 All creatures of our God and King
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, alleluia.
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- 2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia.
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice;

Chorus

3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia.
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:
Chorus

4 Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia.
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;
Chorus

William Henry Draper (1855-1933)

based on Laudato sii, O me signore St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Sun

Prayer of thanks for creation

Thank you, God,
Thanks for beauty:
The twinkle in an older person's eye,
A child's shout of laughter;
Thanks for greening trees and frozen waterfalls,
Stunning buildings and flowerbeds in summer.

Thanks for beauty.

Thank you, God
Thanks for creativity:
The skills of a tapestry weaver,
The imagination of a web-designer;
Thanks for bakers and dancers and crossword compilers,
For spider's webs and city murals.

Thanks for creativity.

Thank you, God,
Thanks for abundance;
For seeds and raindrops,
For grains of sand and infinite galaxies;
Thanks for seagulls, plankton and shoals of mackerel,
For wriggling worms and golden dandelions,

Thanks for abundance.

Thanks for your world, God,
And for our part in it.
Thanks that you are a maker,
And that you make us makers too.

**Help us to love creation as you love it,
To take risks to value it as Jesus did,
And draw us into the wildness and wonder of your Holy Spirit
Today and every day.
Amen**

Reading: Psalm 65:5-13

God of our salvation—
you, who are the security
of all the far edges of the earth,
even the distant seas.
You establish the mountains by your strength;
you are dressed in raw power.
You calm the roaring seas;
calm the roaring waves,
calm the noise of the nations.
Those who dwell on the far edges
stand in awe of your acts.
You make the gateways
of morning and evening sing for joy.
You visit the earth and make it abundant,
enriching it greatly
by God's stream, full of water.
You provide people with grain
because that is what you've decided.
Drenching the earth's furrows,
Levelling its ridges,
you soften it with rain showers;
you bless its growth.
You crown the year with your goodness;
your paths overflow with rich food.
Even the desert pastures drip with it,
and the hills are dressed in pure joy.

The meadowlands are covered with flocks,
the valleys decked out in grain—
they shout for joy;
they break out in song!

Prayer of Regret

Creator God,
you formed us from the dust of
the earth and placed us in a garden. Remind
us of our place as your creatures at home in
your creation. Forgive us when we forget our
connection to the earth, and our dependence
upon the goodness of your world.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ our redeemer,
you were born into this
world, and made your earthly home in
Nazareth. Help us to know and love the
people and places where you have set us.
Forgive us when we fail to care for our
homes, our communities, and your
creation.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Sustainer Spirit of God,
you desire to grow in us your
fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and selfcontrol.
Forgive us when our roots are so
shallow, and our hearts so restless, that our
lives fail to bear fruit. Enable us to find our
home in you, and in the places to which you
call us.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all grace forgive us our sins,
settle us in a place of belonging, and enable

us to bear fruit for the Kingdom; in the name
of Almighty God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Amen

Reflection

Blessing

May the heavens bless you.
May the sun shine on you.
May the rain dance on your wellies.
May the stars make you wonder and smile.
May the earth bless you,
And may you bless the earth
In planting and protest,
And sharing food.

Amen

Closing responses

Go now
Go and revel in God's world
Go and be creative
Go and work for justice
Go and love your neighbours
Go and walk with God.

Amen