

The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland



A Service for the Diocesan Launch

of

The Season of Creation

1 September – 4 October



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

1 September 2024, 3 pm

St Paul's Cathedral, Sale

(in person and livestreamed)

Adapted from a liturgy of the Anglican Communion Office
and Prayer Books of the Anglican Communion

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Hymn

¹
All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!

Bright brother sun with golden beam,
clear sister moon with silver gleam:
O praise God, O praise God,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

²
Swift rushing wind, so wild and strong,
high clouds that sail in heaven along,
alleluia, alleluia!

New-breaking dawn, in praise rejoice,
and lights of evening find a voice:
O praise God, O praise God,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

³
Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!

Fire, with your flames so fierce and bright,
giving to all both warmth and light:
O praise God, O praise God,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

⁴
Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds God's blessings on our way,
alleluia, alleluia!

All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them God's glory also show:
O praise God, O praise God,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

⁵
Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness,
alleluia, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise God, O praise God,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Words: Francis of Assisi (1182 – 1226),
tr. William Henry Draper (1855-1933) *et al.*

Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*
Church Hymnary 147 (verses 5 and 6 omitted)
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Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Words of Welcome and Introduction

The Dean
The Chair of ACTinG
Abbey Director

Prayer of Preparation

Bishop: O Lord, open our lips.

All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
creator of heaven and earth.

Your Word calls all things into being,
and the light of dawn awakens us to life.

May your wisdom guide us this day
that we may cherish and care for your good creation,
so all may flourish together,
and offer to you the sacrifice of our lips,
praising you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Psalm 104

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul:
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

¹⁹ You appointed the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows the time for its setting.

²⁰ You make darkness that it may be night:
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.

²¹ The lions roar for their prey:
and seek their food from God.

²² The sun rises and they are gone:
to lay themselves down in their dens.

²³ People go forth to their work:
and to their labour until the evening.

²⁴ O Lord, how manifold are your works:
**In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

- ²⁵ There is the sea, spread far and wide:
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- ²⁶ There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan:
which you have made to play in the deep.
- ²⁷ All of these look to you:
to give them their food in due season.
- ²⁸ When you give it them, they gather it:
you open your hand and they are filled with good things.
- Glory to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
As in the beginning, so now and for ever. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon: Jesus, our deliverer, we harm your good earth
and take your freedom from others.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Jesus, our hope, we threaten the integrity of creation
and deprive others of hope.
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Deacon: Jesus, God's shalom,
we distort your peace in all the earth.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: In silence before God, we confess our sins.
May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Readings

A reading from the Letter to the Colossians. [1:15-17]

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

A reading from the Revelation of St John. [22: 1-2]

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life, with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
for all things living, you have made good;
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Lord, bless the labour we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbour we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you;
harvesting, milling, for daily bread.

Father, providing food for your children,
your wisdom guiding teaches us share
one with another, so that, rejoicing,
sister and brother may know your care.

Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people;
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning no one will hunger;
your love sustaining fruitful the land.

Words: Albert Frederick Bayly (1901 – 1984)

Tune: *Bunessan*

Together in Song 627

CCLI #5034619

Address

Tony Rinaudo

An opportunity for questions and comments follows Tony's Address

Music for Reflection

The Dean

Collects for Creation Care

Creator God,
we thank and praise you for giving
us the opportunity to be co-creators with you
and to ensure the sustainability of Mother Earth,
our meeting place with you.
Teach us to work together for mutual respect
with one another and your creation.
We repent of our negligence in causing the earth to be in peril
from loss of habitats and species.
Help us to be caretakers of your gifts,
protecting the land from abuse,
and ready to share with all in need. **Amen.**

*Adapted from a Prayer by the Late Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya,
Swaziland, Southern Africa*

Breath of Life,
from whom all order was created,
the whole of creation bears witness to you.
Increase our gratitude for your loving providence.
Forgive us for our carelessness with the environment.
Instigate in us the will to work for the flourishing of life on earth,
as living proof of our conversion to the way of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and with the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Adapted from the Prayer Book of the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil,
by Bishop Marinez Rosa dos Santos Bassotto,*

Eternal God Almighty,
we bring to your feet the disparity between rich and poor,
which has strained the economic fabric of our society
and hastened the degradation of our world.
As your Son Jesus Christ was never more angry
than when driving out the money-changers from the Temple,
so dear God, before it is too late,
help us find the ways, the means, and the passion
to reduce the scandalous inequality between rich and poor.
Let not this world, created to be a blessing to all people,
become a divided place of the misers and the miserable.
This we pray, God of mercy, God of justice, God of love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Laurance Agathe André, Mauritius, Indian Ocean

Lord Jesus Christ,
when stormy waves of fear
and rising tides of danger distress us,
you shelter us in your strong heart,
and you hold us steady with your wounded hands.
From the unshakeable certainty of your love,
send out a flood of peace and rivers of justice.
Open up a fountain of health to cleanse, refresh, and renew us.
Gather the whole wide world into the safety of your embrace. **Amen.**

Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy, Perth, Australia

Creator of all,
your love embraces the whole world
and peoples of every language, race and nation.
In our midst the sin of racism infects our communities with hatred
and obscures the recognition of your image in every human being.
May our commitment to one another through
the transforming love of Christ heal divisions,
restore justice and bring reconciliation.
May the witness of the Anglican Communion
to partnership, mutual respect and interdependence
be a beacon of hope to your world,
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

*Archbishop Linda Nicholls,
Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada*

Hymn

1
Stars and planets flung in orbit,
galaxies that swirl through space,
powers hid within the atom,
cells that form an infant's face:
these, O God, in silence praise you;
by your wisdom they are made.

2
Skies adorned with sunset splendour,
silent peaks in calm repose,
golden fields awaiting harvest,
foaming surf and fragrant rose:
earth, its bounty clothed with beauty,
echoes all creation's praise.

3
Life in wondrous, wild profusion,
seed and fruit, each flower and tree,
beast and fish and swarming insect,
soaring bird, rejoicing, free:
these, your creatures, join in chorus,
praising you in wordless song.

4
Humankind, earth's deepest mystery,
born of dust but touched by grace,
torn apart by tongue and colour,
yet a single, striving race:
we, in whom you trace your image,
add our words to nature's song.

5
Christ, the Word before creation
as creation's final goal,
once you came for earth's redemption;
by your Spirit make earth whole:
then, O God, the new creation
will your praise for ever sing.

Words: Herman G Stuempfle (1923-2007)
Tune: *Praise My Soul* (TIS 134)
Together in Song 186 (verse 5 omitted)
OL 29403

Blessing

The Bishop and Deacon bless and dismiss the people

Go forth into the world
confident in the hope in which you have been saved;
praise God in all creation;
follow Christ through whom all things are made,
in the power of the Spirit be a beacon of hope to the world;
and the blessing of the Creator God:
the Eternal Father, the Risen Son, and the promised Holy Spirit,
be upon you that you might be a blessing to others today and always.
Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*Those attending in person are invited to proceed to the Cathedral grounds
for the blessing of a Prayer Tree*

Those watching online are invited to plant and/or bless a Prayer Tree locally

The Planting and Blessing of a Prayer Tree

Planting of a tree

The place in the soil is prepared

And the Lord God planted a garden. Then Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. (Gen 2.8,15)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

The tree is placed in the soil

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted. (Eccl 3.1-2)

God spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Earthing-in with soil

Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. (Gen 1.11)

O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Watering

I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. (Lev 26.4)

Give thanks to God who formed all things,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Growing

And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (Rev 22.2)
God alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures for ever. Amen.

Let us pray:

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image.
Give us grace to wonder at your gift,
to treasure the earth and to work for its protection and renewal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns over all things,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

**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 for ever. Amen.**

An Act of Commitment

Let us stand to affirm our commitment to care actively for God's
creation and all humanity.

**Lord of life and giver of hope,
we pledge ourselves to care for your people and world:
to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation
and sustain and renew the life of the earth.
May your wisdom guide us,
so that all creation may flourish and sing your praise.
May the commitment we have made this day
be matched by our faithful living.**

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. **Amen. Amen. Amen.**