

FESTIVAL OF CREATION IN CHRIST



***Open to God,
open to one another,
open to the community***

Welcome to our service this morning, from wherever you join us. We worship together, whether physically in the building or joining us online. We may be scattered physically, but we worship together as the family of God. May each one of us be blessed as we sing, pray and reflect together.

In the book of Genesis we are told that God created the world and “saw that it was good”. Rich, diverse and fragile, the creation reflected something of God’s glory.

We are then told that humanity was created in God’s image as stewards of God’s creation. Reflecting in a particular way God’s creativity, wisdom and compassion, we are called to care for God’s creation.

During Creationtide the church celebrates the Creator and God’s Creation. We confess our abuses of creation and seek inspiration to find ways of living in balance with the world God reconciled to himself through Christ.

*This is the table, not of the righteous,
but of the poor in spirit.
It is made ready for those who love God
and who want to love God more.*

*So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
You who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time,
You who have tried to follow and all of us who have failed.*

Christ invites everyone to be known and fed here.’

Adapted from Iona Worship Book

The Gathering

Hymn

In the name of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The Spirit of God hovered over the water

And brought life to all creation.

Come Holy Spirit.

And renew the face of the earth.

Welcome

Words of welcome and introduction

Prayer of preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires 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.**

Prayer of Penitence

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it. Let us confess our failure to receive with gratitude God's gift of creation, and repent of the ways in which we have caused it harm.

You laid the foundations of the earth,
but we have claimed your world as our own.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

All things were created through you and for you,
but we have not lived as those who belong to you.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You make all things new,
but our hope has grown dim.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ, who has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed:
forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of the kingdom
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.****

The Collect

Holy and eternal God, you are the Maker of heaven and earth,
you are the Word through whom all things were made,
and you are the Spirit, the giver of life:
draw us into the mystery of your love,
that with all creation we may proclaim your praise, through Jesus Christ
our Lord. **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

One or more Bible readings are heard, followed by;

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

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; ♦
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name; ♦
tell out his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations ♦
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ♦
he is more to be feared than all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are but idols; ♦
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Honour and majesty are before him; ♦
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ♦
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦
bring offerings and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; ♦
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. ♦
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; ♦
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; ♦
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; ♦
with righteousness he will judge the world and the peoples with his truth.

Hymn

Gospel Reading:

Alleluia, alleluia. You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things.

Alleluia.

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

After the reading

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

Sermon

The Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was
made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used:

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

or

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

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

You shall go out in joy and be led back into peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Isaiah 55.12

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn

The Preparation of the Table

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; by your goodness the world was formed and filled with plenty. As we set before you this bread and wine, teach us gratitude for your gifts and make us faithful stewards of your creation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For by your word the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of your mouth.
You formed us in your image, the crown of your creation,
and entrusted us with the works of your hands.

In your great goodness you sent your Son,
the firstborn of all creation,
who holds all things together in himself,
and through whom you make all things new.

You have given us the first-fruits of the Spirit,
as creation itself waits with eager longing
to obtain the glorious freedom of the children of God.
And so, with angels and archangels
and with all that you have made,
we join the song of your glory,
forever praising you and singing:

**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.**

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 for 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 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 the cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work for that day when your kingdom comes and
justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms,
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Nicolas and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
**God is here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Giving of Communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

The invitation to Communion is extended to all those worshipping with us today, whether in the physical bread we can touch with our bodies or the spiritual communion with God who comes to us wherever we are. Come to God honestly, in the way you know how. In silence, in music or in words. This prayer, or one like it has been helpful for some people.

Dear Christ, I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. May I never be separated from you. Amen (*After the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester*)

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. Amen

Prayer after Communion

God our Creator,
by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Notices

Act of Commitment for the Care of Creation

As the whole of creation looks with eager longing for the redemption of humankind, let us pledge ourselves anew to serve our Creator God, the Father who is the maker of all things, the Son through whom all things are made, and the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who renews the face of the earth.

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

**Lord of life and giver of hope,
we pledge ourselves to care for creation,
to reduce our waste,
to live sustainably,
and to value the rich diversity of life.
May your wisdom guide us,
that life in all its forms may flourish,
and may be faithful in voicing creation's praise.**

May the commitment we have made this day be matched by our faithful living. **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

The Blessing

May God the Father, whose glory is proclaimed in the heavens, awaken in you a delight and wonder in this good creation. **Amen.**

May God the Son, the Word made flesh, through whom all things were made, fill you with his risen life. **Amen.**

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

And the blessing... **Amen.**

Final hymn

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

If you are a regular donor to the work of St Nicolas, thank you!

If you are not and wish to make an offering, please use the electronic giving device at the back of church or place cash in the collection basket.

Thank you!

Some material:

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