

Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn
Creation Sunday

Background Information

The suggested theme or focus for this year's Creation Sunday is Global Climate Change. This is possibly the greatest present threat to biodiversity and human welfare on this planet and is widely recognized as being significantly influenced by human activity. Our consumer mentality and heavy demand on energy resources has contributed to the excessive human production of greenhouse gas emissions that effect climate change.

The gospel reading for this Sunday has Jesus telling us that 'those who lose their life for the sake of the gospel will save it.' We might in our times consider that the call to lose our lives involves a radical change of lifestyle from one of over consumption to one of simplicity and sustainability. This 'losing our lives' is both spiritual and practical in nature. We might today allow the liturgy to speak to us of the need to change our patterns or levels of energy use and to consider creative ways in which we may nourish the earth as she has nourished us. Primary to our considerations is the reality of God the creator and sustainer of all life who calls us, now more than ever, to live out our human responsibility to be co-creators with the One who has called all life, human and non-human, into being and becoming.

(Liturgy on following page)

Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn

Creation Sunday

17th September 2006

2nd Order Holy Communion

(A Prayer Book for Australia, page 119)

Gathering in Gods Name

As we gather on this Creation Sunday we consider the reality of global climate change with which all life on the earth is confronted. In drought, flood, extremes of temperature, power of wind and wave we know ourselves to be vulnerable to the elements of nature.

And we are confronted by the extent to which human activity contributes to growing instability in weather patterns. Today we repent of those actions that have robbed future generations, both human and non-human, of the stability of weather that we have known. And we pray for the wisdom, courage and love needed to live the gospel call to 'love our neighbors as ourselves', by caring for all creation.

1. *Opening Hymn or song*

2.

Blessed be God the Creator,

And blessed be all creation.

Blessed be God the Redeemer

May all creation be redeemed.

Blessed be God the Sanctifier

May we know your creation as sacred.

3. *The Greeting.*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Sentence:

Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for the sake of the gospel will save it.

4. *The prayer of preparation*

**Almighty God,
To whom all desires are 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.**

5. *The Two Great Commandments.*

8. *Kyrie eleison*

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

9. *The Hymn of Praise, Gloria in excelsis*

(page 121, prayer book; or as an alternative. *A song of God's marvelous acts* page 390 or
A song of creation page 427)

11. *The Collect of the Day*

God of mercy, help us to forgive as you have forgiven us,
To trust you, even when hope is failing,
And to take up our cross daily
And follow you in your redeeming work;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
One God, now and for ever. Amen.

OR

Oh God who through the cross suffers with all creation,
Guide us in self-giving love and compassion,
That we may know the radical joy of losing our lives
For the sake of all life.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God now and for ever. Amen

The Ministry of the Word

12. *All sit for the reading of the Old Testament*
13. *The Psalm (or as an alternative A song of creation page 427)*
14. *Reading from the New Testament*
15. *Hymn*
16. *All stand for the Gospel Reading*
17. *The sermon*
18. *The Nicene Creed*

The Prayers of the People

19. Let us pray for the world and for the Church

The prayers may conclude with:

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

The Lord's Prayer (p.124 prayer book)

Preparation

A suitable sentence of Scripture

For example: You are worthy, our Lord and God: to receive glory and honor and power.
For you created all things: and by your will they have their being. (Rev. 4:11)

21. *Prayer of Approach*

**We do not presume to come to your table merciful, Lord,
Trusting in our own righteousness,
But in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
And to drink his blood,
That we may evermore dwell in him,
And he in us. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Christ is the one through whom all things came into being and through whom all creation is redeemed.

Let us confess our sinfulness in contributing to the earth's degradation.

**Merciful God,
Our creator and redeemer,
We have sinned against you and your creation.**

**We continue to act in ways that contribute to the disruption of the earth's natural cycles,
We do not act soon enough in the ways needed to prevent further harm through climate change to the earth and all peoples**

**We allow ourselves to be distracted by our quest for wealth, power and trivial pursuits,
We have failed to see that our abuse of the earth is also an abuse of you and ourselves.**

For this we grieve and are sorry.

God, forgive us.

Fill us with an overwhelming love for you and all creation and a hunger for the balance and wellbeing of the whole earth community;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

23. The Absolution

Merciful God,
Who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith ,
Pardon you and release you from the ties that bind,
Set you free to live for the good of all
Through simplicity and right relationships
And keep you in eternal life,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

24. All stand.

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

A Hymn may be sung

The Great Thanksgiving

In the beginning was the Word,
The Word was with God and in God,
Through the Word all things came into being.
The earth that came into being is home to all your creatures,
A whole planet in dynamic balance,
Through which your creative energy flows.

We give thanks that the Word enfleshed, Jesus Christ, came into this earth
To reveal your divine nature in the form of a servant.
Through his death on the cross we know the possibility of the redemption of all creation
And, in knowing your love, and the life giving power of your Holy Spirit, all creation
praises you,
Singing the eternal song:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Creator God, we thank you for the gift of all creation,
And for this bread and wine,
We pray that we who eat and drink them may know ourselves as one with Christ
throughout the whole earth,
And be empowered to live in love for you and all your creation.

On the night he was betrayed
Your son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends,
His companions on the way.

While at table he took bread, blessed, and broke it,
And giving it to them, said:
Take, eat this is my body.

He took a cup of wine,
and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said,
This is my blood of the new covenant,
Which is poured out for many.
Do this in remembrance of me.

**Christ has died
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

You have gathered us together in holy communion,
As we eat this bread and drink this cup
May we experience your Living Word within us, amongst us and
throughout all creation,

That we may be united in co-creative action for the restoration of the earth.
That all may serve you in peace and love,
As we journey together towards the Kingdom.

Receive our thanks and praise, Father and Mother God
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
With whom and in whom,
By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit,
We worship you in songs of never ending praise:
**Blessing and honor and glory and power
Are yours for ever and ever. Amen**

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

28. The priest breaks the bread

29. The priest and other communicants receive the Holy Communion

The Sending out of God's People

30 The priest says a suitable prayer after communion or following suggestion;
God of all creation, source and sustainer of life
We give thanks that, in this one bread shared, we know ourselves as one body
May we be so filled with the self-giving love of Christ
as to become messengers of your new creation in this world..

31. All say together

**Most Loving God,
You send us into the world you have created and love.
Give us grace to go with gratitude
And with courage and energy, with you, to renew the face of the earth
in the power of your Spirit.**

32. A hymn may be sung

33. The priest says the Blessing.

Christ, the Word of God, through whom all things came into being,
through whom all things hold together,
grant to you a powerful hope of the ultimate redemption of the whole of creation.
And may the blessing of God – Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier
be amongst the whole community of earth, that we may live to care for all creation and
know divine peace.

34 The deacon may say

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen

Hymn suggestions from *Together in Song* (TIS).

We strongly urge congregations to use the new hymns provided, rather than the traditional harvest festival options. Electronic versions of the TIS hymns can be obtained via E-pray.

- 100 All creatures of our God and King
- 105 Let all the world in every corner sing
- 130 We plough the fields and scatter
- 133 O worship the king all glorious above
- 135 All things bright and beautiful
- 143 Immortal, invisible, God only wise
- 156 Morning has broken
- 157 O Lord of every shining constellation
- 159 God whose hand is all creation
- 163 God, who stretched the spangled heavens
- 166 Creation sings a new song to the Lord
- 167 How deep the riches of our God
- 168 For the fruits of all creation
- 169 Our God, we know your providence
- 170 Thank you, thank you Lord
- 174 Morning glory, starlit sky
- 176 The sounds of God's world all agree
- 186 Stars and galaxies flung in orbit
- 187 Let all creation dance
- 188 Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand
- 190 Colourful Creator, God of mystery
- 627 Praise and thanksgiving
- 668 Touch the earth lightly
- 671 Birds of the mountains, sing of your praises
- 672 Lord of earth and all creation
- 715 Everything that has breath, praise the Lord
- 755 You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace
- 778 Shalom to you now, shalom my friends
- 781 Father bless us as we go

Some other possibilities are:

Lord of Creation (*Australian Hymn Book, 557*)

Dance and sing, all the earth (*Iona Community*)

We will not take what is not ours (*Iona Community*)

While earth remains (*Iona Community*)

Brother sun, sister moon (*John Michael Talbot*)

God who made the endless stars (*Elizabeth J. Smith "Songs for a hopeful church" 15*)

O Spirit Come! Refresh us now (*Elizabeth J. Smith "Songs for a hopeful church" 36*)

Mother Earth (*from "As One Voice"*)

Canticle to the Sun (*from "As One Voice"*)