



Order of Service
18th September 2022
Season of Creation

Opening Prayer – Call to Worship

Greetings in the name of our God who is good:

whose love endures forever.

Greetings to you, sun and moon, you stars of the southern sky:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Sunrise and sunset, night and day:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, mountains and valleys, grassland and scree,
glacier, avalanche, mist and snow:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, kauri and pine, mosses and ferns, Boab and palm, ironbark and gold dust wattle,
daffodils and tulips:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, dolphins and dugong, sea lion and crab,
coral, anemone, pipi and shrimp:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, rabbits and sheep, moths and dogs, magpie and sparrow, cockatoo and eagle:
Elephant, lions, rhinos, and giraffes, ostrich, sheep, cattle

Scorpion and dung beetle:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, women and men,

Elders and children, Diverse cultures of this rainbow land:

Typists and teachers, cleaners, and clerks,
learners, job seekers, TV and sports' stars,

give to our God your thanks and praise.

All who care, who love and who pray,

Who laugh and learn, who rest and who play.

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Let us worship our Creator God together.

*(A New Zealand Prayer Book/He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa page 457, Lynn Pedersen 2016, Inspired by Ps 148 & Song of
Creation, New Zealand Prayer Book)*

Acknowledgement of Country

As I take time to contemplate the wonders of our world, I become still. I feel my feet within my shoes, my shoes on the ground. I become aware of the sounds and the smells that fill the air that I breathe. I then listen to my breath, coming into my body, sustaining me, gifting me with life. Present to the now, I acknowledge the First Nations peoples on the lands on which my feet rest. I acknowledge the First Nations elders; past, present and emerging. I commit to listening to their wisdom. I commit to being a person of reconciliation. I acknowledge that the waterways, seas and lands that I may walk and cross, was, is and always will be the land, seas and waterways of the First Nations peoples of the space we now call Australia.

Song TIS 135 – All things bright and beautiful



Sharing of the Peace

If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation.

We see God around us. We see God within us. We give thanks to our Creator.

Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness and grace. The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.

And also with you.

(adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)

Notices

Prayer of thanksgiving

Thanksgiving for the Earth

Remember the fruits of the earth, for sowing and for harvest.

Remember the dew of the air.

Remember the down coming of the rains and the waters and the rivers.

We are grateful

Remember the plants and the blooms of every year.

Remember the safety of humans and of animals.

We are grateful

For the rain, the wind of the sky, seed, plants, the fruit of the trees and also the vineyards, and for every tree in the entire world,

We are grateful

For the Holy Trinity who brings us to perfection in safety and peace, forgives us our sins, brings us up according to their measure that we may grow and prosper through your grace, who makes the face of the earth to rejoice, waters her furrows, lets her grain be abundantly multiplied and makes ready her seed-time and harvest,

We give You thanks

(adapted from the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Pre-Anaphora, and Anaphora of Basil)

Prayer of Confession and Declaration of Forgiveness

Litany of lament and repentance

God of our vibrant world,

You have given humans the responsibility to care for each other. Indigenous people have historical, spiritual, and personal ties to these lands on which we inhabit. But many of us have failed to recognise the presence of God in these traditions, and their voices have been silenced. We are thankful to Indigenous Nations for their continuing care and presence on the Earth. We all value the resilience and strength shown through the generations and today.

We turn to the Spirit who dismantles borders and celebrates life giving community.

Help us make a place where everyone is welcome and we acknowledge your grace at work in the ways of one another. Together, may we learn the spiritual richness of our relationships in the web of life.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

O God of the whole of creation.

You have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth. We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging, the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced. You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals. The oceans are warming and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled.

We turn to you in sorrow and repentance.

Please help us to care for the oceans, the land and the forest, and to recognise that it is your blessing for us. Creation is speaking to us, but their voices have been silenced by the roar of our greed.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer



Mothering Earth, our Sister, you sustain and govern us. We have silenced the voices of your people, especially the voices of women - protectors of the Earth who have been killed by land grabbers, mining companies and oil companies. Many are the voices of our sisters who have been silenced by flooding, hurricanes and drought as the earth's warming brings destruction. May we listen to the voices of our mothers and sisters and learn to treasure and protect the web of life.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We turn to you in sorrow and repentance.

Please, Creator God, forgive us for the human activities which have overpowered the weather and caused destruction of our environment.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

(Adapted from a Prayer of Lament written by members of the four Religious Orders in the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

Melanesian Brotherhood, Society of St Francis, Community of the Sisters of the Church, Community of the Sisters of Melanesia)

Turn us O God, from our desire to turn in upon ourselves, refuse to hear the voices of our co-creatures. Call us again, open our ears. Gather us in to relationships of mutual care and listening. Enlighten us by your Spirit that renews the face of your Earth. Amen

Early word

Shells

Song TIS 129 – Amazing Grace

Bible readings

Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1 - English

- Tongan

Luke 16:1-13 - English

- Tongan

Message

A reflection on how the parable that Jesus tells his disciples holds a mirror up to their own actions. That the shrewd manager or steward makes a choice to lighten the burden of some of the debtors.

In connection with this month's Season of Creation, this is explored in relation to islands in the Pacific who suffer the consequences of climate change because of the actions of people in more privileged parts of the world, like Australia.

We are called to be good stewards of God's creation, to care for every living creature.

Song TIS 155 – How great thou art

Offering

As we bring our gifts of money and the gift of our own selves in service to you, God, may we be reminded of how we are called to also care for creation as our response and offering of our resources. Accept all that we have to offer at this time.

In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen



Prayer for others

Lord's Prayer

Active response

Find a shell that you may have collected when you have visited beaches on your travels. Place this shell in a prominent location to remind you of God's creation and how we are to care for it in our actions and our life choices.

Song TIS 671 – Made in God's likeness

Profession of Faith

We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptises this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee, who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.

And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God.

And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

(Gurukul Theological college, India / adapted by Keld B. Hansen 2009)

Blessing

Benediction

May God who established the dance of creation,

Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,

Who transforms chaos to order,

Lead us to transform our lives and the Church

To listen to the voice of all creatures,

That reflect God's glory in creation.

(adapted from the CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)

Benediction Song

For you deep stillness

