



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

A Service to Launch

The Season of Creation

1 September – 4 October

St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
Sunday 31st August 2025
4.00pm

Officiant:

The Right Reverend Richard Treloar
Bishop of Gippsland

Speaker:

Mr Jack Beamish

Music:

The Very Revd Keren Terpstra
Dean of Sale

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ORDER of SERVICE

The sanctuary party enter to preludial music.

WELCOME

The Dean welcomes the people

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

SENTENCE

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

Genesis 1:27-28

CALL TO WORSHIP

We praise you, living God:

you give strength to the earth that sustains us, you open your hand to feed all living things.

We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ:

you teach us with stories of seeds and weeds and harvest time, you call us to accept your word and bear much fruit.

We praise you, Holy Spirit, fire of love:

you are the breath of life in every creature, you refresh our thirsty souls with grace.

CONFESSION: STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

All too often, we fail to live as we are called to live.

We fail to be ambassadors of peace, righteousness and reconciliation.

Silence is kept

Hungry for God's forgiveness, let us confess our sins:

Holy God, we ask you to forgive us.

We have not returned your love,

though you have so richly fed us.

We have not loved our neighbours,

though we are guests together at your table.

We have wasted good food when we could have shared your plenty.

**Have mercy on us, we pray, and forgive us all our sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The bishop says:

The living God, who is both just and generous,
✠ forgive you all your sins and make you messengers of justice and peace,
until all the hungry are filled with good things;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE SEASON

God of unchangeable power,
when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together
and the host of heaven shouted for joy:
Open our eyes to the wonders of creation,
and teach us to use all things for good,
to the honour of your glorious Name. **Amen.**

(A New Zealand Prayer Book)

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

32:14-18

For the palace will be forsaken,
the populous city deserted;
the hill and the watch-tower
will become dens for ever,
the joy of wild asses,
a pasture for flocks;
until a spirit from on high is poured out on us,
and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.
Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,
and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.
The effect of righteousness will be peace,
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust for ever.
My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places.

Here ends the reading.

Please stand

HYMN: Where wide sky rolls down – TiS 188

Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,
where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell
their joy in the One who made everything well.

Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,
where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,
let every sea-creature and tropical bird
exult in the light of the life-giving Word.

Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,
where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,
let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days
delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.

Now, people of faith, come gather around
with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!
Australians, whatever your culture or race,
come, lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

*Elizabeth J. Smith (b. 1956)
Reproduced with permission. TiS 188*

Please sit

THE SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Romans.

8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Here ends the reading.

Please stand

HYMN/SONG: CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

The Canticle of the Turning (*BBC Scotland Reflections at the Quay*)

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
For the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.*

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring...

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring...

Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard

is the promise that holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
For the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.*

Paraphrase of Luke 1:46-58 (Magnificat)

Words: Rory Cooney Music: Thomas d'Urfey Tune: Star of the County Down (traditional Irish)

Please sit

ADDRESS - 'The Image, the Gospel, and the Garden'

Jack Beamish

Geography teacher and Youth Minister at Warragul Anglican Church

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Look At The World by John Rutter - lyric video

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us stand to affirm our faith.

**I believe in God
Source of life;
Creator of all things everywhere.
I believe in Jesus Christ
Word of life;
born fully human,
sharing our joys and sorrows,
suffering for our sake,
redeeming us by dying on the cross,
defeating Satan and death,
rising again to make us whole.
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Breath of life;
Indwelling wisdom of God,
Comforter, companion and healer.
I believe in the Church Universal
to be the body of Christ commissioned**

to bear God's love, forgiveness, mercy and healing
to our broken world.
I believe in God,
Source of Wisdom,
living Word,
abiding Spirit,
and the promise of life everlasting. Amen.

Margaret Bradley, *alt.*, 1950-2013

Please sit

INTERCESSIONS

Led by Jan Down, Chair of ACTinG (Acting for Creation Together in Gippsland)

Please note the change of wording for which the acronym 'ACTinG' stands, recently adopted as better reflecting the broadening focus of the group, as well as the theological basis for its work.

At the end of the intercessions:

We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**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 from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN – *Christ the Ikon*

**Christ is the image of the unseen God,
firstborn of all, through whom all things were made.
In him all things hold together;
seen and unseen, all powers bend to him.**

Refrain:

*He is our hope, our joy and our salvation,
The One who calls us to reflect his light.
May God make known the riches of this mystery:
Christ in us, the hope of glory.*

**Christ is the head, God's people is his body,
Firstborn from death, first place is his alone.
In him, God's fullness dwells forever,
God's healing peace, his blood shed at the cross.**

Refrain

Words and music: Keren C. Terpstra © Keren C. Terpstra

THE BLESSING

May the Spirit of God, who is beyond all and in all and through all, fill us with
consciousness of God's presence in Earth and the vibrant life of Christ within us.
Amen.

May almighty God bless us, Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

