

Environment Sunday
Holy Communion Service
11.06.2017

Call to worship

Leader: Come let us worship God our creator!

Response: **Who saw everything that was made, and indeed, it was very good**

Leader: Come let us worship Jesus Christ our redeemer

Response: **Who reminded us of His coming again using the lesson of a fig tree.**

Leader: Come let us worship the Holy Spirit, our sustainer!

Response: **Who appeared on the day of Pentecost in a rush of wind**

All: **Let us worship the triune God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all the earth**

Opening Prayer

Leader: God of all creation, we come into your loving presence with a heart full of gratitude for the new dawn that you have granted to us. And we pray that our lives would reflect your glory just as the rest of creation glorifies and magnifies your name. We ask that You prepare our bodies, hearts and minds to listen to Your still small voice and to be aware of Your revelation in the awesome beauty of your creation. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Opening Song:

Praise and Thanksgiving

Leader : Loving God, we thank You for the healing rain that washes and nourished the earth and brings forth bright and beautiful colours. We thank You for the beams of sunlight that light up our world and brightens our faces. We thank You for the life-giving air that we breathe. We thank You for butterflies and flowers, birds and fish, stars and trees and all of these beautiful things You have created. Creator God, we thank you and praise you for creating us in your image. We thank you for granting us the privilege and honour to be carers of your creation. We thank you for the work of your hands that we proudly call our home. We pray that all of your children will see and wonder your creation, and that the joy of these would follow them throughout their lives now and forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Confession (in unison):

Leader: **Loving god, we realize that our ill-treatment of nature is sinful. We acknowledge that we have knowingly or unknowingly contributed to various forms of environmental degradation such as the pollution of land, oceans and atmosphere, the mistreatment of plants and animals, and the complete exploitation of the earth that you lovingly made for us. We confess that our greed, lack of gratitude and alienation from creation, have led to environmental crisis. We ask that you forgive us for the grave injustice that we have perpetrated against your creation.**

Absolution

Leader: May the all-forgiving God, who unconditionally loves all his creation, absolve us of our disregard for God's plan, for the created order and the continuance of the circle of life. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Sermon:

Affirmation of Faith (In unison)

We believe in God, / the source of our being/ and the goal of our true longing, / who by divine wisdom / created the whole universe, / and each of us/ in the divine image / to be partners of change / towards becoming embodiments of freedom / and life in all its fullness.

We believe in Jesus Christ, / the Holy wisdom of God, / the first born of all creations, / who emptied Himself of power/ and became weak / and vulnerable for our sake, / who laboured upon the cross, / brought us forth to the hope of resurrection / and thus challenged us / to partner with Him, / in struggling against evil / and to choose life.

We believe in the life-giving Spirit, / brooding over the creation, / the warm-winged spirit, / the rushing wind / and the Pentecostal fire / which urge us towards becoming / leaven of change.

We believe in Church, / a mustard seed and the leaven, / the Body of Christ, / called to sustain / the spirit of healing, / comfort, / justice, / integrity, / truth, / reconciliation / and peace.

We believe in God's power / and promise to ultimately destroy the power / of death and sin in us all, / and to establish the community of sharing / based on faith, / peace / and love for all creations./ Amen.

Intercession:

Leader: God, in a world where mountains of garbage pile up, nuclear waste threaten life, where trees are cut down at a fatally faster rate, give us the courage to realize our call and live as stewards of your creation. Lord, in your mercy.

Response: **Hear our Prayer.**

Leader: God, in a world where agricultural lands are filled up for constructions, where toxic chemicals and human waste are dumped into lakes, rivers and oceans, where fish and plants die from acid rain, give us the courage to realize our call and live as stewards of your creation. Lord, in your mercy

Response: **Hear our Prayer.**

Leader: God, in a world, where ground water level has gone down, seasons have lost their rhythm, global atmosphere heats up from chemical gases, ozone layer is destroyed, clean air is poisoned by car and truck pollution, give us the courage to realize our call and live as stewards of your creation. Lord, in your mercy

Response: **Hear our Prayer.**

Leader: God we pray for the people who depend on forests for their livelihoods struggling to survive. We also remember the precious species that face extinction and the biodiversity being obliterated. In the midst of a plundered earth, exploited forests and its resources grabbed, we groan with creation. Give us the wisdom to tend and care your creation as stewards of your creation. Lord, in your mercy

Reader: **Hear our Prayer.**

Leader: God, this day we remember all people, walking and sleeping, working and resting, fulfilled and frustrated, mourning and celebrating, all who are suffering, all who are in want, house-less, widows, widowers, orphans, refugees and prisoners, all who are banned from speaking truth and thirst for justice, all who risk reputation, livelihood, and life itself, people of one world and of one humanity. Lord, in your mercy.

Reader: **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord's Prayer in our vernacular languages:

Closing Prayer:

Leader: Set us free, O Lord, from ignorance and violence against nature. Enable us to live lives worthy to be called carers of your creation. Liberate us so that we may open our hearts as wide as the rose petals. Inscribe in our hearts the message of faith, hope and love and constantly remind us that the greatest of all thee is love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Benediction:

May we carry the seeds of faith, hope and love in our hearts and may we go out and plant them in the hearts of people.
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

All stand, and the worship leader says:

How very good and pleasant it is when people of God live together in unity! We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Now I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

(Peace can be shared at this moment)

Offertory Hymn:

Oh Lord my God
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made
I see the stars
I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout
The universe displayed

*Then sings my soul
My Savior, God, to Thee
How great thou art
How great thou art
Then sings my soul
My Savior, God, to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art*

And when I think of God,
His son not sparing,
Sent Him to die,
I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden
gladly bearing He bled and died
to take away my sin

-Then sings my soul

When Christ shall come
With shout of acclamation
And take me home
What joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow
With humble adoration
And then proclaim My God
How great Thou art

-Then sings my soul

How great Thou art
How great Thou art

Prayer:

Holy God, who through your dear Son has consecrated for us a new and living way to your throne of grace, we come to you through him, unworthy as we are, and we humbly ask you to accept and use us and these our gifts for your glory. All that in heaven and earth is yours, and of your own we give to you. **Amen.**

The worship leaders and congregation may kneel and say together:

Be present, be present, O Jesus you good High Priest, as you were in the midst of your disciples, and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts:

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Lord God:

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, strong and faithful God. From the beginning your Word has summoned light and life. You give us breath and speech, that all the living might find a voice to sing your praise. So now, with all the powers of heaven and earth, we chant the endless hymn of your glory:

Holy, holy, holy, 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.

O God, Redeemer of the oppressed, at the last meal that your son Jesus Christ, shared with his disciples before his death, he took bread in his hands of compassion, gave you praise and thanks, and broke the bread. Then he said: take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

We celebrate through this bread the self-offering of our savior Christ.

Then after the meal he took the cup, offered praise and thanks to you, gave the cup to his disciples 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.

We celebrate through this cup the new covenant of our savior Christ.

As this bread is broken and this wine poured out, O seeker and savior of the lost, we remember again the poor and oppressed of the earth. We recall that your body was broken the hungry might be nourished the oppressed set free, replenished with the bread of new hope and new life.

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

As this bread was once scattered seed, O bread of life sown in the earth to die and rise to new life, so gather all people together in the one humanity of your coming new age. Restore the broken life of your creation; heal the disfigured body of the world; draw all creatures into yourself through the cross and in the power of your risen life.

Sanctify us, sanctify this bread, sanctify this wine, so that together we may be the body of Christ. Amen.

Silence is kept for a moment.

The prayer of humble access may be said:

We do not presume to come to this 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 property 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 our sinful bodies and souls may be made clean by his most precious Body and Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Sharing

[As the bread is lifted up and broken]

When we break the bread, do we not share in the body of Christ?

We seek to share your life, gracious God.

[As the cup is lifted up]

When we lift the cup, do we not share in the life-blood of Christ?

We seek to share your life, gracious God.

[During this time these words may be sung:]

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

When all have partaken, the Bishop says:

L: Having now by faith received the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, let us give thanks.

Glorious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service. Help us who have shared Christ's body and received his cup, to be his faithful disciples so that our daily living may be part of the life of your Kingdom, and our love to be your love reaching out into the life of the world. **Amen.**

Blessing and glory, and wisdom, thanksgiving, and honour and power, and might, be unto our God, forever and ever. Amen

Dismissal

L: May God the Father who created you, guide your footsteps, May God the Son who redeemed you, share your journey, May God the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you, lead you on life's pilgrimage, and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you wherever you may go. **Amen.**

Prayers taken from CSI Book of common worship and other sources.