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Sunday 14 September 2025 Creation 2 – Flora and Fauna

The service today has been prepared by Mike Nielsen,
one of our Lay Preachers

Welcome to our service this morning.

In working together on our shared mission, we commit to seven core values:

***Togetherness, Humility, Curiosity, Love, Inclusiveness, Justice,
Sustainability.***

Sustainability: we care for and strive to restore the integrity of the Earth and all of creation.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come, let us worship God, who gifted us with life and Creation to sustain life.

We praise God for the wondrous Creation.

Come, let us follow Lord Jesus Christ, who inspires us to hope and act for justice and righteousness.

We give glory to God, who restores the groaning Creation and the vulnerable.

Come let us move with the Holy Spirit, striving to establish justice and produce the first fruits of hope.

We praise God for the abundant life that is assured to all Creation.

Heavenly Triune God and Creator of all, we gather here, made in the image of the Creator,

Who created in love.

Mission Statement: Sharing God's love, creating hope, working for justice.

We gather in the name of the redeemer, Jesus Christ,

Who reconciles all of Creation.

We gather in the presence of the life Giver, your Holy Spirit,

Who inspires new life and instills hope.

Adapted from: Season of Creation 2024: A Celebration Guide. To Hope and Act with Creation

Opening Prayer

Christ, we come into your presence today
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

**A planet filled with your presence,
trembling in the forests,
vibrating in the land,
pulsating in the wilderness,
shimmering in the rivers.**

God, reveal yourself to us in this place
and show us your face in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with God's presence.

Adapted from: www.seasonofcreation.com

Scripture Reading: Psalm 104:14-23, 31

Hymn: Celebration Song *(Michael Foster; [Tune: Battle Hymn](#))*

1. There's a song of Celebration that is ringing round the earth,
As humanity unites to sing of dignity and worth,
Out of poverty and anger God is bringing hope to birth:
Let all creation sing!

Chorus:

*Sing of hope and liberation; sing of justice and salvation,
Sing with holy indignation: Let all creation sing!*

2. It's a song of solidarity, of protest and of pain,
On behalf of all who suffer for another person's gain,
It's a call to faith and freedom that will never be in vain:
Let all creation sing!
3. It's a song that's sung in unison, but heard in harmony,
Many voices, many accents and a trillion ways to be;
And it liberates the wealthy as it sets the needy free:
Let all creation sing!
4. It's a song of humble penitence for all we haven't done,
It's a song of glad thanksgiving that the journey has begun;
It's the promise of a future when the world will be as one:
Let all creation sing!

Chorus:

*Sing of hope and liberation; sing of justice and salvation,
Sing with holy indignation: Let all creation sing!*

Offering Prayer

We give thanks for plants and animals
not only for what they provide but for the wisdom they offer.
We bring these offerings of money
and all we have given of ourselves in the past week.

**May these gifts move freely and multiply
to bring your life and love to those most in need.**

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Adapted from: L3 — Liturgy, Learning, (Purposeful) Life

Prayer of Confession

God of compassion, have mercy upon us. Heal our relationship with all creation. Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect of the flora and fauna that share the earth with us. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent for what we have done to harm them, and for what we have not done to help them. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another and for all plants and creatures, according to your will and in the fullness of your love; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Words of Grace

Stand up, freed from guilt and shame. Open your eyes and ears!
Hear God's call to care for Earth and protect its flora and fauna.
Know that God shows loving kindness for all life and
offers us the ways and the will to bring greater wholeness to creation.
Thank you for your love. We hear your call to care. Amen.

Source: L3 — Liturgy, Learning, (Purposeful) Life

Hymn: Praise With Joy the World's Creator (TIS 179; [Tune: Lauda Anima](#))

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| 1. Praise with joy the world's creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human
knowledge,
Force of goodness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
Power to rescue and release. | 3. Praise the Spirit sent among us
Liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or
gender,
Age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -
Foolishness none dare deride. |
| 2. Praise the Son who feeds the
hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion,
Fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant
presence -
Friend and Stranger, Guest and
Host. | 4. Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
One God in Community,
Calling us to leave behind
Faith's ghettos and obscurity.
Thus the world shall yet believe
When shown Christ's vibrant unity. |

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:22-31

Hymn: Be Still and Feel the Presence of God

(Norman Habel; [Tune: Be still and know that I am God](#))

1. Be still and feel the presence of God,
The presence pulsing, pulsing through Earth,
Be still and feel the pulse of God.
2. Be still and hear the Spirit of God,
The Spirit breathing, breathing through Earth,
Be still and hear the breath of God.
3. Be still, behold the glory of God,
The glory filling, filling this Earth.
Be still, behold the face of God.

Prayers of the People

Creator God,
Let there be peace on earth
One world
Living in harmony
Caring for one another
Delighting in the wonders around us
Tending your creation
Let there be peace on earth
And yet....
Ours is a world at war
A world of hostility and hatred
A world of greed and destruction
A world of hunger and homelessness
God, forgive us
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with us
Our words and actions
Our priorities and passions
Our love for our neighbours nearby and far away
Our care for land and air and sea
God, help us

Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
A world of justice and joy
A world of fairness and respect
A world of kindness and compassion
A world of plenty for all
God, for this we pray,
in Jesus' name.
Amen

Adapted from: Rt Rev Rosie Frew, General Assembly Moderator, Church of Scotland

A Reading from the Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 23a

I'm now going to share a brief story from the Talmud as a segue from our focus on creation to our annual meeting, where we reflect on the past year and dream about the future. By way of background, the Talmud is the written record of generations of Jewish rabbinic debate about law, philosophy, and biblical interpretation. It was developed between the 3rd and 8th centuries.

While the sage, Honi, was walking along a road, he saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked him, "How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?" "Seventy years," replied the man. Honi then asked, "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?" The man answered, "I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise I am planting for my children."

Annual Meeting *(see separate agenda)*

Hymn: Dare to Live the Dream God Gives You

(David Bjorlin; [Tune: Hyfrydol](#))

1. Dare to live the dream God gives
you,
Seek out paths as yet unknown,
For the Spirit leads you onward,
And you never walk alone.

Refrain:

*Go in courage, walking humbly,
Bearing love none can destroy.
Doing justice, loving mercy,
Go with God, and go in joy.*

2. When the dread of doubt assails
you,
And the road remains unclear,
Yet our faithful God will guide
you
Through the doubt and dread of
fear.

4. Dare to live the dream God gives
us,
Brave the path, and face the
fear,
For the Spirit will unite us;
Christ himself is always near

3. Journey on with true
companions,
Joining hands and sharing bread,
For we share a common journey
And in friendship we are fed.

Commissioning

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for creation,
and all creatures in danger or need.

Will you care for creation?

We will care for all creatures!

We will nurture our planet!

We will sustain our endangered kin.

Source: seasonofcreation.com

Closing karakia:

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa

Te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu
Karaiti

Me te aroha o te Atua

Me te whiwhingatahitanga

Ki te wairua tapu

Ake, ake, ake

Amine

Translation

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus
Christ,*

and the love of God,

*and the fellowship of the Holy
Spirit be with you all*

Forever and ever

Amen

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